



# Darwin Cycling Club

## Wet Weather Policy

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### Purpose

The purpose of the Darwin Cycling Club wet weather policy (the policy) is to ensure a safe riding experience for all riders and other participants. The policy applies to all DCC events including social and training rides and races. The safety of riders, volunteers and other participants is of primary importance to DCC.

### Issues

The two main weather issues affecting cyclists in the Darwin region during the Wet season (October to April) are strong winds and heavy rain. Strong winds can affect riders and make cycling dangerous on roads and in bunches, especially for inexperienced riders, while heavy rain can reduce visibility for cyclists and other road users, and can also reduce traction on the road surface. Rain in the Darwin region can be an isolated occurrence and it may not be raining at the event location but raining where participants live, or vice versa.

1. During the monsoon/cyclone season (November to April) the Darwin region is likely to experience monsoonal (westerly) winds and cyclone warnings may also occur – this is when torrential and widespread rain and heavy wind is likely to occur (and could occur any time of day). Monsoonal conditions are generally widespread and most riders and participants will know in advance that the DCC event is likely to be affected.
2. During the transition seasons (and ‘monsoonal break’ weather) the Darwin region is likely to experience isolated thunderstorms with fast moving rain cells, usually from the east, and typically in the afternoon which could affect track and criterium training. As these events may be isolated not all riders and participants will necessarily be aware of the conditions prior to arriving at the event.

The DCC Committee and/or Event Organiser (Ride or Race Director) will check the Bureau of Meteorology radar and weather forecasts prior to an event during the Wet Season and the transition seasons and determine if it will proceed or be cancelled. As the DCC Committee and Event Organiser are not weather experts they will err on the side of caution.

### Notification

The DCC Committee and/or Event Organiser will provide updates on the [DCC Facebook page](#) and participants are encouraged to check Facebook/email for updates prior to leaving home or arriving at the event start. For races, an email will also be sent to the nominated email address of registered riders. Different types of events organised by DCC (see below) may be treated differently under similar conditions.

1. Where the Event Organiser makes a decision to **CANCEL** the scheduled event this decision will be communicated at least **60 minutes prior** to a scheduled event and an update will be provided on the DCC Facebook page.
2. Where the Event Organiser makes a decision to **PROCEED** with the scheduled event the Event Organiser will make best efforts to communicate the event status on the DCC Facebook page in instances where there may be some uncertainty around the event.

Where there is no DCC Facebook post stating that an event has been **CANCELLED**, the presumption is that the event will **PROCEED**. However, if the situation changes (i.e. conditions deteriorate and the Event Organiser deems it unsafe to proceed) the DCC Facebook page will be updated asap before the event.

DCC reminds all riders to ride safely – ensure your bike is good working condition, ride to your skill level and ride to the conditions. A rider is responsible for their own safety and DCC will endeavour to ensure that events are conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

## Social rides

DCC social rides are likely to be cancelled if roads are wet (and expected to remain wet) or if there is any rain or high winds because many riders are likely to be new to bunch rides and inexperienced in riding in adverse conditions.

## Training rides

The two main training rides likely to be affected by Wet season weather conditions are velodrome training and Hidden Valley criterium training. Training rides are likely to commence (and intermittently pause) if there are light showers or scattered rain that may pass quickly. Training is likely to be cancelled if a thunderstorm or cyclone warning has been issued that will affect the location at the scheduled time. Severe monsoonal winds with no rain may also cause a training event to be cancelled. If criterium training is scheduled for public road circuits during the Wet season the Social ride cancellation policy will apply.

NOTE: if criterium training at Hidden Valley is cancelled the gates will not be opened by DCC.

## Races

Most races during the Wet season are approximately 1 hour drive from Darwin making decisions to cancel races difficult with sufficient notification to participants. In addition, rescheduling a road race is difficult due to government approvals and the likelihood of conflicts with existing DCC events. Races will be cancelled if heavy monsoonal rains, or a cyclone watch or cyclone warning has been issued affecting the race area or likely to affect the race area, which would typically include the Darwin region where most participants live. Races are likely to commence if light rain is affecting the race area, and the Race Director and/or Event Organiser and Commissaire agree that the race can proceed. However, once a race commences the Race Director can decide to cancel the event at any time for safety reasons.