

## **Ramblers Cycling Club Inc. Grading Policy**

**Date developed:** November 2009

**Last ratification date:** March 2010

**Introduction:** Ramblers seeks to create a racing environment that is competitive, fair and encouraging. As part of this aim the club seeks to ensure that members race at an appropriate level and especially do not race at a level below their ability.

Grading of riders is a key duty of the club captain but the club committee supports the club captain in this role and also monitors grading issues. Members need to be mindful that in the interests of fairness, safety and enjoyment for all concerned, the final arbiter in grading is the club captain, not themselves.

This policy aims to emphasise that Ramblers is a racing club and while members may use club racing as training this must be within their grade at the time.

**General principles of grading:** Grading in Ramblers is generally related to series performance which the club captain will assess towards the end of each series.

Normally the leading riders in each grade are promoted. However the club captain may not necessarily promote any rider, or may give any rider the option of going up or remaining in their current grade.

The club captain will assess all factors in making his/her decisions, for example the performances of riders who win easily when they do ride but are selective in their appearances.

Some riders may top a series table but struggle in the grade above, especially if they are older and/or they won the series through consistency rather through dominating performances.

The club captain will also be mindful of the greater gap between the higher grades, especially between A and B grades. No B grade rider will be compelled to go to A grade but some may be encouraged to go up.

He/she will also be on the lookout for those who manage their performance in a higher grade so as to make a better case for dropping down again.

**Mentor/support riders:** This policy does not apply to those riding as mentors with a lower grade or parents or others riding with a junior rider. However these riders must not affect the unfolding or the outcome of any race they are involved with.

**Riding up a grade:** There is no restriction on riding up other than safety and common sense. Members ride a grade up for various reasons – they may feel they are ready and prefer not to wait for the series end, they may want to test themselves at the next level, or they may have wrapped up a series early – and providing riders do so without disruption, this is to be encouraged.

If a member wishes to move up more than one grade they should contact the club captain and gain his/her agreement.

### **Riding Down:**

Members must ride in their current grade for a complete series unless they have applied to the club captain to be re-graded. Grading down during a series will only be considered in exceptional circumstances such as injury or serious illness.

If the club captain gives permission for a rider to ride down during a series, they will be informed how much part he/she may take part in racing in the lower grade. They will also remain in their current grade on the points table and only receive two points (for turning out) in that grade.

Any applications for re-grading must:

- Be in writing and include the reasons why a change in grading is requested.
- Be made at least two weeks before the start of a new series and apply to the upcoming series.

The club captain will consider the application, and if a re-grade down is granted, inform the member, timekeeper, and the committee.

Members who are found to have ridden a race in a grade below their own without permission will be disqualified. Members who do this more than once will be subject to the club's disciplinary policy.



Policy to be reviewed: March 2011