



# Code of Conduct

All members of the Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club are required to abide by the Club's Code of Conduct.

## 1) Respect the Landscape

Respect your volunteer trail builders and be a good caretaker of the physical environment. Keep single track single by staying on the trail. Practice "Leave No Trace" principles. Carry out your rubbish, including punctured tubes. Do not ride wet and muddy trails because it will cause rutting, widening and maintenance headaches. Ride through standing water, not around it. Ride (or get off and walk) technical features, not around them.

## 2) Trail Preservation

The trails at Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve are maintained by the Club volunteers. Respect the work they put in. Avoid skidding. Skidding reduces your control and damages the trail. Ride on existing trails only. Do not cut corners or make short cuts across trails. This will have a detrimental impact on built-in trail drainage, making them less resilient to sustaining heavy rainfall. If an obstruction blocks your path, do not ride around it. Remove the obstruction, if possible and safe to do so, or return from the direction you came. Ensure that the obstruction does not block any drainage features. If unable to remove the obstruction, report it to the Club Committee for attention.

## 3) Riding in and after Rain

Do not ride trails in sustained or heavy rain. Do not ride during prolonged rainfall and regular heavy showers. Riding on wet and muddy trails will cause rutting, widening and drainage problems and make trails unpleasant and at worst, not rideable. After a day of heavy rain, the trails will need at least a full day of sunshine to dry out. If riding after a small rain shower, avoid riding on muddy and water-logged trails.

## 4) Obey Trail Direction

Ensure you follow all trail direction signage. Obey one-way trail directions. DO NOT ride up one-way downhill trails – this is extremely dangerous. This is for yours and everyone's safety and wellbeing.

## 5) Share the Trail

There will be other riders on the trails. Be courteous and respectful to others. At Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve, there are one-way trails and two-way trails. When on two-way trails give way to uphill riders and ideally keep to the left. Take care when travelling around blind corners. Ensure you comply with trail signage. Always enter the park through one of the formal entry points.

## 6) Ride Open & Authorised Trails Only

Building unauthorised single track or adding trail features are detrimental to our access. Poorly built features could also seriously injure other riders. If you want to help build and maintain trails, attend the Club Working Bees or join our "Adopt a Trail" Trail Maintenance Program (see more on Facebook Page).

## 7) Ride in Control

Speed, inattentiveness and rudeness are the primary sources of trail conflict among riders and ride groups. If you need to pass, slow down, ring a bell or verbally announce yourself, and wait until the other rider is out of the path. At Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve when on two-way trails, give way to uphill riders. Be extra aware when riding trails with poor sight lines and blind corners, and make sure you can hear clearly what's going on around you.

## 8) Plan Ahead

Be prepared and self-sufficient. Every mountain biker should carry what they need for the ride they are undertaking and know how to fix a flat tyre or make minor repairs. Download a GPS trail app such as TrailForks on your phone for navigation or carry a map in unfamiliar locations. Ride with a partner or share your riding plan with someone if you are heading out solo.

## 9) Mind the Animals

Be aware of wildlife, especially in the early morning and late afternoon. Never frighten animals. Respect them, their habitat and environment.

## 10) Social Media and Online Forums

All members and volunteers, as well as social media followers, are expected to be respectful of other members and users when interacting on the Club's social media platforms and online forums. Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club is a family friendly club. Everyone is entitled to an opinion. Respectful debate is welcomed.

## 11) Bullying, Harassment and Racism

Bullying, harassment, racist, aggressive or threatening behavior towards any club member or member of the public whether in person, on club social media platforms, online forums or through direct messaging and email, will not be tolerated. Publishing and circulating any defamatory, vulgar, obscene or threatening material will not be tolerated and may see you become liable for defamation. Supported by evidence, such members will find themselves blocked from Club social media platforms and have their memberships cancelled.

In addition, as a member of MTBA, Club Members are also required to comply with MTBA Code of Conduct – web links.

- <https://www.mtba.org.au/wp-content/uploads/MTBA-Code-of-Conduct-Jan-2019.pdf>
- <https://www.mtba.org.au/wp-content/uploads/MTBA-Mountain-Bikers-Code-of-Conduct-AUG18.pdf>