

# GASTOWN CYCLING ASSOCIATION

## Code of Conduct – COVID-19 edition

**Application:** This Code of Conduct applies to all members of the Gastown Cycling Club (Directors, Club Members, and Racing Reds), all of whom are hereinafter collectively referred to as GC Club.

### ***All GC Club Members agree to:***

1. Practice good sportsmanship and conduct during all GC Club rides, and whenever wearing the Gastown Club kit.
2. Be appreciative of, and demonstrate support for, GC Club sponsors whenever possible. This includes refraining from even slightly negative comments of any nature, whether in a private or public situation. Any concerns relating to sponsors should be directed ONLY to GC Club Boardmembers, who will review and determine appropriate steps to address the concern.
3. Wear GC Club clothing proudly as you are representing the Club and our sponsors. Members are expected to wear complete kit (shorts, jersey, or any other club kit). When wearing a championship jersey, wearing GC shorts is acceptable.
4. Refrain from any behaviour which would cause unreasonable disruption of or interfere with GC Club rides. Unacceptable behaviours include:
  - Physical abuse to any other person.
  - Use of inappropriate language towards any person.
  - Making obscene gestures directed to any persons.
  - Malicious actions on the bike towards any person.
  - Unsafe conduct.
5. Obey all traffic regulations as enforced by relevant local authorities while on individual or group training rides. This includes, but is not limited to, obeying all red lights/stop signs. Failure to abide by traffic laws, if observed by the public, can be extremely detrimental to the Club's reputation and those of its sponsors, and may result in the revocation of all sponsorship benefits for the entire Club.
6. Show respect at all times to all people with whom you come into contact.
7. Review and submit responses to [the COVID-19 Self Declaration](#) prior to participating in any Gastown group ride.
8. Be familiar with and abide by the regular rules, regulations, laws and bylaws of Cycling BC, as well as its [Return to Sport Guidelines](#) for organized bicycling, which were approved in British Columbia in June 2020 and revised in March 2021.
9. Be familiar with and abide by the overarching instructions of the Provincial Health Ministry of British Columbia related to preventing the spread of COVID-19. Each GC Club Member assumes the responsibility to educate his or herself about contributing to a safe and healthy group cycling experience for all.
10. Abide by the [Code of Conduct of Cycling BC](#).

## Code of Ethics

### ***All Gastown Cycling Club Members agree to:***

1. Treat all GC Club members and fellow cyclists with respect at all times.
2. Exercise and show self-control at all times.
3. Demonstrate respect for the leadership of BC Cycling and the Provincial Health Ministry.
4. Show support for all fellow riders.

### **Disciplinary Process**

If any GC Club member is found in contravention to any item of the Club's Codes of Conduct and Ethics, they may be subject to immediate disciplinary action, at the discretion of a quorum of at least 3 people – an ad hoc Disciplinary Committee – which shall consist of:

1. One person selected by the GC Club Board of Directors, and
2. One person selected by the accused party, and
3. One person mutually selected by the GC Club Board of Directors and the accused party.

If a GC Club member feels that there has been a breach of either Code, they may send written notice via email or mail, to any GC Club Boardmember. Boardmembers' contact info is listed on the Club website's Leadership page.

When a dispute is received, the GC Board of Directors has 21 days to convene the Disciplinary Committee and determine by consensus what action or disciplinary measure is suitable.

Should the disputed action breach the CyclingBC or CCA Code of Conduct, the Disciplinary Committee has the discretion to decide whether the matter is solely outside the jurisdiction of the Club's Disciplinary Committee, and advise the complainant of that. In such cases, the complainant must direct their written notice to the higher authority, whose internal disciplinary and appeal process will apply. In such an event, the GC Club will uphold, respect, abide by, and apply internally, any decision that is made by the higher cycling administrative body.

### **Sanctions**

The following is a list, though not exhaustive, enumerates the possible sanctions the Disciplinary Committee may choose to evoke:

- o Written warning and probation period
- o Written apology to parties affected by misconduct
- o Suspension from club rides for a period of time (ex. 2 weeks; 4 weeks; 6 months)
- o Expulsion from GC Club membership (one year or permanent)

GC Club may also issue a fine of \$25-\$100 for each breach of the Codes, to be determined based on the severity of the misconduct.

The funds from each fine will be donated to a CRA recognised charity within three weeks of being notified of the fine.

Blatant, willful disregard of the rules, or deliberate misconduct which endangers the safety of other participants will not attract a warning. Such offences will result in permanent expulsion from the GC Club, and the individual will be prohibited from attending any GC Club

related activities or event.

In cases of membership revocation, the person must surrender all GC Club apparel and accessories including jerseys, shorts and other accessories bearing GC Club logo and the person will be reimbursed at a depreciated amount.

## **Ride Etiquette**

### **The first priority is safety!**

- Ride in groups of no more than 10 riders, even if a larger group meets at a designated start location.
- When stopped or when riding, keep 2m distance at all times - i.e., no close drafting.
- Do not share food, water bottles, flat repair or other tools.
- Keep your snot and saliva to yourself – sneeze into your elbow, carry a hanky for snot.
- When drinking on a ride, move to the back of the group.
- Know and obey all traffic signals, signs, markings, laws and regulations.
- Riders should not ride two abreast unless overtaking or in Stanley Park or Iona where 2 metre's distance can be maintained.
- Be aware of riders behind you. Ride smoothly and steadily all the time and do not brake without warning if it can be avoided.
- Always use hand signals to indicate direction you're going or stopping; it lets everyone (vehicle and riders) know your intentions. If your hands are not free, then shout out your intentions ("stopping" or "slowing").
- Shout warnings and signal to other riders if there is hazard or danger on the road.
- Always pass other riders on the left. Call out "*on your left*" when passing another rider closely.
- Don't overlap or half wheel another rider.
- Groups should allow appropriate gaps in traffic and slow to allow enough time for the entire group to negotiate obstacles.
- Should the group be split, riders should slow down or find a safe place to stop and reform before proceeding.
- All riders must perform their own repairs during a mechanical problem - the group will wait and not abandon their fellow rider during this process.
- The group should always wait for the last rider, unless the rider has requested to be left, or all riders have agreed that the group will not wait for dropped riders.
- No rider should leave the group without first notifying other riders, preferably the ride leader.
- Don't be that rider who surges when it's their turn to pull.
- Be respectful – All of your intentions reflect not only on the Club, but on cyclists in general. We've all dealt with aggressive or careless drivers. Keep it positive and don't lose your cool. A smile and a wave will go a long way if a driver has had to wait for the group to roll-through. Be polite and positive!

Please review the BC Cycling Coalition's [Bike Sense Manual](#) for further information on rules of the road and general ride etiquette.