



Handicapping Procedure

Effective: August 2019

Scope: To provide the Committee and members a clear understanding of the Handicapping process for the Manning Valley Cycle Club (MVCC).

Overview: Handicapping has two aims, safety & enjoyment for members and visiting riders.

If seeded in the right grade, racing is an exhilarating and truly wonderful experience, a way to test yourself against likeminded riders in a safe environment. If in the wrong grade, you may be a danger to those around you and you won't enjoy the experience of racing. If you've accidentally joined the wrong club ride for your ability, you know what it is like to be out of your depth, and a race is no different.

Guidelines:

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ANY RE-GRADES BE CONSIDERED ON THE DAY OF RACING

1. At the start of each Criterium & Road Season, riders will be assigned a grade based on the Handicapper's assessment of previous performance. This will consider general ability, race performance benchmarked against other riders and ability in that grade. The aim is to build grades that have riders of similar ability, but it should be noted that riders may excel on some courses and not others.
2. Riders should ride the assigned grades to qualify for consideration for any re-grading. After completion of 2 rides in an assigned grade should a rider be struggling or dominating regrading may then be considered.
3. Considerations for a re-grade should come from:
 - Riders returning from injury
 - Riders returning from an accident
 - Riders performance on the bike during an event in a designated grade
4. The Handicapper will continue to review grading throughout the season and should a rider score 3 wins in a grade they may, at the Handicapper's discretion, be given a re-grade to a higher grade. The wins need to be considered as dominant and worthy of a re-grade taking into consideration the courses and other riders present at the location of the wins.
5. Riders observed as struggling in a grade by being dropped from the main group of riders on more than one occasion or course or suffering DNF on more than one occasion may be considered for re-grading at the discretion of the Handicapper's.
6. MVCC will publish current grading on the MVCC Website or Facebook at least 24hrs prior to the commencement of the Criterium and Road seasons.



7. Any rider qualifying for a re-grade by the Handicapper will be notified by email at least 1 day prior to the next event.
8. Changes to grading shall be posted on Facebook by way of the amended sign on sheets at least 1 day prior to the next scheduled event.
9. Rider applications for a re-grade must be emailed to the MVCC Secretary mvcc.clubsec@hotmail.com by Wednesday for Road season and Friday for Criterium season. The secretary will post the application in the Committee forum where the Handicapper will consider the merit and outcome of the application. The Secretary will provide an email response to the Rider at least 1 day prior to the next scheduled event advising the outcome.
10. If a rider wishes to ride up a grade they may do so, without forfeiting their previous grade, provided they have consulted with the Handicapper within the required timeframe in accordance with a re-grade application (see Sec.9).
11. When a rider moves between grades the earned points will be allocated as follows:
 - a) Up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the race program: 75% of points
 - b) Up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the race program: 50% of points
 - c) Up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the race program: 25% of points
12. MVCC supports and encourages riders to compete at their full potential. Unsportsmanlike behaviour or conduct will not be tolerated. Any rider not riding to the best of their ability or pulling up in a race to avoid being regraded may be disqualified and penalised up to 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.
13. Should a rider be granted an exception to any of the above guidelines based on a request to ride with a junior, friend or new rider it is expected that this rider does not influence the outcome of the race in any way. This may include chasing a breakaway, creating a breakaway, contesting a sprint or exerting effort to ensure other riders are not placed at an advantage. Any rider deemed to be in breach of these guidelines could be disqualified or immediately have the grade review revoked at the discretion of the Committee.
14. 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 of the Committee and the Club Captain. Application for a hearing must be submitted to the Secretary via email.
15. The Assistant Handicapper is responsible for grading & handicapping the Handicapper.
16. To be eligible for Road or Criterium Championship events, a rider must be a financial MVCC member and have completed in at least 3 club races prior to the race of which one (1) shall have been in the four (4) weeks preceding the event.

Exception to the above criteria would be:

 - a) Representing the MVCC at a State Open level or National level. In this case they will be deemed as riding in a MVCC event.
 - b) If MVCC 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.
 - c) Riders performing duties such as Race Secretary, Commissaire, Traffic Control or Committee duties that prevent the rider from meeting the criteria. Approval must be granted by the Committee prior to the rider starting the event.

Ineligible riders are not permitted to start in these events as they may influence the outcome of the race.