



## Ontario Cycling Association

1185 Eglinton Avenue East, North York, M3C 3C6  
Tel: (416) 426-7416, Fax: (416) 426-7241

### Road Communiqué #6 (May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008) - Criteriums

This communiqué is to describe for the road racing community some of the rules governing criterium racing as applied in Ontario. This is not just for new racers. Experienced racers are also expected to understand and abide these rules.

**Criterium:** A criterium is a circuit race held on a small course entirely closed to traffic. The length of the course is between 800 m and 3 km.

There are two methods for running a criterium race:

1. classification at the finish of the last lap;
2. classification on the basis of the number of laps covered and the number of points obtained during the intermediate sprints.

This communiqué will address the first method only, as currently all criteriums on the OCA race calendar are of this type. Note that any specific rules detailed in the event technical guide, or announced by commissaires prior to the race, will also be enforced.

Part 2, Chapter 7 of the UCI rule book and the CCA Companion Guide provide explanation on rules specific to points-based criteriums (method 2 above).

#### **Direction of Travel**

Riders may only ride in a forward direction on the course. Riders may dismount and run backward to a repair pit when it is safe to do so, however if in doing so a dangerous situation is created by the rider they may be denied a free lap or be subject to further penalties.

#### **Free Laps**

Riders shall normally cover the distance of the race regardless of mishaps and must make up any distance lost on their own ability unless a free lap is granted for mishaps. A free lap may be granted for each mishap unless the official race announcement states that no free laps will be allowed.

In the case of a recognized mishap (see rule 3.2.021) the rider shall be entitled to a neutralisation of one or two laps to be determined by the commissaires according to the length of the circuit.

The following shall be considered recognized mishaps:

- a fall;
- a puncture;
- the breakage of an essential part of the bicycle;
- being held up behind a crash.

All other incidents are considered unrecognized mishaps.



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In the event of a mishap riders must make their way to the repair pit as quickly as possible via the most direct route. Riders are permitted to cut the course to get to the repair pit, but only while the free lap rule is in effect. Failure to proceed quickly and directly to the repair pit will result in denial of free laps.

Bicycle repairs must be made in the official repair pit only. The pit commissaire will determine if the mishap was a legitimate one and if the rider is entitled to free laps.

After the neutralisation the rider shall resume the race behind the group he was part of at the time of the mishap but shall not be eligible for sprint prizes for one lap thereafter.

No free laps shall be given in the final 5km of the event. This 5km distance shall be determined by the position of the leaders.

Riders who are ineligible for a free lap must make up any lost ground.

If a rider is found to be cheating to get a free lap they will be disqualified and may be subject to further penalties.

### **Primes**

Primes are sprints within a race. They may be for the lead riders or any group or field of riders. A bell shall be sounded on the lap preceding the prime sprint at the appropriate line for that prime sprint. The line used for prime sprints need not be the same as the start or finish line.

Primes may be either predetermined for certain laps or spontaneously designated under the supervision of the Chief Commissaire. All primes won shall be awarded to riders even if they withdraw from the race.

Lapped riders are not eligible for primes except in the following situation: when a breakaway has lapped the main field, riders in the main field and the breakaway riders are then both eligible for primes.

When primes are announced for a given group, only riders in that group or behind it at the beginning of the prime lap are eligible.

### **Lapped Riders**

Lapped riders are those that have been caught by the lead rider(s) in the race. Riders shall be deemed to have lapped the field when they reach the tail end of the main bunch.

Riders in the same category on different laps may work with each other except that no rider may drop back to assist a rider who has broken away from the field. Riders offering or accepting such assistance will be disqualified.



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Any rider or group of 20 riders or less who drop behind and are lapped by the main bunch may be eliminated and pulled from the race. If such a group involves more than 20 riders, the commissaire panel shall decide whether those riders may continue or be eliminated.

A rider who falls so far behind as to be considered out of contention may be pulled from the race.

All riders will finish on the same lap as the leaders unless a field finish occurs (see below).

At the finish, lapped riders will be placed according to the number of the laps they are down and then their position in the finish. If a rider is overtaken on the same lap as the winner, the finishing time of the rider who was lapped is divided by the number of laps he finished, multiplied by the total number of laps in the race.

### **Field Finish**

If two or more riders have lapped, or are about to lap, a substantial group of riders, the Chief Commissaire may direct all lapped riders to sprint early, usually two to four laps before the end of the race, then retire. Then only the riders who have actually gained the lap would continue on to sprint for the real finish.

The decision to do this shall be communicated to the riders several laps in advance of the sprint. No continuing rider may take pace from a rider who has finished. Doing so will result in disqualification or relegation for both riders.

### **Feeding**

Feeding of riders (i.e. hand up of bottles) is not permitted.

**The UCI Rule Book is available here:** <http://www.uci.ch>

**The CCA Companion Guide is available here:**  
[http://canadian-cycling.com/cca/coaches\\_officials/companion\\_guide.shtml](http://canadian-cycling.com/cca/coaches_officials/companion_guide.shtml)

**College of Ontario Road Commissaires**