

Tamworth Cycle Club Junior Development and Racing

Tamworth Cycle Club's Junior Development program provides a supportive environment designed to foster lasting friendships and enjoyment of cycling. Providing development of young athletes in both road and track disciplines, our junior members have represented us at local, regional, State and National level, and have even gone on to race as part of Continental teams.

What age can my child start?

Children as young as 6 years commence with skills development at our 'Come n Try Days', 'Come n Try Crits' and at our weekly Junior Track Sessions on Monday nights at the velodrome. Once sufficient skills and ability have developed, riders can progress to racing. Interclub and State level racing can be entered from the year they turn 8.

Junior Development is aimed at riders up to the age category of U17 (riders turning 15 and 16 in the current calendar year) to ensure they have necessary skills to move to open grades. Riders 16 years and over should contact us to discuss where to start.

You can find upcoming Junior activities on the [Tamworth Cycle Club website calendar](#).

How do they progress?

Starting with skills development, our juniors gain confidence through games, time trials and mini 'races', before transitioning into various other sessions such as Saturday afternoon Club riding and racing, Sunday morning criteriums, the Thursday evening Club training bunch ride, and various events organised through Cycling NSW. Tamworth Cycle Clubs sessions are designed in accordance with the [Cycling Australia and Cycling NSW Junior Policy](#).

How do we join?

Firstly, you will need a Cycling Australia licence. This provides basic insurance and membership to the national body and our club.

You can join by selecting the "Join Now" link on the [Cycling Australia Membership page](#), and selecting 'Tamworth Cycle Club' when choosing your license. Please note:

- 'Race' allows you to race at any event Australia-wide, in addition to training and racing with Tamworth Cycle Club
- 'Ride Plus' allows you to affiliate with Tamworth Cycle Club and provides access to training sessions and our Junior rides and events, but NOT to racing
- 'Ride Basic' provides you with basic insurance and membership of Cycling Australia, but does not allow you to affiliate with Tamworth Cycle Club
- All memberships can be upgraded to the next level as needed.

Should you wish to try out cycling before committing to a license, please contact our [Junior Development Coordinator](#) for further information.

What do I need?

All riders need the following equipment:

- An Australian Standards approved helmet in good condition with its original AS approval sticker
- A safe and serviceable bike
(Tamworth does have a few track bikes available for loan to get started, contact our Junior Development Coordinator to check if there is something suitable)
- Comfortable clothing for riding, with shoulders covered and longer shorts or cycling knicks
Closed-in shoes, (either joggers or cycling shoes cleats are suitable).

[When you are ready our Club Kit can be ordered several times per year. This is only really necessary for competing in race events.](#)

Our Junior Development sessions and all racing adheres to the guidelines as stipulated by Cycling Australia. All riders will be asked to agree/comply with them at all times and follow our coach's directions. Please note that various specific technical rules relate to junior riders including restrictions on gearing. The information on these can be found [here](#), and Cycling NSW can help explain them if needed. Kevin Bartlett Cycles can provide advice on any bike changes that may be required.

What else do I need to know?

Road cycling is a sport with many technical rules, and it does pay to be informed! If you are keen to begin racing, we encourage you to participate in Saturday afternoon Club Racing as a first step to build experience. This is available to juniors ages U15 (13 and 14 years) and above.

We also encourage parents to educate themselves on the rules and relevant information.

[Cycling NSW Regulations](#)

[Information about sponsored apparel, the TCC Race Points Premiership, and the TCC Code of Conduct](#) can be

[All other information on rules and policies of Cycling Australia](#)

What other events are there?

There are a number of "open" events run by clubs and by Cycling NSW for juniors to compete in. Consult the [Cycling NSW Events Calendar](#) for information and entry details. A race level licence will be required to enter these events.

Who is the Tamworth Junior coach?

Kevin Bartlett is our Tamworth Cycle Club Coach. Kevin has many years of racing and coaching experience. He is a life member of Tamworth Cycle Club and provides his time and expertise as a voluntary service to our Club.

Tamworth Cycle Club also has a number of members about to undertake training. These are Luke O'Connor, Joe Kelly, Jeremy Bartlett, Toby Maher. They will often be seen working with Kevin deliver our Junior Development activities.

Contacts

If you'd like to know more, or your child would like to come and try cycling, we encourage you to get in touch. Our Junior Development Committee is happy to help. Just contact juniors@tamworthcycleclub.org.au