

Hazard Signals

Cyclists near the back of the group do not have good visibility of the road ahead. It is vital for those on the front to signal to those behind when there is gravel, pot-holes, road-kill, roughness or any hazard by pointing at the object and calling out. All riders must pass the signal clearly back through the group to ensure that everyone gets the message (See the table of common hazard signals below).

Hazard	Call	Hand signal
Pot-hole, rough surface, gravel, glass (or any other hazard).	“Hole Left”, “Rough Right” “Gravel Left”, etc	Point to hazard with the left or right hand. For sand, gravel, etc move your palm from side to side.
Moving right or left due to parked cars, pedestrians, slower cyclists, etc.	“Move Right” “Move Left”.	Hand behind your back pointing in the direction are going to move.
Slowing.	“Slowing”.	Palm down, raise your hand up and down.
Stopping.	“Stopping”	Palm facing back.
Moving from double to single file.	“Single File”	Arm raised vertically.

On narrow roads or when sharing lanes or about to cross a lane, call “**Car BACK**” to alert those near the front of a car approaching from behind. The group is to pass the message forward.

On narrow roads cyclists near the front of the group are to call “**Car UP**” to alert those near the rear of the group of a car approaching from the front.

When approaching an intersection riders are to call “**Car RIGHT**”, “**Car LEFT**” if a car is approaching on the intersecting road. Call “**Clear**” if there is no traffic. *However, it is every cyclists responsibility to check for themselves before entering an intersection.*

Look after each other within the group

Treat all road users with respect and courtesy

Try to minimize your impact on traffic flow in the interest of harmony with other road users (where safety allows)



New members most welcome

Fraser Coast Bicycle Users Group Inc

PO Box 7492, Urangan Queensland 4655

(ABN:78 474 420 243)

Email: bicycleusersgroup@yahoo.com.au

Visit our website: www.fcbug.org.au

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Encouraging all forms of cycling locally and in the wider community

The roles of:

Ride leaders

Sweeps

All Group Riders



Fraser Coast
Bicycle User
Group Inc



Ride Leaders

The ride leader has the following role:

- Select the route to be ridden (this can be after discussion with the other riders).
- Select a “sweep” rider.
- Make sure the group know the route (especially the sweep).
- Discuss appropriate speeds with group members and ensure that this is not exceeded (don't let it become a race).
- Keep group sizes manageable. Split the group if it is too big (more than 20) and appoint a leader for the second group.
- Reinforce the group's responsibilities with respect to road rules, signaling and communication.
- Nominate rest stops if necessary for drinking, removing jackets and consolidating the group.

The Ride Leader does NOT have to stay at the front for the entire ride.

- Staying at the front is tiring especially in windy conditions. Identify other riders who can share the front position.

Who can be a ride leader?

- Anyone can be a ride leader who has had group riding experience.
- Someone who is aware of the various roles and responsibilities of the group participants.

Sweeps

The sweep rides at the back of the group and has special responsibilities:

- The sweep should know the route in case the group splits.
- Call “Car Back” when necessary.
- Clearly signal to following traffic when turning or stopping.
- Communicate with the group if riders are not keeping up.
- Let the group know if there is a flat tyre, mechanical problem or someone needs to stop.
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Who can be a sweep?

- The sweep is usually nominated by the Ride Leader or elected by the group before the start of the ride
- It helps if they are **one of the stronger** riders in the group so that they can go to the front to slow or stop the group if necessary.
- It may also help if the sweep can assist with repairing flat tyres when inexperienced riders are in the group.

Front Rider

The rider on the front of the group is not necessarily the ride leader.

- In addition to the general responsibilities shared by all members of the group, the rider at the front must watch for hazards and communicate these to the group via calling and/or hand signals.
- Periodically check that the group is staying together and that the speed is appropriate for the entire group.
- The rider at the front is usually rotated during the ride.

All cyclists within the group

As cyclists taking part in a group ride we all have responsibilities:

- Our primary responsibility is safety of the group and ourselves.
- **Obey all road rules**, especially stop signs and traffic lights.
- Signal and/or call when there are hazards and obstacles.
- Remember sudden movements are amplified as they move through the group. Avoid sudden braking or swerving. Sometimes it is safer to ride over a hazard seen at the last second.
- When passing another rider call which side you will pass on.
- Your bike must be legal, reliable and well maintained.

Communication

- Signal or communicate your intentions to the group when slowing, stopping, turning or deviating from a straight line.
- Clearly signal your intentions to change direction or stop to other road users as well as group members.
- Assist the leader and the sweep in communicating warnings and instructions through the group.
- Ride within your limitations. Let the leader and/or sweep know if the pace is too fast.

HAVE FUN AND LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER!

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