

# WEATHER POLICY

Reviewed by BCC Board: February 2020

The Barrie Cycling Club (BCC) is committed to safety and will implement reasonable practices to ensure the safety of those participating in BCC rides.

Ride leaders are responsible for tracking weather conditions (e.g. Environment Canada/ Weather Network) leading up to the ride. Ride leaders are responsible for cancelling rides, for any weather-related reason, regardless of the conditions, forecasts and alerts in place. If a ride leader is not comfortable leading a ride in the forecasted weather conditions, then they must cancel the ride. If a ride leader is unsure, then they are to contact the president who will make the final decision. The president will notify the membership of the cancellations by email and by social media.

## ENVIRONMENT CANADA'S "PUBLIC ALERTING PROGRAM"

Environment Canada issue four different types of severe weather alert. The alerts range in severity:

- Special Weather Statements are the least urgent type of alert and are issued to let people know that conditions are unusual and could cause concern;
- Advisories are issued for specific weather events (like blowing snow, fog, freezing drizzle and frost) that are less severe, but could still have a significant impact;
- Watches alert the public of weather conditions that are favourable for a storm or severe weather, which could cause safety concerns; and
- Warnings are urgent messages that severe weather is either occurring or will occur.

## MANDATORY RIDE CANCELLATION

The BCC requires ride cancellation by Ride Leaders if:

- An Environment Canada severe weather "Warning" is in effect during the scheduled ride time (e.g. tornado warning, severe thunderstorm, etc); and
- Lightning is forecast anywhere along the route during the scheduled ride time.

Any members who choose to still ride when a club ride has been cancelled will do so at their own risk!

Ride cancellations should be communicated by ride leaders/the president via email and if possible the on the Club website under "News", BCC's Twitter account and Facebook accounts.

- Best practice is to cancel the ride at least 1 hour before the ride start time.
- Give a brief weather-related rationale for the cancellation.

If there are no Watches or Warnings issued, but extreme conditions are forecast, it is up to the ride leader to decide whether or not to cancel. Extreme conditions are defined as heavy rain,

strong winds, or any other weather conditions that makes riding dangerous. Common sense should prevail in these situations.

### **UNEXPECTED POOR WEATHER**

If a ride has already started and is later faced with inclement weather, ride leaders should practice the following:

- Pull off of the road where safe to do so and then discuss plans to either:
- Seek temporary shelter if available;
- Return to the ride start point taking as direct a route as safely possible; or
- Ride an alternate route to avoid the weather if time and the group's ability allows.

### **ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION LIGHTNING POLICY:**

[www.ontariocycling.org/forms/lightning-policy/](http://www.ontariocycling.org/forms/lightning-policy/)

**The Barrie Cycling Club's Weather Policy is intended to ensure safety through brevity and plain language.**

**(The Barrie Cycling Club acknowledges the support and permission of the Peterborough Cycling Club to use their plain language documents as a base for our own plain language documents.)**