

Volunteering at HCC's Summertime Crits

What's involved and what are the opportunities?



Contents



Section	Page
Introduction and Overview of the Criterium Season	3
Race Format and Timing	4
Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities	5
Course layout and Volunteer Locations	6
Further Information	7
Appendix (details of the various criterium volunteer roles and responsibilities)	8

Introduction and Overview of the Crits



Introduction:

The volunteer team at HCC's Wednesday evening crits are an essential and highly valued component of the success and safety of the races. Our team finds volunteering at the crits rewarding, an opportunity to catch up with people, and fun.

This pack provides new volunteers and people considering volunteering at the crits with an overview of the crit season and a typical crit evening, the various volunteer roles and associated qualifications.

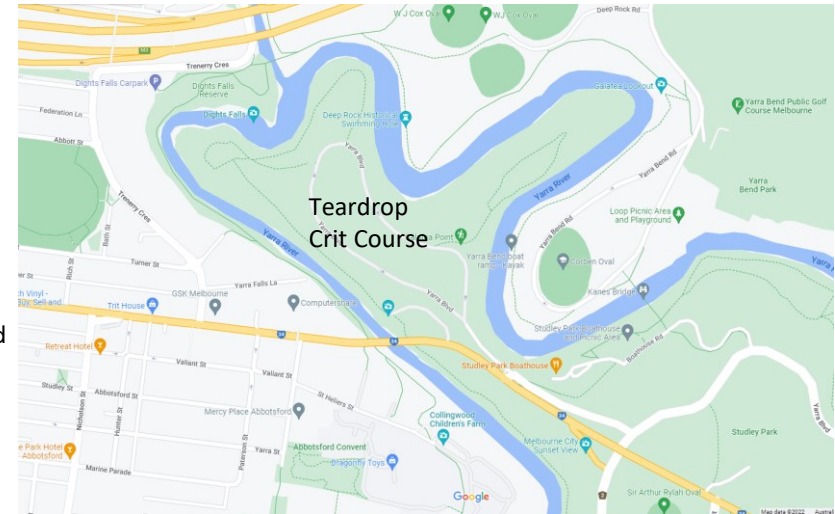
Overview of the crit season:

The crits are run at the Teardrop criterium circuit on Yarra Boulevard. They are held each Wednesday evening during the daylight-saving period, (5th October 2022 to 29 March 2023) except for a two week break over the Christmas / New Year period (Wednesday 28th December and Wednesday 4th January).

A typical evening commences with the course being set up from around 4:30 PM and ends with the course being packed up just after sunset.

The majority of volunteers are required from 5:30PM or 6:00PM through to the end of the last race which varies from 7:30PM at the start of the season to 8:30PM mid-season as we get more daylight.

Races are organised into four sets of grades: juniors; Open B & D; Open A & C; and Women's Grades; making for at least two races on the course during each set. The faster grade starts slightly ahead of the slower grade(s) and the slower grades are the first to finish. We typically have anywhere from 100 up to 180 riders competing on an evening.





Race Format and Timing

Race Format

The format of the HCC criteriums are: X minutes plus 3 laps. The duration of the Wednesday evening crits, when daylight allows, are:

- A Grade (Open and Women's) 40 min + 3 laps
- B Grade (Open and Women's) 35 min + 3 laps
- C Grade (Open and Women's) 30 min + 3 laps
- D Grade 25 min + 3 laps
- Juniors 15 to 20 min +1 Lap

Briefing times

Some vary as race durations change inline with changes in sunset through the season:

- Juniors (constant) – 5:20PM;
- Open B & D (constant) – 5:50PM;
- Open A & C (varies) ~ 6:30PM (season start and end) to 6:40 PM (mid season);
- Women's grades* (varies) ~ 7:00 PM (season start and end) to 7:30 PM (mid season)

Note: * Due to limited daylight at the beginning and end of the season, separate women grades run from weeks 3 to 24 inclusive.



Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

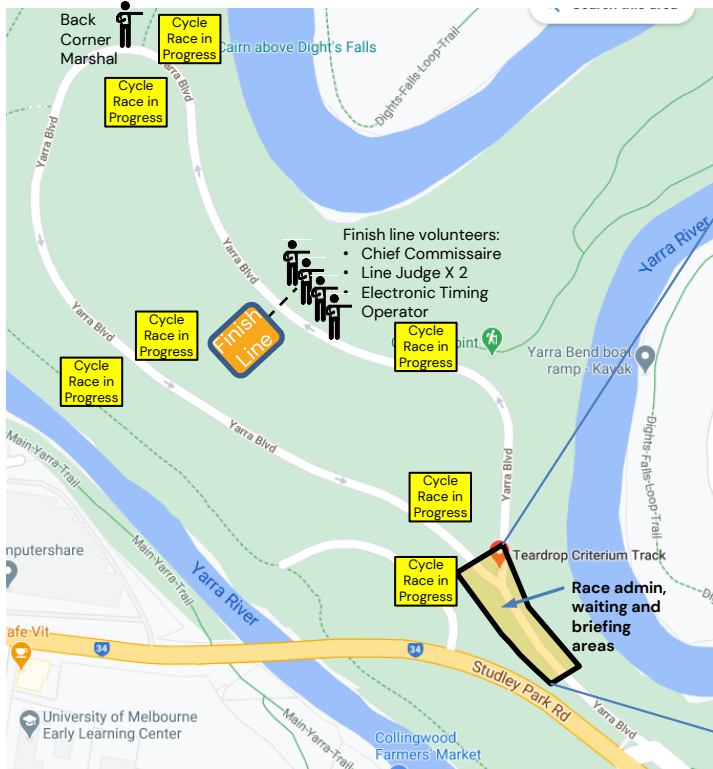
Volunteer roles

The following table provides an overview of the various volunteer roles including: responsibilities, qualifications and experience, and typical shift times.

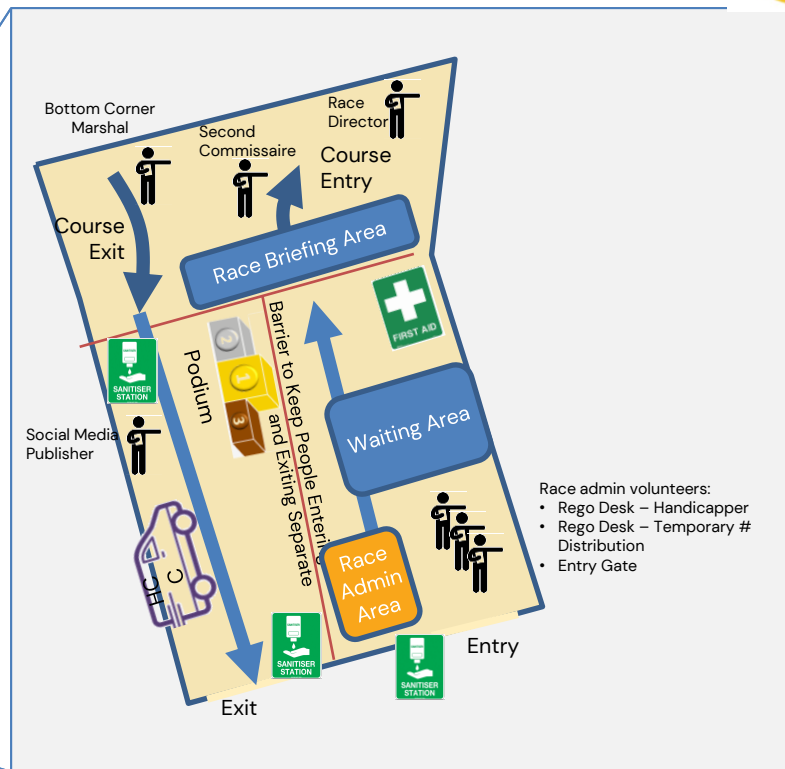
Role (Number)	Responsibilities	Qualifications and Experience	Typical Approximate Start and End Times	Possibly Merge With
Race Director (1)	Responsible for overall management of the evening's event; investigate safety incidents (crashes, etc.); keeps safety stats; help set up and pack up the course	Previous RD experience, WWCC ¹ , preferably Level 1 commissaire	4:30 PM to finish pack up (7:45 – 8:45 PM sunset dependent).	Commissaires
Commissaires (2)	Responsible for ensuring races are conducted in accordance with the rules, help set up and pack up the course; may also investigate safety incidents (crashes).	Level 1 Commissaire, WWCC	4:30 to end of last race (7:30 to 8:30 PM sunset dependent)	Van driver
Van Driver (1)	Store the van, ensure the radios and PAs are changed, bring the HCC van and equipment to the course, help set up and pack up the course.	Full driver's license, HCC member	4:30 to finish pack up (7:45 – 8:45 PM sunset dependent).	Commissaires, Rego desk
Rego Desk (2 to 3)	Hand out temporary race numbers, handle grading and other race questions, sell and hand out perpetual race numbers, help riders attach frame plates.	Previous experience, WWCC	First: 5:00 PM, others: 5:30 PM to start of last race (6:45 to 7:30 PM sunset dependent).	Social media
Corner Marshals (2)	Look out for walkers, MTB riders and others that may be wondering on to the course and ensure they don't; safely guide the slower grade off the course at end of their race; and neutralise races if crashes occur and call for First Aid.	WWCC, preferably have corner marshal experience and / or have raced at the Teardrop, 18+	5:45 PM to end of last race (7:40 to 8:30 PM sunset dependent)	None
Ride Marshals (2 to 6)	Responsible for safely guiding the slower grade(s) during their race, particularly when the faster grade is passing.	WWCC, experienced and sound racing rider, at least one grade stronger than the grade they are marshalling, 18+.	Juniors: 5:30 to 6:00 PM D grade: 6:00 to 6:40 PM C grade: 6:30 to 7:30 PM Women's grades: 7:30 to 8:30 PM	Ride marshal for other grades
Timing Operator (1)	Operates the timing equipment and publishes, on the HCC results page, the placings and times for all riders with transponders.	Operating Race Result electronic timing, WWCC, 18+	5:00 to end of last race (7:30 to 8:30 PM depending on sunset)	None
Line Judges (1 or 2)	Assist the electronic timing operator by visually determining the race podiums for manual verification / confirmation.	WWCC, preferably with previous line judge experience, able to keep track of multiple races, 18+	6:15 PM to end of last race (7:30 to 8:30 PM sunset dependent)	None
Social Media Publisher (1)	Take podium photos and publish the photos and race results on HCC's social channels.	WWCC, write access to HCC social media channels, 18+	6:30 PM to ten minutes after end of last race (7:35 to 8:40 PM sunset dependent)	Rego desk

Notes: 1 WWCC – Working With Children Check – see <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>

Course Layout and Volunteer Locations



Illustrative layout of Tear Drop criterium circuit



Illustrative layout of the race admin, waiting and briefing areas



Further Information

For further information, contact:

- Max Pearse regarding volunteering opportunities, available roles and shifts, email: volunteer@hawthorncycling.org;
- David Hendy regarding the crits in general and other racing, email development@hawthorncycling.org;
- Kyhil Duggan regarding membership aspects, email membership@hawthorncycling.org

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