



Weather Policy

Adopted by CCC Board: March 2019

Background

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

Ride Leaders (RLs) are responsible for tracking weather conditions (e.g. Environment Canada/Weather Network) leading up to the ride. RLs are responsible for cancelling rides, for any weather-related reason, regardless of the conditions, forecasts and/or alerts in place. If a RL is not comfortable leading a ride in the forecasted weather conditions, then they must cancel the ride.

Environment Canada's "Public Alerting Program"

Environment Canada issues four different types of severe weather alerts:

- **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.

Weather Conditions and Mandatory Ride Cancellation

The CCC requires mandatory ride cancellation by RLs if any or all of the following exist just prior to, and/or during the scheduled ride time:

- An Environment Canada severe weather "Warning" is in effect (e.g. tornado warning, severe thunderstorm, etc);
- Lightning is forecast, heard or seen anywhere along the route;
- When temperatures are -15°C ; and
- If the Environment Canada humidex warning is above 40°C .

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

Cancellation Protocols

- Ride cancellations should be communicated by RLs (ie CCC forum, telephone call, text or e-mail and/or CCC Facebook).
- Best practice is to cancel the ride with as much notification as possible, but at least 1 hour before the ride start time.
- RLs will communicate a brief weather-related rationale for the cancellation.
- If the cancellation is "Last Minute" the RL, or designate, should drive to the meeting spot for the ride (assuming it is safe to do so) to ensure that all riders know the ride is cancelled.

Ride Decisions and Weather Statements, Watches & Warnings

In case these are issued by Environment Canada it is up to the Ride Leader to decide whether or not to modify the ride or to cancel. Conditions such as rain, hail, strong winds, fog or other can make riding dangerous. Common sense and caution should prevail in these situations, even if there is only the potential of these occurring.

Unexpected Poor Weather

In some cases weather will change for the worse during the ride. If a ride has already started and is faced with inclement weather, RLs should practice the following:

- Pull off of the road where safe to do so and then discuss plans, seeking temporary shelter if available;
- Communicate to the Ride Co-ordinator, or designate, any change in ride plans and/or seek advice on ride status (ie to cancel, modify or proceed with ride);
- If possible check on-line weather updates to decide whether to "wait out the weather" prior to proceeding;
- 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

Further information is available at:

www.ontariocycling.org/forms/lightning-policy/