

# **Kowen Forest Ride: Supplementary Regulations & Recognition of Risks**

**Version: SR/2023/1.0**

**Date of effect: 18 July 2023**

## Introduction

These Supplementary Regulations (“Regulations”) is to inform participants of the conditions of entry to the Kowen Forest Ride. Please note that Regulatory Authorities place many conditions upon us to access Kowen Forest for the Event. In part, these Regulations ensure that the DSMRA complies with the conditions of our permit to use the forest. If the DSMRA or event participants fail to comply with any of these conditions, it may result in greater regulation or cancellation of the Kowen Forest Ride in future – so your cooperation and compliance is appreciated.

These Regulations do not cover every aspect of the ride, and the onus is on participants to act sensibly, exercise sound judgement, be considerate, and look after each other. This Event is run by volunteers for the enjoyment of those who enjoy riding dirt bikes. These Regulations should be read in conjunction with other relevant DSMRA documents including the *Entry Form* and the *Recognition of Risks*.

The Clerk of the Course (CoC) is in overall charge of this event and is supported by the Deputy CoC and the Kowen Forest Ride Committee. Their instructions must be obeyed, otherwise the event may be suspended or abandoned.

The ACT Government has reserved the right to cancel the event subject to conditions such as weather (particularly rain), fire danger, poor behaviour of participants etc.

The DSMRA reserves the right to cancel the event for any reason.

A commitment to public safety and respect for the environment is required – anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. There is to be no illicit drugs, animals, fireworks, weapons, drones, children, remote control cars, pets or any unauthorised vehicles brought into the event site. Anti-social or unruly behaviour will result in those participants being removed from the event.

DSMRA is not responsible for any loss or damage to property (including personal property such as motorcycles, bags, money or other personal items) brought to or purchased at the event by you or your invitees.

The Regulations may be amended from time to time. Please check the DSMRA website to ensure you have the latest version. The version number is printed near the top right of page 1.

## General Ride Information

The Kowen Forest Ride officially begins on the night ride on Friday Night, with the main ride on Saturday and Sunday with the following details:

- Friday Night Ride: Briefing at 6:30. Ride open 7pm and last out at 9:30pm.
- Saturday: Ride open – 8:15am - Saturday last riders out at 2:45pm. Loops close at 4pm.
- Sunday: Ride open – 8:15. Last out 12:00pm. Closing at 2:00pm.
  
- Early sign-on will be available for riders on Friday from 4pm.

The loops are arrowed and have signage showing the way. There is a set of letters (from A to Z) positioned at intervals around the loop to indicate positioning in each loop to locate riders should assistance be required.

Course short cuts will be signposted for participants to divert around difficult sections or opt out and return to Event Central via easy trails and roads (if feeling fatigued or the bike is malfunctioning/damaged).

No 'informal riding' in parts of Kowen Forest other than on the loops or gazetted roads is permitted. Participants are required to show courtesy and restraint, including no wheel spin or deliberate environmental damage.

No riding to take place on Friday day unless part of a DSMRA led ride.

This is not a competitive event and a strict 40kph speed limit applies throughout Kowen Forest.

Although we will try and minimise road usage in the forest; riders should expect vehicles on the roads and should stop at all road intersections. Animals including Kangaroos and pigs are common on the ride area and can lead to dangerous riding.

The ride has many areas of off-road which includes additional hazards such as branches, tree stumps, tree ends, mud. All riders must have undertaken formal training to be able to safely navigate such obstacles.

## Entries

Acceptance of entries is at the discretion of the Kowen Ride Organisers.

Unless notified, entries from a postponed event will be carried forward to any new proposed event date. The DSMRA reserves the right to close entries at any stage to maximise the satisfaction of the riders already booked in.

Event merchandise may be available for purchase from late afternoon Friday, Saturday to Sunday afternoon unless sold out earlier.

Your registration fee covers just the entry to the ride and one raffle ticket. Your membership to the club (required for the ride) this year is independent of the ride.

## **Night Ride**

Night riding is vastly more dangerous, confusing and complex; and obstacles are vastly harder to determine. At night due to conditions dust is known to remain airborne on trails for longer periods of time. Speed should be reduced at night; and riders must gain night riding skills prior to riding at night in Kowen. Disorientation at night is more common and all riders will be required to carry additional lights.

At this night ride - images of the dead, fake body parts, or of elements of a “ghostly” nature may be set up on the trail as entertainment. Riders are forewarned to stop before taking a closer look.

All riders who attend the night ride should have prior expertise/ training for riding at night.

## **Mobile Phones**

Riders should be aware that all phone networks have large areas of non-coverage in the forest and phones should not be relied upon for emergencies. We recommend riders carry UHF radios tuned to channel 16 and always ride in a group. We strongly recommend that the Emergency Plus app is loaded on all mobile phones.

## **Privacy**

Please note, as outlined on the entry form, and unless specifically requested, your name and entrant number will be included on the registered entrant list. This list may be published on our website and updated regularly. Your name may also be included on a sticker placed on your bike, as it will aid in the rapid identification of riders.

## **Other**

Please note that by signing the entry form and joining the DSMRA or extending your membership, you are also agreeing to abide by the DSMRA’s Riders Code, noting that some specific elements (e.g. carry your licence, as you will already have handed it in to us) are not applicable to the Kowen Forest Ride.

## **Images, Photography and Press**

On the course and throughout the event a professional photographer, press, and DSMRA photographers will be present. Your image may be published for marketing purposes or on social media. Please notify the photographer if you are not happy with your image being published.

Although due to the public nature of land you may not have a right to refuse the use of your image.

## ***DSMRA’s Rider Code:***

- 1. Obey the laws & regulations on recreational vehicles. Observe restrictions on use of public land & do not go around locked gates.*

2. *Respect the environment. Stick to formed tracks, avoid sensitive areas like wetlands and vegetated dunes. Treat native wildlife with respect.*
3. *Don't ride when conditions are such that it will severely damage tracks. As a general guide, if you are leaving a 10 cm deep rut over a distance of 50m or more, you should not be in there.*
4. *Be considerate of other bush users. Keep to the left-hand side of any track, & give way to horse riders. Ride sensibly past general recreational areas such as camping & picnic spots.*
5. *Always ride a well-muffled & registered bike.*
6. *Always carry a current driver's licence, & do not ride in public areas with anyone who is unregistered or unlicensed.*
7. *Obtain permission from the relevant landholder before riding or camping on private land. Leave livestock alone & gates as you found them.*
8. *Exercise some throttle control when overtaking other vehicles. Do not shower them with rocks!*
9. *Don't wear a single line rut through drainage structures such as erosion control banks.*
10. *Keep the environment clean. Take out what you take in.*

### **Access to Kowen Forest**

Normal access will be through the "front gate" of Kowen Forest, approximately 2km north of the driver training facility on Sutton Road. At the gate, participants will be checked against the list of registered entrants. A sticker will be applied to the windscreen of each car. The sticker will speed re-entry through the gate if you have to leave and then come back again.

The main staging area, "Event Central", is approximately 6km into the forest from the main gate. The route will be signposted.

The main gate will be open for general admission from 3pm to 11pm on Friday for those who wish to camp. Please note there is no general riding on Friday.

Attendees that wish to queue for entry should do so in an orderly fashion, such that service vehicles (including trucks) are not obstructed from entering/leaving, or other traffic from using the road to the Molonglo Picnic Area.

The gate will open from 7am Saturday and will be locked at 11pm. The gate will not re-open until 7am Sunday, except for emergencies as directed by the CoC.

Everyone must exit via the gate on Quarry Road (i.e. not via the road used on entry, as has been the case in other years). No exceptions. Please obey the traffic exit signs

After exiting please ensure any unmanned gates are locked behind you.

## Camping

- Camping will be available Friday and Saturday night.
- Camping is only permitted within the marked area. No camping is allowed in the forest, between pine tree plantations, or along (adjacent) to pine plantations.
- A large number of camp spots are available adjacent to Event Central. Positions are allocated on a first come - first served basis. There is no camping elsewhere in the forest or away from Event Central unless designated by the CoC.
- Very limited bbq food will be available at the event. We recommend you bring your own food and drink: **ABSOLUTELY NO GLASS IS PERMITTED AT THE KOWEN FOREST RIDE.**
- Fire is one of the major risks for this forest event. It is a condition imposed on the DSMRA that there are **no open fires in the forest area. All fires in the campground must be in a fire bucket** (a half 44-gallon drum or similar), so for convenience, you may wish to consider bringing your own fire pit/drum. **Volunteers have been instructed to extinguish non-complying fires. There can be no exceptions.**
- Do NOT place rubbish (including cans/plastics or other non-combustible material) in your fire. DSMRA volunteers are required to collect and dispose of leftover fire ash after the event and contaminated fire ash is much harder to dispose of.
- If you intend to have a fire or transport fuel, you should also have a fire extinguisher.
- **Collecting fallen wood is allowed but no chainsaws are allowed.** A VERY LIMITED SUPPLY OF FIREWOOD WILL BE SUPPLIED, but please consider bringing your own.
- On leaving, you must **extinguish your fire completely and ensure the area is clean.**
- No pets are allowed at the event.
- Drinking water is not provided - Portaloos will be provided. Please leave portaloos as you would like to find them for the comfort of all participants. Portaloos will not be serviced so damage/blockages will reduce the number available for all attendees.
- Due to the high volume of vehicle traffic – the area is hazardous for children. No children are allowed at the event. No pit bikes, mini bikes or remote control vehicles. We note that drone use is also not allowed without written permission (note distance from airport makes it illegal as well).

## Hotel Accommodation

For those attending the Kowen Forest Ride that would prefer a greater level of comfort a range of accommodation is available in Queanbeyan and Canberra. We strongly recommend you seek venues where your bike can be securely stored inside.

## Registration and Registration Procedures

You must “sign on” and “sign off” each day. This involves attending the Registration Tent and completing the relevant paperwork (see example of sign on information at Appendix B). You must also leave your licence at the admin tent before you ride and pick it up when you come back.

This way we know who is still out on the tracks – so it is an essential element in our safety plan. If at the end of the day you do not sign off– we will assume you are stranded in the forest and will act accordingly to ensure your safety, this may include mounting a major search. This may jeopardise further riding or the Event – so it is in the interests of everybody to ensure that you return to the admin tent and sign off properly each day.

Once you “sign on” on Saturday, you will be issued with a sticker. Apply the sticker to the front cowling so that it can be seen by a person standing 4m away and directly in front. You cannot enter any of the loops or rides unless you are signed on.

To reduce dust, bikes are excluded from the immediate area of the Registration Tent and food serving areas (Event Central).

To ride at Kowen Forest your bike must be registered for ACT roads and roadworthy. Hence registration such as the Victorian Recreational Registration is not acceptable as you cannot legally ride your motorbike on ACT roads.

## Scrutineering

Formal scrutineering will not take place. But an event co-ordinator may ban a bike on its discretion. Bikes at a minimum requirement must have a headlight, taillight, number plates and brakelight. Bikes not meeting this requirement will not be allowed to enter the loops until the faults have been rectified and verified by the scrutineers.

Mufflers preferably should have spark arrestors and modifications can be checked for sound quality.

**In order to stop the spread of noxious weeds bikes should be cleared of mud; before checking into Kowen Forest – dirty bikes may be refused entry. There is a 24hr car wash with Bike Friendly Facilities at 155 Crawford Street Queanbeyan.**

## **Safety Gear**

Riders are expected to have suitable safety gear, including helmets compliant with Australian Standards. Body armour, gloves, full-length boots, riding pants (not jeans), goggles (rated and over eyes) and jackets should be worn. The CoC reserves the right to refuse entry to the loops to participants who are not wearing suitable protective riding gear.

All riders at night time; are to come with clear goggles and additional mounted forward facing lights.

## **Announcements**

Official announcements will be made over a public address system (PA) to allow the event organisers to keep participants in the staging, parking and camping area notified of all eventualities. The PA will also be used for rider briefings, prize giveaways, etc.

## **First Aid**

Riding in Kowen Forest is defined as a remote area as it is expected to take significant time to locate and potentially evacuate injured riders. Much of the trail is a significant distance from any access roads.

Some limited first aid/paramedics will be on site while riding is in progress but may not be available at all times. If deemed necessary by the CoC, additional first aid/ambulance/rescue helicopter services will be called to assist you. In the event of injury or sickness your *Recognition of Risk Form* has authorised the Dual Sports Motorcycle Riders Association (DSMRA) to arrange, as it deems necessary, medical treatment and emergency evacuation services on your behalf and at your cost. Please note that the CoC has absolute discretion to call for these extra services if he considers it necessary – say for example, to transport you out of the forest.

All riders should carry their own first aid gear on the track at all times.

The CoC's decision is final. You will be entirely responsible for any costs for these additional services. **Riders need to ensure they have their own - full ambulance insurance cover for remote areas and motorcycle activities.**

## **Broken bikes and gear**

While the DSMRA will try to assist the recovery of broken or malfunctioning bikes, for safety reasons it may not be possible while the loops are open for riding.

At no stage should any vehicle based 'self-recovery' action be taken without authorisation from the CoC. Please contact the Registration tent.

There is to be no welding or oxyacetylene tools to be used within the forest area.

## **Dumpsters**

Dumpsters will be provided for rubbish. Please check to ensure that you leave the site clean. Contact CoC in the event of any fuel or oil spills, no matter how minor.

## **Security**

You are responsible for the safety of your own belongings. Separate bike chains and security is recommended. No event security will be on site.

Although the forest is closed to the public for the event, Kowen Forest is still an open area, and all valuables should remain secured at all times. Ensure your bike(s) and vehicle(s) are locked at all times when not in use.

## **Smoking**

There is to be no smoking on the trails in and around Kowen Forest. Once you depart parc ferme you may only smoke at a manned way point on the road. Ensure all butts are properly extinguished and disposed of in the rubbish receptacles provided in the camping area.

## **Gates - (entry & exit)**

Please ensure that you close all gates after you have gone through them.

## **Speed limits**

The maximum speed limit throughout Kowen forest is 40km/h. In and around the camping ground, Event Central the speed limit is **walking pace** (5km/h).

The CoC may also declare reduced speed limits and/or "Quiet Zones" for some short segments of the loops/rides (e.g. for safety or environmental reasons.)

## **Police Presence**

Police have the right to enter the forest and conduct police/traffic operations without notice. All event participants must observe all applicable laws (e.g. driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs).

## **Forest Operations**

A large number of Forest Operations (logging/thinning etc.) occur in Kowen Forest as it enters its harvest cycle. A number of our tracks are affected. For the safety of all, the conditions of our access permit require us to keep clear of current operations.

Participants must not at any time approach harvesting machinery or log stockpiles.

In addition, many logging tracks show considerable signs of use by heavy trucks. While we will avoid these tracks if possible, some transit may be required.

Logging vehicles should be expected on site.

## **Caring for other ride participants**

Along with abiding by the speed limit, we reiterate that this event is not a competition or race.

The loops are long and may be tiring, so hydration and food breaks are recommended.

If you are having a break, pull well off the marked track. If you are delayed on the trail please be aware of the other riders that are around you.

If you approach a slower rider, please be patient and pass only when safe to do so. A short honk of your horn can be used to let riders know you are behind them.

Slower riders should try to give way when it is safe to do so. The loops have intermittent transits on or across fire trails. These are good places for slower riders to move to the side and let the faster riders past. However, the overtaking rider bears full responsibility to overtake safely and must be aware that slower riders have the right to choose their own line.

## **Lost Property**

Any items of lost property should be handed in to the staff at the Registration Tent.

## **Fuel Storage**

Fuels must be stored in accordance with Australian handling standards. Fuel and oil spills no matter how minor must be reported to the CoC.

Refer to **AS/NZS 2906:2001 Fuel containers - Portable-plastic and metal.**

## **Riders Briefing**

A riders briefing will be held at 6:30pm Friday. This will include important information about signage and specific information on the day. If you cannot attend these briefings please inform the volunteers at the registration tent, or seek out the CoC after the briefing.

## **Postponement of Event**

In the event of postponement (i.e. due to inclement weather) the DSMRA will organise an alternate date, at the next earliest practical time, subject to the availability of the site from ACT Government. Unless you apply for a refund, event entries will be carried forward to the next scheduled event date, and your DSMRA membership will be postponed and begin at the next event date and will remain valid for 12 months.

If the DSMRA have to postpone the event, we will also postpone the raffle draw to the rescheduled event date, as it is expected a majority of entrants would like the opportunity to be present for the draw.

Notice of postponement will be posted on the DSMRA website and the DSMRA Kowen Facebook Page.

## **Cancellation/abandonment of the Event**

In extreme circumstances, the Event may be cancelled or abandoned. If the event is cancelled or abandoned before the raffle draw, the raffle draw will be re-organised at the next ACT Club meeting - held second Tuesday of the Month at the Burns Club.

Notice of cancellation/abandonment will be posted on the DSMRA website and the DSMRA Kowen Facebook Page.

In the event of cancellation some costs will not be refundable to the DSMRA such as the raffle prizes, memberships etc, so only a partial refund may be possible perhaps not at all.

## **Withdrawing your Entry**

Please see refund policy.

## **Non-Attendance**

If you do not attend the ride and have not given us timely notification and received an acknowledgement from the DSMRA, your full entry fee will be forfeited. You will still retain your DSMRA membership for one year and your entry in the raffle will still be valid.

The CoC is the sole judge of fact in relation to timely notification.

## **Raffles and Prizes**

We have a raffle event, which we plan to draw at 1:00pm on Sunday, with minor giveaways. The major raffle prizes will be drawn formally and you do not have to be present for that draw. We will have many more prizes, which will only be available if you are present at the draw.

Event entrants and financial DSMRA members may purchase additional tickets for the chance to win the motorcycle and the other major prizes. A secondary prize draw including other donated prizes is expected to be held and will include all participants including sponsors and volunteers. You are required to be present for that draw and will be given 15 seconds to make yourself known.

The Raffle has not been registered.

## **Transfers**

Entries and raffle tickets are not transferable between riders.

## **Refunds and Withdrawals**

If you cannot attend the ride after your entry has been processed, you must cancel by emailing [membership@dsmra.asn.au](mailto:membership@dsmra.asn.au). Please do not try to contact any other way.

Whilst we understand there may be circumstances that prevent you from attending Kowen there are some costs you agree to absorb, these are described in detail below:

This is the only contact for a Kowen cancellations it will not be processed any other way.

### **Up to 1 week before the event**

The membership officer will identify your registration and remove you from the ride and then notify yourself and the ACT treasurer of the refund amount. A cost of \$25 applies, this constitutes a full refund less reasonable costs (listed below)

Reasonable costs are:

- Manual removal from the ride by the membership co-ordinator
- Manual Payment refund, by the treasurer
- Merchant fees do not get refunded
- Other miscellaneous costs that are non refundable do not get refunded

Your new membership extension will be cancelled and your entry in the raffle draw will also be cancelled.

No partial refunds. (You cannot elect to retain your membership or entry in the raffle).

## **Refunds Less than 1 week before the event**

\$25 will be charged to cover

- · Manual removal from the ride by the membership co-ordinator
- · Manual Payment refund, by the treasurer
- · Merchant fees do not get refunded
- · Other miscellaneous costs

In Addition

- DSMRA memberships are honoured.
- The ADB Subscription is honoured.
- The Raffle will be honoured.

Any refund will go to the payee only.

## **If the Event is cancelled, postponed or abandoned**

- There are no refunds.
- DSMRA memberships are honoured.
- The ADB Subscription is maintained.
- The Raffle will be honoured and drawn on a new date (see Raffles and Prizes), according to the ACT Raffle Permit.

## **Once the event has started**

- NO refunds will apply after the Event starts.

## **Catering and Food**

Extremely limited onsite catering for food, drinks and coffee will be provided however food for all participants is definitely not guaranteed; with food provided on a first come first serve basis. We recommend you bring all required food.

No water is available at the event you must bring your own water.

## **Entertainment**

No entertainment is provided

## **Alcohol**

Alcohol is only to be consumed by those who will no longer be riding that day.

## **Spare Parts**

Spare parts may not be available. If you need anything substantial, the DSMRA recommended you go to MX Store in Fyswick.

There are other motorcycle stores that stock other brand parts are also located in Queanbeyan and Fyshwick.