



E-Bike Policy 2025

Purpose

This policy defines the guidelines for the use of e-bikes within Ottawa Women's Cycling Club (OWCC) to ensure inclusivity, safety, and alignment with the club's mission of promoting women's cycling in a supportive and social environment.

Scope

This policy applies to all club members participating in group rides, club events, or any activity organized under the OWCC umbrella.

Definition of Permitted E-Bikes

OWCC permits the use of e-bikes that meet all the following criteria:

- Class 1 e-bikes only (pedal-assist without a throttle, maximum assisted speed of 32 km/h or 20 mph).
- Road-style e-bikes equipped with drop handlebars.
- E-bikes must be equipped with clipless pedals or flat pedals with toe cages, in alignment with standard road cycling practices.

Expectations for E-Bike Riders

- Riders using e-bikes are expected to ride at a pace consistent with the group they are participating in and not exceed the group's designated pace.
- E-bike riders must communicate their use of an e-bike to the ride leader before the ride begins.
- Riders are responsible for ensuring their e-bike is fully charged and in safe working condition before each ride.
- E-bike riders are subject to the same safety guidelines, etiquette, and code of conduct as all other club members.

Safety and Group Dynamics

- E-bike riders must prioritize group cohesion and avoid accelerating beyond the group's pace on hills or flats.
- Ride leaders reserve the right to address any concerns regarding the impact of an e-bike on the group's dynamics or safety.
- E-bike riders are encouraged to assist with group pacing and support other riders when appropriate.

Review and Amendments

This policy will be reviewed annually by the OWCC Board of Directors to ensure it reflects the evolving needs of the club and its members.



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By participating in OWCC rides with an e-bike, members agree to adhere to this policy and contribute to a positive, supportive riding environment.