

PA Randonneurs Safety Instructions

Your responsibility as the rider includes:

- Showing up in reasonable physical condition for the event
- Bringing a reliable bike in good working order
- Complying with all traffic laws along the course
- Respecting the rights of all other users of the route (including pedestrians)
- Planning for the situation where you can't finish the ride

Although every effort has been made to provide you with a scenic route that minimizes car traffic and other hazards, the following list highlights some areas to take some extra care:

- One of the most dangerous things you will encounter on the road just might be another cyclist. Keep a safe following distance when riding with other cyclists you are not familiar with. Please avoid forming a large bunch at the start of the ride.
- Pennsylvania routes have many steep climbs. These can be followed by steep, twisty descent on a rough surface. Even a seemingly smooth road may have a rock or other debris in your path. Please take these descents with extra care and little less speed. If you are riding with others, please keep a safe distance from one another.
- If there are Delaware River bridge crossings on the route, it's mandatory that you walk your bike across these bridges. Many have steel decks that are unsafe to ride. Riding on the bridge walkway is also prohibited. Riding the walkway is dangerous to yourself and any pedestrians. It also really annoys the bridge operator who may emerge to ticket or arrest you. Complaining will reflect poorly on our group. Just walk and enjoy the view. The only exception is the Dingman's Ferry bridge, which can be ridden and the bridge operator will smile and wave you past the toll.
- Read the cue sheet carefully. Hazards unique to the route are listed. Warnings of these hazards may not show on a GPS unit. Please read the cue sheet!
- It's impossible for the cue sheet or course notes to warn of every hazard. You are responsible for your safety out there. Keep a sharp eye for unexpected hazards.
- If you are unsure about your ability to ride any section, you should unclip and walk. If walking is unsafe, find a safe detour.

Equipment

- Helmets are mandatory. Riding without a helmet will result in an immediate disqualification.
- All riders should plan on bringing along a taillight in case limited visibility conditions are encountered (e.g. rain, fog). The early morning hours are often foggy in the Fall.
- Headlights and reflective vests are also required if still riding after sundown or before dawn. Although it is possible for fast riders to finish an event before dark, unforeseen circumstances may delay you. Any rider with insufficient lighting at night will be disqualified.
- Bringing along a cell phone is highly recommended.
- Mechanical assistance is not provided. Carry tools and spares.

Food / Hydration

- In general, PA routes head you into some desolate areas, with limited opportunities for food and water.
- The controles are often at a store or restaurant where you can replenish, but this is not always true. Read the cue sheet carefully and study the route to plan your food and water stops.

Abandon / Rescue

- If you are unable to continue the ride, or find yourself riding far beyond the cutoff times, you should abandon the event.
- Contact the organizer — their phone number is on the brevet card — to notify them that you are abandoning the ride. Don't just leave. Unlike most other bike events, randonneuring organizers care about you and will notice if you don't show up at they finish. They will go looking for you, start calling hospitals, emergency contacts, etc... so if you abandon, TELL SOMEBODY.
- No sag wagon is provided. You are responsible for your own transportation home if you abandon. Install Uber on your cell phone before you start riding brevets.