

Southern Crescent Cycling

Safety Policy

Your club takes safety very seriously. Cycling is an enjoyable activity that can have significant health benefits. Yet, like other physically active sports, cycling has many inherent risks.

These risks can be mitigated through the use of properly fitted and maintained equipment, by obeying traffic laws, by understanding proper “bike” etiquette when riding in a group, and most importantly, by always paying attention while cycling.

We welcome members who are as concerned with safe cycling as we are. An important step in joining Southern Crescent Cycling, or in renewing your membership is to read, understand, and accept the following Safety Policy.

1 - Observe the Law

- Members should be aware that every person riding a bicycle on a roadway is granted all the rights and subject to all of the duties of the motor vehicle driver.
- Members shall obey all motor vehicle and bicycle laws of the state(s) in which they are riding.
- Members should be familiar with Georgia bike law.
- Proper use of hand signals to indicate turning and/or stopping are required.
- Always ride with traffic, never against it.

2 - Club Rules

- All members must check-in at the ride start and provide the required emergency contact information to the ride leader.
- All non-members riding for the first time must also check in with the ride leader and sign the club liability waiver.
- Helmets must be worn on all SCC rides.
- Club policy forbids calling out “Clear!” at an intersection. Conditions can change for the following riders faster than you think.
- Any member who witnesses another member riding in such a manner as to endanger other cyclists should discreetly discuss their concern with that member, explaining the transgression(s) that have occurred, and the reason(s) they are hazardous. Should the offending member fail to correct the riding behavior, a complaint should be made to the club’s ride leader who will follow the club’s Safe Riding Enforcement Procedure.
- Riders WILL NOT run stop signs and red lights, or swarm around cars at stop signs and red lights. We will wait our turn and move through as one large group.

3 - Ride Etiquette

- Be predictable. Call out your intentions, e.g. slowing, stopping, etc. Use hand signals.
- Call out and point to hazards e.g. Hole! Rough Road! Car Back! Glass! Gravel!
- Safely move to the right when you hear “car-back” and repeat the warning so that riders in front of you are alerted.
- With few exceptions always pass other riders on the left. In all cases, whenever passing a rider the “overtaking” rider shall call out “on your left” or “on your right” as the case may be.
- Stop to regroup after crossing a traffic light controlled intersection so that riders who may not have been able to “make the light” will not be encouraged to cross on the red.
- Members must be courteous and share the road with motorized vehicles, pedestrians and other cyclists. This includes riding single file on busy roads, moving to the right safely when "car back" is called to allow vehicles to safely pass.
- Notify the ride leader if you decide to “drop” or leave a ride before its completion.
- All members are strongly encouraged to accept valid criticism graciously and understand that the person delivering such criticism is doing so in the best interest of the club and all of its members.

4 – Equipment

- A proper fitting helmet is required on all club rides.
- Members shall ensure that their bicycle is in good condition, and that they know how to ride it properly.
- Members must carry the necessary equipment and should be capable of repairing a flat if necessary.
- The law states lights are required on any ride that extends past dusk.

5 - Miscellaneous

- Members shall be properly prepared for the ride they have chosen. This includes: choosing a ride of pace, length and terrain matched to their ability, having suitable clothing for the expected weather conditions, carrying adequate fluids, and carrying spare tubes, pump and tools, etc.
- Each member individually shall determine whether or not weather and road conditions are suitable for cycling and shall take full responsibility for cycling in any and all conditions that will be encountered during the course of the ride.
- It is highly advised that members carry a cell phone and emergency contact information to summon help should they become lost, injured, or otherwise separated from the group.