

Walden Mountain Bike Club (WMBC) - Code of Trail Conduct – Jan 2017

The purpose of the WMBC code of conduct is to ensure that as our membership grows and our activities attract more riders and spectators, we build a welcoming and positive club culture. Mountain biking is a newer sport and our goal is to grow the sport in Sudbury by being models for the community. [Winter Fat Biking](#) is very new and we are making an effort to integrate it into the trail-based activities with the other trail users. We need your help to achieve this and the guidelines below will help. Above all, we promote respect for people and for the environment.

1. Be Prepared

Know your equipment, your ability to ride, the weather and the area you are riding. A well-planned ride will go smoothly for you and your companions. A basic ride kit should include a spare tire, patch kit, water and a snack, a multi tool and an air pump.

2. Don't Ride On Closed Trails

The aim of closing a trail is to prevent damage and hopefully add a few days or weeks it can be ridden towards end of season. Whether it is to protect the environment or for rider safety or private land, a closed trail is off limits for a reason. Riding closed trails is not only illegal; it gives mountain bikers and the club a bad reputation.

3. Say No to Mud

Riding when the trail is muddy can be fun but also cause long lasting damage. If it's wet, let'er set. If it's dry, let'er fly! Find trails in your town that are durable, drain well, and ride these instead when it is wet. Volunteer to help our Club build tougher trails that withstand rain.

4. Respect the Trail, Wildlife, and Environment

Be sensitive to the trail and its surroundings by riding softly. Do not litter and never scare animals. It is all about respect.

5. Stay on the Trail and Ride Softly

Do not intentionally ride off trail. Riding off trail can damage the ecosystem. Make it a game to stay directly in the center of the trail at all times. Take corners carefully to avoid blowing off line. Stay off trailside plants. Ride over rocks, logs and waterbars instead of around them. Dirt holds a special place in the heart of mountain bikers, so be kind to it.

6. Pass with Courtesy and Care

Slow down when approaching other trail users and respectfully make others aware you are approaching. Pass with care and be prepared to stop if necessary. Do not ride fast on busy trails; you must move slowly to ensure safety for all trail users.

Some mountain bikers have mastered technical riding. They are able to negotiate the hairiest sections with grace and style. Other riders are masters of the downhill - launching over rocks and drops without fear. Climbing specialists can stomp their way to the top of a hill with half the effort it takes the rest of us. But more important than strong climbing, technical or downhill skill is mastering the art of the pass - being able to deftly move among other trail users with the ease of a politician, the grace of a dancer and the good will of an ambassador.

Every time we pass another trail user, we have the power to make it a positive experience. It is the single greatest thing we can do for our sport to ensure access to trail areas.

7. Share the Trail with Other Trail Users

Mountain bikers and hikers must share multi-use trails. Remember: mountain bikers should yield to hikers. It is all about respect. Treat the trail like the valuable treasure that it is. Same goes for other trail users - respect them and they will return the favour.

8. Consult the Club before doing any trail work

The club is always looking for volunteers to help maintain and improve the trails. The Club also has a lead trail designer and plan. Unauthorized or illegal trail work may lead to environmental damage, injury or even potential trail closure.

9. Get Involved

If you want to make a difference in your mountain biking community, get involved with the Club.

10. Good etiquette extends to the trailhead

Resist the urge to imitate the Duke boys slinging gravel as you peel out of the parking lot in your quest for post-ride pizza and brews (or fried chicken if you were more a Boss Hog fan). Respect the neighbours at the trailhead and keep your speed in check as head out of the Naughton subdivision.

11. Please leave Sparky at home

Bike rides are not the time to bring your dog for a run. This is in contravention to our city bi-law. It is dangerous and jeopardizes the safety of other riders. Dogs are not permitted on any MTB venue that we know of.

12. When Winter Fat Biking on Ski Trails

- a. Ride only on trails assigned for biking.
- b. Minimum tire tread width is 3.7". Fat Bikes Only – No Mountain Bikes.
- c. Allow the track time to set up after grooming and before riding.
- d. Do not ride in or close to the classic ski tracks.
- e. Yield to all other users when riding. Skiers don't have brakes, but you do!
- f. Ride on the firmest part of the skate track and away from the edges.
- g. Leave room for skiers to pass (don't ride side-by-side with all of your buddies blocking the full trail).
- h. As a general rule, if you have to get off and push your bike, the snow is too soft and you shouldn't be on the ski trails.
- i. If you are leaving a trough that is deeper than an inch or are having a hard time riding in a straight line, your tire pressure is too high or it is probably too soft to be on the trails.
- j. Be a good trail citizen and if, for some reason, you leave ruts that will impact skiing negatively, please leave the trail. Also, please let the Chalet desk know, so the trail conditions can be updated so others will know.
- k. Since this is a new sport, remember Fat Bikers are ambassadors for the sport so please: be polite, educate other bikers, discourage bad behavior, follow the rules, and we'll all have a good time this winter.