



Manning Valley Cycle Club Inc.

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1 May 2012

Guidelines for MVCC Handicapping/Gradings

The following guidelines have been prepared to assist in clarifying the Handicapping and Grading system within the Club. It is accepted that the Handicapper has a very difficult role and many of his decisions are of a very subjective nature. These guidelines are not intended to reduce the authority of the Handicapper but more to clarify the general process of handicapping to Club members.

These guidelines were adopted at the Club meeting on the 2 May 2006 amendments May 2009, April 2010 and May 2012.

1. The Handicapper and Assistant Handicapper shall review the gradings at least monthly.
2. If a rider wishes to ride up a grade he may do so, without forfeiting his previous grade, provided he has consulted with the Handicapper. This consultation must occur at least one (1) day prior to the race and generally will not be considered on race day. The Handicapper will review the rider's performance and decide whether the rider is to remain in this higher grade.
3. When a rider moves between grades his points will be allocated as follows:
 - Up to 1/4 of the race program 75% of points
 - Up to 1/2 of the race program 50% of points
 - Up to 3/4 of the race program 25% of points

4. The Club supports and encourages riders to compete at their full potential. Unsportsmanlike behaviour or conduct will not be tolerated. Any rider proven not to be riding to the best of his ability or pulling up in a race to avoid being regraded may be disqualified and penalised 10 points. This type of behaviour is not considered to be within the spirit of racing and is not in the best interests of the individual or fellow competitors.
5. A rider having achieved three wins in his grade can generally expect to be regraded. However, other criteria apply, including rapid improvement, or a consistent run of podiums along with two wins. etc
6. A win in the Club Championship race does not necessarily mean automatic promotion to the next grade. The Handicapper will take a number of issues into consideration e.g. previous results, age etc
7. If a rider is having difficulty staying with their particular grade during a number of races (generally 2) they will be considered for regrading. If the rider wishes to remain in the higher grade, although continually being “dropped”, the Handicapper will confer with the Assistant Handicapper with the authority to regrade the rider if necessary. In these instances there will usually be discussion between the rider and Handicapper to consider a number matters e.g. is the rider improving, previous performances etc.
8. If a rider has been off the bike or away from racing for 6 months or more, on returning to racing they will generally ride one grade lower than the grade in which they last rode. This is a guide and the Handicapper may decide otherwise if he has further information available. A rider returning from illness or injury will be assessed by the Handicapper on an individual basis.
9. If a rider has a dispute with their grading and believe they have not received a fair hearing from the Handicapper, they are to request a meeting with a Panel where they will be given the opportunity to present their case. This Panel will consist of the Handicapper and Assistant Handicapper as well as 2 members from the elected Committee. This meeting can take place prior to or post any race meeting.
10. Riders shall be graded by season. i.e. Criterium grading and Road grading. i.e. A rider may be graded A Grade for the Criteriums but may be Graded B Grade for the Road season.

11. Any new rider to the club shall be allocated a grade to start in. The rider will be assessed by the Handicapper and regraded as necessary. This rider must have competed in at least 2 races to be eligible to compete in the Club Championships.
12. To be eligible for Club Road or Criterium Championship events, a rider must be a financial Club member and have competed in at least three (3) club races prior to the race of which one (1) shall be in the four (4) weeks preceding the event. The exception would be if they are representing the Club at National or State Open level, in this case they will be deemed as riding in a Club event. Ineligible riders are NOT ABLE to start in these events as they may influence the race outcome.

The exception to this is with regard to the Road Individual Time Trial or Hill Climb championships. All riders are entitled to compete, but ineligible riders will NOT be placed in the official record of the event.

A rider who fails to meet these criteria due to performing traffic control, Commissarie duties or race secretary duties can be exempted at the handicapper's discretion.

If the club cancels racing for any reason for the four weeks prior to the event all riders who have had a minimum of 3 rides in the current season will be deemed to qualify.

13. There will be no eligibility criteria for the Club's Trophy/Handicap races. For non MVCC members or MVCC riders who enter and have not raced recently, they will generally be given a "challenging" handicap. There will be an exception in that riders on "Day Only" licences will be allowed to compete but will not be eligible for prizemoney, placings etc.
14. The Assistant Handicapper shall be responsible for grading & handicapping the Handicapper.
15. It is accepted and encouraged that the Handicapper opens channels of communication with riders who are approaching a regrading, either up or down.

Graham Norris
President
Manning Valley Cycle Club