

YOUNG RIDERS POLICY & GUIDANCE

v1 February 2021

GETTING INVOLVED

Malvern Cycle Sport encourages young riders to participate in as many club activities as possible. The welfare of young riders is considered carefully and is always put first. Everyone working with children and young people has a responsibility for keeping them safe, irrespective of their role, whether or not they are Malvern Cycle Sport members, involved in a professional or voluntary capacity or as a parent, spectator or participant. This includes but is not limited to Club rides, coaching sessions, competitions and social events.

Malvern Cycle Sport's Junior Coaching team are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked, hold appropriate First Aid qualifications and receive regular safeguarding training updates. All coaches and ride leaders agree to abide by the *Code of Practice for Cycling Coaches* as published by British Cycling which can be found online at: <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/Coaches-Code-of-Practice>.

If anyone has any concerns about the welfare of children involved in the club, they must report it to the club Welfare Officer as soon as is possible via email to welfare@malverncyclesport.org.uk.

CONSENT AND PERMISSION

Riders are considered as adults from their 18th birthday. Parents retain responsibility for young riders aged 17 and under participating in Club activities. In order for your child to take part in Club activities (excluding coaching) you are required to complete the Club's parental consent form with emergency contact information and any relevant medical details. Please email completed consent forms to welfare@malverncyclesport.org.uk as these will be stored centrally by the Club in line with GDPR.

CHILDREN AGED 12 AND UNDER

Children aged 12 and under **should be accompanied** by a parent to all club activities. Young riders 8 to 12 may participate in road, cyclocross and mountain bike rides provided they have been specifically planned with young riders in mind. Factors such as traffic levels, junction negotiation, visibility, distance, speed, type of bike and terrain, welfare and weather should be considered with respect to the youngest person on the ride, to deliver an enjoyable ride and safe ride.

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 13-17

Young people aged 13 to 17 may participate in activities (for example training sessions or Club rides) unaccompanied as long as parental permission for that activity is given to the ride/activity leader in advance and a ride/activity guardian is appointed to take responsibility for the welfare of that young person during the ride/activity.

If an up-to-date consent form is held by the Club, verbal or written permission can be given by the parent to the ride/activity leader. If a young person attends an activity and permission has not been given by the parent to the ride/activity leader, then the young person will be told that they cannot participate. Permission should be given for each and every Club event so that ride/activity leaders know to expect the young person and a ride/activity guardian can be appointed.

Regardless of whether a completed consent form and ride/activity permission is given, the ride/activity leader retains the final decision about whether a young person can participate in a Club ride/activity.

DEFINITIONS

'Parent' means parents, carers, guardians or other person(s) acting formally as a parent.

'Accompanied' can mean a parent cycling with their child or simply being present at a session, depending on the activity.

'Ride/Activity Leader' is the organising Club member. This may be a regular individual though more often this will be a group of Club members who take turns to lead that ride/activity.

'Ride/Activity Guardian' is a nominated adult on a Club ride/activity who is responsible for the welfare of a young person aged 13-17. They will usually ride with the young person but in some cases (e.g. chaingang rides), they may see the young person at the start and agree to meet them at the end of the ride only. The Ride/Activity Guardian will often be the Ride/Activity Leader but this may not always be the case.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are responsible for their children when participating in Club activities. They should provide a safe and suitable bike and protective equipment (e.g., helmet, gloves and cycle suitable clothing). Parents unsure how to check and maintain bicycles and equipment, should seek the services of a local bike shop.

Parents should ensure their children have the ability to participate in the activity selected and their children's welfare needs are provided for. Activity leaders are not responsible for assessing rider ability, checking bikes and helmets or providing on-the-ride supervision. Formal coaching sessions may include a limited bike and helmet check, but these should not take the place of checks and servicing carried out by a bike workshop.

Parents wishing for their child to take part in Club rides/activities (excluding coaching) must:

1. Complete the Club Consent form and email to welfare@malverncyclesport.org.uk
2. Seek advance permission for their child to participate in each and every Club ride/activity

It will always be the **decision of the ride/activity leader** whether to accept young riders on to a ride or activity.

SAFEGUARDING

Malvern Cycle Sport has chosen to adopt and adhere to the British Cycling's Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy. Full details of this policy can be found at www.britishcycling.org.uk/safeguarding

Our Welfare Officer is Mike Tibbits - he can be contacted via welfare@malverncyclesport.org.uk

In the event of not being able to contact the MCS Welfare Officer, members may contact the Chairman (chairman@malverncyclesport.org.uk) or the British Cycling Lead Safeguarding Officer (Telephone 0161 274 2000 or email compliance@britishcycling.org.uk).

Further contact details are provided in Appendix 1, as the end of this document which detail local agency emergency contacts including email addresses and telephone numbers.

APPENDIX 1**Worcestershire Safeguarding Contacts**

Agency/Role	Email Address	Telephone
Children's Services Family Front Door (FFD)	childrensteam@worcestershire.gov.uk	01905 822666
Emergency Duty Team (EDT), out of office hours		01905 768020
Community Social Work Team		01905 846057
Local Authority Designated Officer: Mr Jon Hancock and Team	LADO@worcestershire.gov.uk	01905 846221
Education Adviser – Safeguarding: Denise Hannibal	dhannibal@worcestershire.gov.uk	01905 844436
Police – Prevent team	prevent@westmercia.pnn.police.uk	01386 591835
Childline		0800 1111
Women's Aid (24hr. Helpline)		0800 980 3331
West Mercia Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRSASC)		01905 724514