

## Ottawa Bicycle Club Policy #15: E-Bikes

E-bikes are defined within the Ottawa Bicycle Club (OBC) as motorized bicycles that generally have the appearance of conventional road or hybrid bicycles, meet Government of Ontario e-bike requirements (<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/driver/electric-bicycles-faq.shtml#:~:text=Can%20ride%20it%20in,licensing%2C%20registration%20and%20insurance%20requirements.>), have steerable handlebars, working pedals and an electric motor enabling speeds not to exceed 32 kilometres per hour. E-bikes are sometimes referred to as “pedelecs” (pedal electric cycles).

Electric or gas-powered scooters, which generally are of a step-through frame, and generally do not have pedals, are not allowed on club rides or similar group activities, such as Youth Program training rides.

E-bike riders do not require a Provincial driver’s licence but must be 16 and older and wear an approved bicycle helmet.

The following rules must be followed by E-bike riders on club rides and other group cycling activities:

- An E-bike will only be allowed when it is used in the pedal assist mode. No other type of speed control such as handlebar throttles will be allowed. E-bikes with throttle controls on their handlebar should have them disconnected.
- E-bike riders must also always be proficient in the use of their E-bike, and must complete the OBC Group Riding Clinic on a conventional bicycle or on their E-bike
- E-bike riders should anticipate and control any speed surges so as not to impact others in the group.
- If the terrain is hilly, the group leader or coach may consider requiring E-bikes to ride at the rear of the group. E-bike riders should also be aware that their speed going up hills may be faster than the speed of non-powered bicycles, and must be well aware of their positioning and speed control in such situations. If it is necessary to pass another rider at any time but particularly on hills where there is a tendency for most riders to lose speed, this must be communicated - “passing on your left.”
- The group leader or coach may direct E-bikes not to pass on certain hills and in certain traffic conditions.
- Those choosing to ride E-bikes are expected to ensure they are fully self-sufficient with particular attention paid to the range of their battery, and should

not participate in long rides unless their battery power will allow them to complete the ride. The club will not “rescue” riders whose batteries die out and they will have to make their own arrangements to be picked up. If possible, E-bike riders may wish to carry a second battery with them.

- E-bikes are to ride within their group riding skill level and at the pace of the group they are in. E-bike riders may not push the pace of the group by riding faster or riding off the front, or being at the front of the group a disproportionate amount of time. If this occurs, the group leader or coach may ask the rider of the E-bike to leave the group and ride separately.
- Due to the fact E-bikes can only assist with speeds up to 32 kmph they will not be allowed in any Touring 3 or Sportif group rides.