



League Insurance Info

NorCal High School Mountain Bike Racing League
4412 Piedmont Ave. #1
Oakland CA 94611
(510) 653-2453
www.norcalmtb.org

An Overview of the League's Insurance Policy

Clubs:

- General Liability (Includes coverage for Trail Maintenance and repair by the club. Club rides, training rides/races and other club functions such as meetings and clinics)
 - \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
 - \$2,000,000 Aggregate/Club
- Accident Medical:
 - \$25,000 Each Person – Excess Accident Medical
 - Deductible: None
- Accidental Death: \$10,000
- Volunteer Coverage: Yes

Events:

- \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
- \$2,000,000 Aggregate per Event
- No annual aggregate
- Accident Medical:
 - \$25,000 Each Person – Excess Accident Medical
 - Deductible: None
- Accidental Death: \$10,000

Coaches:

- Same coverage as club (“coaches are covered while acting within the scope of their duties for their club/team”)
- No Sexual abuse or molestation coverage available. Coverage for the club and coach for defense until adjudicated as guilty or pleads guilty.

Frequently asked Questions

Is insurance required for my club?

In order to participate in League races and be recognized by the League as an official club, you are *required* to have insurance coverage through the League's Club Insurance Program.

How do we become an official League club and obtain coverage?

You must register your club on the League website (mail in registration may be available) and pay club fees, in order to be considered an official club. All coaches must also register and submit waivers and the club must keep signed waivers for all participants (riders, coaches, ride leaders, etc.) The waiver is available at: http://www.norcalmtb.org/teams/NorCal_Release_07_08.pdf

Who is covered by this policy?

The policy covers anyone named in the policy as insured. It covers the club, the listed riders, sponsoring teacher, officers, directors, committee members, board members, coaches, assistant coaches, ride leaders, mechanic or other volunteers, as long as they are acting within the scope of their duties to the named insured and have signed the official waiver, and any additional names added by endorsement. Coaches and other are only covered if they are listed on the team's registration form. To add additional coaches during the season, contact the League.

When are we covered?

Official high school clubs are covered between October 15th and May 31st. Between June 1st and October 14th there is no coverage available. Clubs can apply to the League for early coverage starting September 15th.

How much does it cost?

For Division II teams the policy costs \$100, plus \$20 per coach. For Division I teams it costs \$200, plus \$20 per coach. Clubs must

purchase additional coverage for special events where a fee is charged and/or the public is invited (such as a fundraiser). No additional coverage is needed for most events when no fee is charged and only members are invited (such as club rides and meetings.)

Do I need to have a coaching license to obtain insurance?

No, for the 2008 season coaches will not be required to have a coaching license to obtain insurance. In future seasons, there will be such requirements in place.

Are there any requirements for volunteers and staff, such as fingerprinting?

No, at this time, background checks and fingerprinting are not required for coverage, however they are required by many school districts.

Does the policy include coverage for abuse and molestation?

No coverage exists for abuse and molestation. However, the policy does protect the insured by providing means to defend a lawsuit stemming from allegations of abuse and/or molestation, but does not include payment of an award to the victim in the event of a guilty decision.

What about team's school-based coverage? Which policy applies when?

The League's policy for Liability claims is primary and would pay on behalf of the League first. It may contribute if other policies are found to also be primary. A specific reading of other contracts involved would be required in the event of such a situation.

Who provides this policy?

McKay Insurance provides this policy for the League. Dan McKay (president) has been working with IMBA since 1995 to protect mountain bike clubs from liability concerns. Since that time, he has become an expert on all matters of bicycle liability and is recognized as a supporter of trail advocacy efforts nationwide.

Who is the underwriter?

Lexington Insurance Company and National Union Fire Insurance Company – Member AIG Companies. Lexington is an A+(Superior) rated carrier by A. M. Best Company, National Union Fire Insurance Company is also rated A+(Superior)

What does the policy cover?

The policy insures your club for liability arising from events like club rides, meetings, trail maintenance, overnight camping, skills clinics, club celebrations, approved fundraisers, and other club activities.

It also covers completed operations, which means that if your club builds a trail and is subsequently sued by a trail user on the basis of that trail building, the policy will cover defense of the suit.

The liability coverage is primary and pays on behalf of the insured for all losses that they become legally obligated to pay because of their negligence arising from their covered operations, premises, products and completed operations. Coverage is also provided for personal and advertising injury in addition to bodily injury and property damage.

What doesn't it cover?

It doesn't cover a lot of things, but the most notable exceptions are observed trials competitions, shuttled riding, timed downhill racing, jumping or jumping contests, or freeride events. Special events involving the use of stunts or constructed technical trail features, as well as events such as pro rider demonstrations, are not covered. The policy also doesn't cover injuries arising out of incidents other than accidents, like fights or purposefully injurious behavior.

There is no coverage for errors and omissions claims such as misfeasance or mismanagement of the club. Breach of fiduciary duties and employment related practices are excluded. The liability covers only claims made for monetary damages. If a claim is made for injunctive relief or for cease and desist actions where no money is specified, then there is no coverage under the League's liability policy.

Clubs may purchase an additional "Directors and Officers Liability" policy that provides protection for individuals and officials in their collective capacity as officers of the club for actual or alleged wrongful acts and errors and omissions. Examples of claims covered by this policy: Lawsuits seeking damages for discrimination, wrongful suspension of members, acts beyond the authority of the club, wrongful dismissal of staff, or failure to provide adequate insurance to members. You may get information on the McKay web page at: <http://www.mckayinsagency.com/Docs/DOApp.pdf> .

This list is far from complete; you should never assume something is covered by your policy unless the policy explicitly states that the activity is covered. A copy of the policy will be posted on line at the League website for your review.

What are the policy's limits?

The policy has an aggregate limit of USD \$2,000,000 per club, with a \$1,000,000 limit for each occurrence.

What are our club's responsibilities under the policy?

Of course, you are responsible for paying for the policy. However, that is not your only responsibility. You must also ensure that every rider, sponsoring teacher, officer, coach, assistant coach, ride leader, mechanic or other volunteer working with the club completes the League's official waiver. **Failure to have a signed waiver on file will require a \$25,000 deductible to apply on any claim made, including defense of the claim.** The waiver is available at: http://www.norcalmtb.org/teams/NorCal_Release_07_08.pdf

Coaches are also responsible for submitting an injury report form anytime an injury occurs that requires professional medical attention (ambulance, trip to the E.R. or doctor, etc.), in the case of an injured rider, sponsoring teacher, officer, coach, assistant coach, ride leader, mechanic or other volunteer. Coaches do not need to do this when the injury occurs at a League race. The form is available at: http://www.norcalmtb.org/teams/coach/docs/Incident_Report_Form.pdf

Is the policy available to all mountain bike clubs?

The policy is only available to official high school mountain bike clubs in Northern California that participate in the NorCal High School Mountain Bike Racing League. (See above to find out how to become an official club.)

How does this insurance protect the personal assets of club leaders and coaches?

It protects those assets by providing means to defend a lawsuit with total costs, including any award in the event of an unfavorable decision, or any negotiated settlement, not to exceed the policy limit of \$1,000,000 per incident.

Does the policy cover coaches from lawsuits filed by a rider or a rider's parents?

Yes. It protects coaches by providing means to defend a lawsuit with total costs, including any award in the event of an unfavorable decision, or any negotiated settlement, not to exceed the policy limit of \$1,000,000 per incident. There are exceptions to this regarding abuse and molestation. See above.

Does the policy pay medical bills of injured people?

Yes, but the standard policy pays only in the event of an injury arising out of negligence on behalf of the club or its members. Athletes are covered by **excess** medical insurance, which means you are eligible to submit claims that are over and above what your own medical insurance covers, up to a limit of \$25,000.

Your club can also purchase additional accident medical expense excess coverage for its members and volunteers. The accident medical policy would not require a negligent act in order to pay out.

What do I do when an incident is so serious that a participant is hospitalized or worse?

Immediately call the NorCal High School Mountain Bike Racing League Office, (510) 653-2453 and leave a message. We must alert our insurance company to serious incidents that may result in significant loss. These sorts of things are rare but must be handled urgently.

Coaches are also responsible for submitting an injury report form anytime an injury occurs that requires professional medical attention (ambulance, trip to the E.R. or doctor, etc.), in the case of an injured rider, sponsoring teacher, officer, coach, assistant coach, ride leader, mechanic or other volunteer. Coaches do not need to do this when the injury occurs at a League race. The form is available at: http://www.norcalmtb.org/teams/coach/docs/Incident_Report_Form.pdf

An athlete's bike was stolen at a race; does the League's insurance cover this?

No, personal property loss is not included in the League's policy. Athlete members may consider property loss coverage for sports equipment on their homeowners/renters policy for this reason as well. Insurance for bike racing equipment is also available through several agencies.

How do I file a claim?

In order to file a claim, contact McKay at 800.942.0283. An agent will assist you.

Unfortunately, it can happen: an injury on the trail or during a club ride; damage to someone's property; injury to a person's good name or reputation from a newsletter article. These are examples of some of the "bad things" that can happen to a club. They are also examples of why you are required to have general liability and accident medical insurance policy for your club.

Your club's insurance protects its listed riders, sponsoring teacher, officers, directors, committee members, board members, coaches, assistant coaches, ride leaders, mechanic or other volunteers from suits brought that allege negligence on the part of the listed riders, sponsoring teacher, officers, directors, committee members, board members, coaches, assistant coaches, ride leaders, mechanic or other volunteers in the conduct of their duties for the club.

Clubs can be sued for a myriad of incidents. The list of claims could fill volumes. The chance of your club having at least one incident

in the next three years is 72% (ISO - General Liability statistical data 1954 to 2002). An incident does not mean that you will get sued. It means that the likelihood of a suit has increased because of an occurrence.

If you are notified or know of a situation that could cause a claim to be filed you should do the following:

Give immediate aid to all injured parties within the scope of your training; call for emergency medical help and protect any property from further damage or theft. Notify the local law enforcement agency if the accident occurs on public roadways or property. Get the name, address and phone number of all witnesses. Write down your description of what happened. Note the date and time of accident and date and time of your written report. Notify your insurance carrier or agent immediately. You should have a complete description of the occurrence and the circumstances. Do not delay notice for incomplete information and do not assume that because the injury or damage was minor that no claim will be made. Call or mail notice the same day that you are made aware of the occurrence. The best advice - call your agent immediately. Let them assist you in the process. Your agent has many years of experience in handling claims. Rely on their expertise to assist you.

Coaches are also responsible for submitting an injury report form, in the case of an injured rider, sponsoring teacher, officer, coach, assistant coach, ride leader, mechanic or other volunteer. The form is available at:

http://www.norcalmtb.org/teams/coach/docs/Incident_Report_Form.pdf

What is a certificate of insurance?

Evidences policy number(s), type(s) of coverage, limit(s), and deductible(s) are listed on this document. A certificate provides the certificate holder proof of insurance only. A certificate of insurance may be issued to anyone wanting proof of insurance.

What is an additional insured?

Additional insureds should be added sparingly and only if required by contract. Not all individuals/groups may qualify for additional insured status and an issuance of an insurance certificate does not guarantee coverage for the party requesting coverage. Remember, you are sharing your coverage limits with every additional insured you add to your policy! Contact the League if you think you need to add an additionally insured.

What about driving kids in my car?

There is no coverage provided under the League insurance program for any type of automobile liability exposure. When a coach, parent, or student provides transportation for others to a club function, any accidents and resulting claims would be the responsibility of owner and/or operator of the vehicle. When a club rents a vehicle for transporting members or others, the same situation would exist. The individual renting and/or operating will be the responsible party. The only coverage provided for claims resulting from an automobile accident is the Excess Medical Accident coverage. The transportation must be authorized by a club coach or official in order for the coverage to be valid.

There are three ways for a member club to address the automobile liability exposure. (1) To purchase a Hired and Non-Owned Automobile Liability policy from a local agent; or (2) To be sure that anyone providing transportation for others carry adequate limits of liability on their auto policy. (Discuss with your local agent); (3) To have athletes' parents transport only their own children.