

Ride Cancellation Policy

A question came up recently about ride cancellation policy. It arises once in a while, and the board has thoughtful discussions about it. Here's our stance. New thoughts and ideas are always welcome.

In general, RBC calendar rides are not cancelled. Ride leaders are expected to make an effort to find substitutes. This is especially important for Supported Rides (SR) since the ride leader sweeps the ride (or arranges for it to be swept by others).

That said, it is not the end of the world if there isn't a ride leader due to unforeseen circumstances (stuff happens). RBC riders are independent enough to regroup and enjoy the ride themselves. With SR rides, other riders often pick up the sweep function, or the ride ends up without a sweep. Not ideal, but it can happen once in a great while. A ride log / waiver should still be circulated so that the liability insurance benefit is in effect for participants.

Obviously, rides are implicitly cancelled if a public authority (local, county or state) declares emergency / dangerous / no unnecessary travel conditions in the area of the ride.

If weather is questionable, please initiate discussion in the Meetup event. Delaying a ride by a few hours may be desirable. If a ride is remote (>1h drive), discussion can save a lot of time for everyone (including the ride leader) if no one is likely to go. We don't want to waste leaders' and riders' time, nor for the job to be onerous. But if the ride is nearby, try to be at the start to sign folks in, even if you don't plan to ride. Some riders choose to ride in rainy weather, especially if not constant.

So, in essence, a ride leader is not supposed cancel a ride. In the past, it wasn't even possible, since there was no effective and timely way to communicate the cancellation.

Boiling it down:

- RBC rides are only cancelled if there is a declared emergency (by public authority)
- Ride leaders are to find substitutes or let folks know they won't be there (via Meetup)
- Ask riders to complete and send in a ride log / waiver to ensure coverage (if no leader)
- Discuss options in the Meetup event when conditions are "iffy"

The best source for subs are those you ride with regularly. Try asking a few of them first. If that doesn't work, try this email group (rbcrideleaders@googlegroups.com) since it includes all current-year RBC ride leaders. Other informal email lists may also be useful (ex: fast-friends).

As always, thanks for being ride leaders! Folks really appreciate our reliable calendar of rides and the variety of routes and locations they provide. You all make it happen.

Ride carefully!

Steve Riegel