

# Seamons Cycling Club

## Junior & Youth Member (Under 18s) Welfare Statement. March 2014.

This statement outlines our approach to Club Runs and associated cycling related activities with Junior and Youth Members, referred to here as Under 18s. It is a judicious mix of rules, conventions and decisions about what is reasonable.

What follows covers the areas of involvement currently applicable to Seamons CC.

Our Club attracts many Under 18s. This welcome development brings responsibilities which the Club, in line with the sport's national governing bodies to which it is affiliated, takes seriously. Seamons CC observes the Best Practice Guidelines as well as the Child Protection & Safeguarding Policies of both British Cycling (BC) and Cycling Time Trials (CTT). These documents include detailed guidance about many cycling activities, not all of which we currently provide. The BC Policy, adopted by the Seamons Cycling Club, can be viewed at <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/safeguarding>

Seamons Cycling Club aims to provide an excellent introduction to the great sport of cycling. We believe that Under 18s should be involved in club life and encouraged to participate in as many cycling and cycling related activities as possible. The experience should be safe, positive, happy and healthy.

**Membership:** Club membership is available to all from the age of 13. However those younger than 13 may join the Club under the BC "Go Ride" scheme, or as part of a Family Membership.

Please refer to the membership application form on the Club website for specific details.

Under 13s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian whenever they are engaged in club activities. The Parental consent form must have been completed and signed as part of the annual Membership application.

**Competitive Events:** Requirements are covered by the rules of the relevant governing body. For our own weekly Club Time Trials, inexperienced Junior and Youth riders must be accompanied by an experienced senior rider.

Parental consent is always required for Under 18s to ride in Club events. The minimum age for participation in a competitive event on the public highway is 12 years.

**Training and Coaching:** The formal training and / or coaching sessions currently attended by our Under 18 members are "track" or "closed circuit" sessions, run by qualified British Cycling coaches. No formal coaching involving only Junior or Youth members will take place on public roads.

Experienced Seamons CC members will provide advice and guidance about safety and technique, when group riding on public roads, closed circuits or at the track.

**Club Runs:** Seamons Cycling Club is very proud of its range and provision of organised club runs.

The traditional club run is a joint enterprise in which participants take individual responsibility for themselves, their actions, and their own welfare, but at the same time there is a collective responsibility to look after one other.

**Please refer to the Club's "Ride Guidelines" and "Ride Descriptions" in the Documents section of the Club website for detailed information.** The emphasis here is on what can be REASONABLY expected in the context of a Club ride.

Parents of Under 18s are required to be aware of what preparations should be made before a formal Club run, and to have read and discussed the requirements in the "Ride Guidelines" in order to minimize any risk whilst on the Club run.

The Club puts this principle into practice on the **Social Ride**.

This is where we expect new or inexperienced Junior and Youth members to begin riding with us.

What counts as reasonable intervention here may involve more active involvement than in the other Club ride sections. For example, Junior and Youth members on the Social Ride have a designated drop-off point at the

end, currently Costa's in Hale, and an appropriate "Senior-to-Under 18" ratio. Cycling parents are always encouraged and very welcome to support U18s the Social ride.

There will be a designated 'tail-gunner' at the back of the group to keep an eye on things, usually assisted by other experienced senior members.

Finally, as there may be contingency arrangements which need to be worked out on the day, a mobile phone to contact parents, in the event of any changes to the planned ride, is essential.

**Further Development:** Many Under 18s will wish to make the transition to one of our other Club ride groups and, when ready, are encouraged to do so. What is considered "reasonable" here involves less active intervention, but at the same time senior members understand that the "duty of care" we have towards Junior and Youth members is at a higher level than that for someone of eighteen or older.

**Criminal Record Checks:** These are required for anyone undertaking coaching activities with Under 18s. As of 2014, two members have been specifically checked by the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service). These are the Club Development Officer and the Club Welfare Officer. In addition some other members have been routinely checked as BC coaches or in their own professional (work) capacity. This arrangement meets the requirements of the BC and CTT policies in relation to our current ride provision. This will be reviewed on a regular basis.

**Photography:** Recreational cycling and cycle sport are both highly photogenic activities.

All members who take part in Club activities, organized rides, or enter competitive events, are likely to appear in club photographs. These are often shared with and between members on Facebook, published on our Club website, in our Squirrel magazine and in the Club Handbook.

All material on our Club Website, including on-line versions of the Squirrel Magazine and Club Handbook, is visible to members of the public.

Members must not identify U18s on photographs and must exercise common sense when posting or commenting on any club related photographic material.

**Any member under the age of 18 who participates in a Club Run or any other Club activity is deemed to have read and accepted the requirements contained within this Welfare Statement, in the Seamons Ride Guidelines, and in the relevant sections of the Membership Application Form.**

**Seamons CC Committee.**

**March 2014**