

Triumph Riders Club (TRC) of South Australia Incorporated



Policy Document: Minimising Risk in Adverse / Inclement Weather

Policy Number: 01

Policy Date: April 2015

Review: April 2017

Policy Statement: The Triumph Riders Club (TRC) Inc. will implement strategies for minimising risks associated with riding in adverse and inclement weather. Under the direction of the TRC Committee, the assigned Ride Leader is responsible for decisions to amend or cancel rides that are likely to be impacted by adverse weather. While they may seek input into their decision, the Ride Leader's decision is final and members are obliged to follow any direction pertaining to the decision.

Context: The TRC under the oversight of its elected Committee owes its members and the broader community a "duty of care" in all its activities. This is particularly relevant to our club rides and events during adverse / inclement weather. Recognising that riding a motorcycle comes with inherent risk, this policy outlines strategies to minimise foreseeable risks caused by adverse / inclement weather. At all times we assert that members and guests are responsible for their own safety while riding or being a pillion on a motorcycle. This policy is the Club's response to minimising the harm of adverse / inclement weather as much as possible.

Directions to Ride Leaders:

The Ride Leader:

- is the key decision maker regarding this policy;
- is responsible for making themselves aware of any adverse / inclement conditions that may impact on their ride;
- will act to amend or cancel a ride as soon as information is available on conditions that may impact negatively on a ride or increase risk to riders or the community;
- will brief the ride group about any active weather warnings across the ride route during the ride briefing or as warnings become available;
- may seek advice and opinion as they feel necessary to inform their decision making;
- will make decisions based on relevant information including temperature predictions;
- will utilise the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) weather service for warnings, updates and other changes in the hours leading to the ride start time - <http://www.bom.gov.au>
- can amend or cancel a ride at any time, including after the ride has commenced;
- will inform members of their decision using club email and Facebook either before 8pm on the night preceding a planned ride, or if there are forecast changes overnight, at the ride briefing;
- will ensure they or a(nother) Committee member attends the prescribed start place and time of a cancelled ride if safe to do so, to explain the decision to cancel the ride to any attendees who have not seen other communication.
- will report decisions made under this policy to the TRC President as soon as possible and to the next committee meeting;
- may enforce a period of suspension during a ride if they believe this is warranted by emergent weather conditions. For example, staying in a sheltered area in case of heavy fog, wind, rain, smoke and/or lightning until it is determined that conditions have improved and it is deemed safe to proceed;
- will inform members or associates who ignore a Ride Leader's instruction that they may not be covered by the Club's insurance;
- in the case of a cancellation mid-ride, consult with all riders present to see if any less experienced riders would like to be accompanied on their return ride.

Ride Amendment: a planned ride can be amended at any time to minimise risks from adverse weather conditions. This may include changes to the ride route or timing, including start finish times and duration.

Amendment Example:

- A ride route through the Adelaide Hills may be changed when a Catastrophic Fire Warning is applied to the Mount Lofty Ranges.
- A ride route may be changed when a road weather alert suggests additional risk in the ride area due to high winds or heavy rain.
- A ride route may be changed when there are forecast wind gusts that may cause falling trees or tree debris to impact on the ride route.

Cancellation: A planned ride may be cancelled when amendment options are not relevant due to extreme weather conditions. A cancelled ride is fully cancelled and not postponed. There is no requirement to replace the cancelled ride on the ride calendar.

Cancellation Examples:

- A state-wide Catastrophic Fire Warning exists.
- Gale force winds are forecasted for all regions.
- Widespread heavy rain is forecast.

Review: The TRC Committee will consider and review any outcomes of the application of this policy at the next relevant Committee meeting and report its considerations to members. The policy itself will be reviewed by the TRC Committee by the prescribed review date.

Weather Warnings: The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issues Severe Weather Warnings whenever severe weather is occurring in an area or is expected to develop or move into an area. The warnings describe the area under threat and the expected hazards. Warnings are issued with varying lead-times, depending on the weather situation, and range from just an hour or two up to about 24 hours. Severe Weather Warnings are issued for:

- Sustained winds of gale force (63 km/h, 34 knots) or more;
- Wind gusts of 90 km/h (48 knots) or more;
- Very heavy rain that may lead to flash flooding;
- Widespread blizzards in Alpine areas.

The BOM also issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, Fire Weather Warnings and Road Weather Warnings.

Glossary of Terms

Adverse / Inclement Weather	Weather that is considered extreme; severe; bad; foul; rough; harsh; stormy.
Weather Warnings	Any warning issued by the Bureau of Meteorology
Duty of Care	The legal framework under which we operate our incorporated club
Ride Leader	The person responsible for planning and facilitating a ride event