**TEAM HARDWOOD NEXT WAVE HELMET POLICY**

All Team Hardwood Next Wave athletes, coaches and family members **shall** wear a certified bike helmet anytime they are on any type of bike while they are at a team function. This includes, but is not limited to team training, races, warm ups or playing around with friends at any venue where Team Hardwood Next Wave is in attendance. It is further encouraged and strongly recommended that all of the aforementioned groups wear helmets all the time.

This is a **mandatory** policy of Team Hardwood Next Wave with a zero tolerance approach to compliance. If a member is found to be on their bike without a helmet they will be directed to get off their bike immediately until they put on a helmet. If the same member is found to be on their bike again without a helmet, they will be suspended from the team.

It is the law in Ontario that helmets shall be worn by anyone under 16. It is our position that this law should apply to everyone, and will apply to everyone in the Hardwood Next Wave family. Team Hardwood Next Wave is committed to the highest level of safety in all of our activities, and therefore helmets **shall be mandatory.**

Team Hardwood Next Wave is one of the largest and most visible cycling groups in Ontario, and as such we have a lot of people watching us. We should act not only as leaders, but ambassadors for our sport and set an example in all of our actions. We are all stakeholders in the health and well being of all of our members, so we ask that everyone hold each other accountable to this policy.

Thank you for our cooperation in this matter.