



Policy

Juniors Policy

Responsible Position	Race Director
Approved By Committee	Committee Meeting - 28 April 2025
Version	V3.0
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Document(s) this policy supersedes	Undated Junior Race Policy 2021-22 V1.0 V2.0 - dated 22 February 2023

1. Purpose

To provide the requirements for junior club members undertaking Club sanctioned races and the cycle leg.

2. Definitions

'age' a person's age, for the purpose of determining their age category, is their age on 31 December each season. For example, a 13 year old who turns 14 in December is deemed to be a 14 year old for the whole season (July through to June).

'junior cyclist' refers to a club member between the ages of 13 and 16 years undertaking the cycle leg of a sanctioned Club race.

'supporting adult' is over 18 years of age, an experienced cyclist, hold a current drivers licence, be approved by the junior cyclist's parent/guardian and be acceptable to the junior cyclist.

'working with children check' will be required for the Club President, the Race Director and coaches who are instructing junior athletes.

3. Background

The Club will comply with Triathlon Australia (TA) Race Rules at all times however the Club needs to consider the open shared use of roads on our course.

TA race rules stipulate that juniors must be 12 years of age before they are allowed to complete on courses (500m swim/13km ride/4km run); 13 years of age before they are allowed to complete courses (500m swim/15km ride/5km run) and 14 years of age to complete courses (1000m swim/20km ride/7.5km run). The TA race rules also permit juniors under 12 to race up to varying distances however do not distinguish between open and closed (no other vehicles generally permitted) roads.

Historically the Club did not permit juniors under 13 years of age to compete at sanctioned Club races and juniors had to be 13 years of age to compete in the Super Sprint and 14 years of age to compete in the Sprint distance. The Club bike course is conducted on maximum speed 60km/h roads.

4. Policy Statement

Coffs Harbour Triathlon Club encourages juniors to compete in our club races and to be safe doing so. Certain positions with the Club will be required to have a working with children check and the Australian Triathlon child safe policies and procedures apply regarding child safety.

4.1 Juniors Undertaking the Cycling Leg on Public Roads

The bike leg is conducted on open public roads around the Jetty, and the north and eastern sides of Coffs Harbour central business district. The Harbourside and car-boot markets elevate the pedestrian and vehicular congestion at the Jetty on Sunday mornings while additionally Hogbin Drive is a key arterial road that comprises part of the bike leg.

To mitigate the risk of injury with junior cyclists colliding with pedestrians and/or vehicles, the following requirements are adopted –

- i. Juniors under 13 years of age will not be permitted to cycle at sanctioned Club races on open public roads.
- ii. Junior cyclists who are not a Club member and have a one day license (ODL) will not be permitted to ride at sanctioned Club races on open public roads. ODL juniors are encouraged to do the swim and run provided they are at least 13 years of age.
- iii. An exemption to (ii) above may be made at the discretion of the Race Director and at least one other Executive member based on consideration of matters including but not limited to age (e.g. close to 16 years of age), where the parent and athlete can demonstrate prior experience with racing in triathlon or similar events, and may be a member of the North Coast Academy of Sport.

Parents/guardian of permitted juniors under the age of 16 must nominate a competent supporting adult to ride with them during the bike leg. The primary role of the supporting adult is to ensure the safety of the junior cyclist.

The supporting adult for junior cyclist undertaking the cycle leg at Club races must -

- Be registered as a volunteer on race day and signs the volunteer register.
- Sign a job description provided by the Club that outlines the risks of accompanying a junior on the cycle course
- Be acceptable to their parent/guardian and the cyclist.
- Be 18 years or older and holds a current drivers license.
- Be a competent experienced road cyclist.
- Be riding a road worthy safe bicycle with appropriate reflectors and/or a rear flashing red light and front light.
- Be dressed in safe appropriate bike gear.
- Wear a volunteer fluorescent vest.
- Ride within 10 meters behind the junior cyclist at all times during the race.

The junior cyclist undertaking the cycle leg at Club races must -

- Have consent of their parent/guardian to participate in the Club race.
- Have an acceptable level of competence to ride a bicycle.
- Be riding a road worthy safe bike with appropriate reflectors, a rear flashing red light and front static white light.
- Wear a fluorescent vest.
- Ride within 10 metres of their supporting adult at all times during the Club race and obey reasonable direction and instruction from the supporting adult.

- Attend the race briefing and be aware of the hazards on the bike course and basic road rules.

5. Related Documents

Nil