



# Dykes on Bikes

## Mardi Gras Parade Rules

Please read this page carefully as it contains important information. Changes may occur prior to the event so please keep an eye on our website and facebook pages.

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

Check your bike is registered, filled up with the appropriate petrol, oil, and water and that your tyres are legal and to the correct pressure. Nothing more embarrassing than running out of fuel in front of thousands of people!

Plan your ride to the meeting point, taking into account you may need extra time to arrive.

### MEETING POINT

We normally meet in the bus turning circle/stand opposite the main entrance of the SCG on Driver Ave in Moore Park. This can be accessed from either Lang Rd or Moore Park Rd.



Arrival time for Riders, Pillions and Float Participants: Between 2.30-4.30pm.

Arrival time for pre-arranged Ride Leaders: Between 1.30-2pm. You must be here no later than 2pm for Ride Leader briefing.

**Important: If you have not arrived by 4.30pm you will not be riding in the parade.**

Please allow extra time to arrive as there may be road closures which could affect you.

## REGISTRATION

When you arrive, please pull up in front of the registration tent just inside the entrance of Driver Ave before joining the other riders. You'll need to give your name, and will be given a rocket package - flags, head light gels, wrist bands and a bag to put your belongings in.

The friendly registration volunteers will direct you to your colour group to form up three abreast.

If you are planning on riding with friends it is better if you can all arrive at the same time as there may not be room to manoeuvre later on.

## COLOUR GROUP – BIKE CHECK

Please make sure that your bike is roadworthy, able to withstand slow riding, stop / start / clutch work and is registered. Your group's Ride Leaders will introduce themselves, and quickly check your bike to make sure everything appears OK.

Your Ride Leaders will ask to see your Licence – please keep this on you at all times, even while riding the Parade route (it's the Law).

Your Ride Leaders will brief you on the Ride Rules, and can also help you set up your bike if you need a hand.

## SETTING UP YOUR BIKE

Inside your rocket package:

- Head Light Gels: coloured gel plastic that goes around your headlights. See your Ride Leader for tape.
- Flags: Attach your flags where ever you like!
- Wrist Bands: One for you, one for your pillion and one for your Garbage Bag (see below). You do not need to put one on your bike.
- Garbage Bags: When you get changed, place your riding gear/helmets/etc in your bag and attach the last wristband. Your Ride Leader will show you where to store the bag so our lovely volunteers can look after it while you are riding in the parade. Make sure you don't pack away your Licence – **it must be on you at all times on the Parade route.**

Make sure that your Licence Plate is visible. While registration labels are no longer required in NSW, the NSW Police will be conducting a walkthrough of the group. No Trade Plates are permitted. Also if you are on your L or P plate you must display these.



## **FORMING UP**

We form up tightly into groups, three bikes across. After 5.30pm, you will not be able to leave the general vicinity but there will be a coffee van and food available for purchase onsite.

You might have to re-form your group in a slightly different location to get ready to take off in a safe manner.

## **YOUR OUTFIT**

Although there is a theme for Mardi Gras we tend to wear whatever we want as individuals from very little to full leather.

Dykes on Bikes has always been a strong female presence standing up for the rights of people to live their lives openly and safely. Thousands of people watch the Mardi Gras parade, and photos of the parade are shown all around the world. It's the time where the Sydney LGBTQI community shines, and Dykes on Bikes is proud to be one of its most recognisable groups. For this reason, we ask our members to consider their parade outfits - and what they say about us as a club, and our LGBTQI community as whole.

Cultural Appropriation is using aspects or symbols from another culture, in a way that causes offense or hurt to people from that culture. Cultural Appropriation becomes important to consider when the people from that culture have traditionally been a minority, oppressed or negatively stereotyped in the past by the majority. For example, 'black-face' is the wearing of make up in a theatrical way to caricature an African or African American person. This practice continues racist stereotypes and causes a lot of hurt to people of colour (POC) communities. Likewise, Native Americans have been (and are still) an oppressed minority, whose culture was decimated and nearly wiped out by the white settlers. They have asked non-native people to stop using their special cultural outfits (i.e feather headdress) as a costume as it diminishes the nature of those outfits and causes hurt.

We belong to a minority that is often oppressed and stereotyped, and we feel empathy for other minorities who continue to experience this. We encourage our members to stand up for

the rights of other minority groups, and to refrain from wearing another culture as a costume unless they have a genuine connection to it.

## **POLICE CHECKS**

The NSW Police will do licence checks, alcohol breath testing and possibly drug testing before parade starts. This is everyday law, not just for Mardi Gras.

If you are on your L or P Plates, by law in NSW you must display the correct L or P-Plate. Remember, you cannot carry a pillion if you're on your L or P1.

Please respect the clubs reputation by adhering to this Law.



## **THE ROUTE**

- We ride three abreast (three bikes in a row) down the bus lane, onto Flinders St, through Taylors Square and onto Oxford St.
- When we get to the top of Wentworth Avenue, go single file and turn left (starting with the left-most rider in your row).
- Do your U-turn at the base of Wentworth Ave (marked with traffic cones), and continue back up the hill, merging back into your row at the top of Wentworth Ave.
- Turn right and continue back the way we came.
- We finish in the bus lane back at our starting point.

## **THE U-TURN INFORMATION**

- The preparation for the turn should start with the rider in the lane closest to the gutter on the left (south) side of Oxford St.
- Whilst doing your slow speed U-turn on Wentworth Avenue (a width of 3 traffic lanes), you must not stop, foot paddle or push the bike in the turn.
- It is imperative that all riders **MUST** be able to perform this turn safely at slow speed. A fall in this area could endanger others, including riders, volunteers and spectators in the area. We will have DOB crew here to assist if this occurs.
- It's not as scary as it sounds – promise!

## **SAFETY ON THE PARADE ROUTE**

- We will ride at a constant speed of 15km/h – do not go faster than this (ever).
- No trick riding: your feet must remain on your foot pegs at all times, bottoms on seats at all times.
- All pillions and riders must remain seated during the ride both on the parade route and during the parade.
- No tailgating your fellow riders ever! Maintain a safe distance but do not leave large gaps between bikes.
- If there is an emergency on the parade route, form into single file and move to the left.
- Never, ever, overtake another bike(s) unless it is broken down and pushed to the left.

- Special note for Pillions: Your feet must remain on foot pegs at all times and your bottom must remain on the seat. Remember to wave and make a noise but only as much as your rider is comfortable with. Don't be embarrassed by causing the bike to spill.
- At no point during the parade will anyone dismount from their Motorcycle except in case of emergency, breakdown or under direct instruction from Mardi Gras officials.

### **BREAKDOWN – NOW WHAT?**

- If you breakdown on the Parade route push your bike off to the left side and wait for the support vehicles on second pass. They will pick you up on their truck and you can wave at everyone from the front seat.
- If your bike restarts DO NOT RIDE THROUGH THE RANKS to re-join your original colour group. Simply join the back of whatever group is next to you.
- Never, ever, overtake another bike(s)

### **AT THE END**

- Once you have finished the route go directly (without stopping) to collect your helmet and gear.
- You must collect your gear and helmets immediately after our parade ride ends – your Ride Leader will call out your wristband number for your bag.
- Please Note: We do not have permission to remain within the park or to use the End area as a Parking area during the rest of the parade or the party. If you do leave your bike here, it will be removed by CPMPT rangers and impounded. This will result in fines for you and DOB.
- You can park nearby in the Entertainment Quarter's carpark if you'd like to stay.
- Remember to remove your headlight gel before leaving as it's illegal to ride with these on public roads. The flags can stay though.

Now, come have a drink with us at the DOB Mardi Gras After Party at The Lady Hampshire Hotel, Parramatta Rd, Campderdown. If you haven't purchased a ticket already you can get them at the door. Entry is via the rear laneway.