

Ride Leader Checklist and Group Rider Checklist

Cycling UK has a long history of delivering excellent rides and events. This guide to ride leading is based on the best practice that Cycling UK, its clubs, groups and instructors have accumulated over the years. By taking on the role, you are adding to this fine tradition. Thank you.

Being a Ride Leader is enjoyable, rewarding and fun: you have the satisfaction of sharing your knowledge and skills with others and, best of all, you get to choose when and where you ride! This guide will help you and your group get the most out of the experience.

Becoming a Ride Leader

- Speak to someone on your committee so they can register you in order to be covered by our insurance.
- Familiarise yourself with Cycling UK's guidance on group riding at www.cyclinguk.org/events.
- Before the ride, work out a route your group is likely to enjoy, taking into account: distance; terrain; traffic; refreshments; toilets; points of interest; weather; ability of the riders; and any other factors.
- Be prepared to vary the ride if any of these change.
- Decide how you will navigate: GPS, maps, local knowledge, or a combination of all of these?
- Advertise your ride – don't forget to include: the meeting time and place; the approximate distance and pace; likely return time; and other essentials such as what the riders should bring.

Leading the ride

- Find out the names of everyone on your ride – not just for insurance purposes but it's also friendlier. Ask new riders to complete a Guest Registration form (Appendix 7).
- Enlist the help of any experienced riders to: keep an eye on newer ones; act as backmarkers; lead a second group; or even act as 'human signposts; at junctions or gates.
- Explain how you will lead the ride: any jargon and hand signals you might use; when and where you will wait for stragglers; how you will deal with traffic and so on.
- Remind each rider that they are responsible for their own safety, especially at junctions.
- Point out any likely hazards in advance. In the unlikely event of an incident, please complete an Incident Report form (Appendix 12) as soon as possible.
- Avoid blocking roads and trails – choose stopping points carefully.
- Keep the ride flowing smoothly but do stop occasionally and give stragglers a rest before restarting.
- You have a duty of care to the riders and the public, so if you think someone may endanger themselves or others, have a quiet word; if their behaviour persists, you are entitled to ask them to leave the ride.
- You should lead by example and remain calm, courteous and considerate at all times to all riders and other road users
- Ensure anyone who wishes to leave the ride is happy to make their own way home.
- At the end of the ride, thank people for coming and let them know details of the next one, if you have them.
- Then go home and plan your next route!

Items to carry

It's a good idea to carry a few essential items such as:

- Maps or GPS unit
- Selection of small tools, inner tubes, tyre levers and a puncture repair kit
- A mobile phone
- Cards or coins for phone box – in some areas there may be no signal
- A supply of: Cycling UK Guides to Cycling with a Group (Join the Group); Guest Registration forms; Incident Report forms and Cycling UK Group Riding postcards or business cards
- A signing on sheet (Appendix 8)
- A pen or pencil