Participant Responsibilities & Code of Conduct — Cycle the Erie Canal & Cycle the Hudson Valley 2027

These rules apply to every rider and volunteer (each, a "Participant") on either Tour. They are part of the Release of Liability & Participation Agreement that every Participant accepts at registration. "PTNY" means Parks & Trails New York, Inc. "CCSD" means CCSD Sport Event, PTNY's contracted tour director. "Tour Staff" means PTNY and CCSD employees and contractors, the Ride Director, and anyone they designate. "On the Tour" means all Tour activities and all time and travel from a Participant's arrival at any Tour site, parking lot, or shuttle site until the Participant leaves the Tour, including riding to nearby communities during free time and travel between parking or shuttle sites and the Tour start or finish.

1. Tour Policies and Guidance

1.1 Participants must follow every Tour Policy that applies to them:

- this Participant Responsibilities & Code of Conduct;
- the Cancellation & Refund Policy for the Participant's Tour;
- the Electric Bike (E-Bike) Policy, for anyone using an e-bike;
- the Shuttle, Parking & Transport Release, for anyone using those services;
- the Minor Participant Agreement, for anyone under 18;
- the Rider Handbook for the Participant's Tour, including its rules for luggage, camping, indoor camping, and charging;
- for volunteers, PTNY's volunteer policies, training, and role requirements; and
- any written or verbal guidance, rule changes, or instructions from PTNY or CCSD Tour Staff before or during the Tour, which take priority over earlier written materials where they differ.

1.2 PTNY may update Tour Policies before or during the Tour.

2. Conduct

2.1 Helmets. Participants must wear a properly fitted, fastened bicycle helmet that meets an applicable safety standard at all times while bicycling on the Tour.

2.2 Safe riding. Participants must ride in a way that does not endanger themselves or others. They must obey all traffic laws, including the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law; all trail rules and posted signs; and the directions of law enforcement and trail managers. They must yield to other trail users as required.

2.3 Route and property. Participants must stay on the designated route, public rights-of-way, and Tour venues, and must not trespass on private property.

2.4 Hazards. Participants should avoid hazards. Anyone who sees an unusual or significant hazard should stop riding if needed and report it to the nearest Tour Staff member right away.

2.5 Knowing the route. Participants are responsible for knowing the route, the Tour schedule and procedures, and any maps, cue sheets, or apps provided.

2.6 Alcohol. Where alcohol is served at Tour events, only Participants 21 or older may drink, and no one may ride a bicycle or operate a vehicle while impaired.

2.7 Volunteers. Volunteers must follow these rules, all Tour Policies, and the instructions of PTNY and CCSD Tour Staff as a condition of volunteering.

2.8 Bike Tour Buddy Program. Buddies and mentors in PTNY's Bike Tour Buddy Program are fellow Participants, not Tour Staff or agents of PTNY or CCSD. Taking part in the program does not create any duty of supervision, instruction, or care toward any other Participant.

2.9 Removal. The Ride Director, or other Tour Staff designated by PTNY or CCSD, may restrict, suspend, or remove any Participant from all or part of the Tour, at their sole discretion, if the Participant's conduct, health, bicycle, or equipment endangers the Participant or others, violates the Tour Policies, or disrupts the Tour. Removed Participants receive no refund or credit and are responsible for their own transportation and costs.

3. Travel

3.1 Getting to and from the Tour. Participants arrange and pay for their own travel to the Tour start, from the Tour finish, and home, and for any lodging before or after the Tour. They must arrive at check-in on time. PTNY is not responsible for delays, cancellations, missed connections, or lost baggage on any airline, train, bus, taxi, rideshare, or other carrier.

3.2 Third-party services. Bike rental, bike shipping and bike shops, tent and camping services, lodging, massage, taxis, rideshares, and similar services are independent businesses. Any arrangement with them is between the Participant and that business. Information PTNY provides about them is a courtesy, not an endorsement or guarantee.

3.3 Independent lodging. Participants who stay somewhere other than the official Tour campsite or indoor camping area are responsible for getting themselves and their belongings there and back each day.

3.4 Off-route travel and free time. Travel off the designated route, outside scheduled Tour hours, or during free time is at the Participant's own risk. SAG support and Tour Staff assistance are not provided off the route.

3.5 Border crossings. Participants in any Tour activity that crosses an international border must carry valid travel documents and comply with customs and immigration requirements.

3.6 Leaving the Tour. Participants who leave the Tour early for any reason arrange and pay for transportation for themselves, their bicycles, and their belongings. Tour Staff may help coordinate but are not obligated to provide transportation.

3.7 Unable to start or finish. If a Participant cannot start or finish the Tour for any reason, including an injury, illness, accident, or delay while traveling to the Tour, at a parking lot or shuttle site, or between a parking lot and the Tour start, any refund or credit is governed only by the Cancellation & Refund Policy for that Tour.

4. Bicycles, E-Bikes, and Equipment

4.1 Bicycles. Each Participant is responsible for the condition, maintenance, and adjustment of any bicycle they use on the Tour, whether owned, borrowed, or rented. Bicycles must be kept in safe working order throughout the Tour, including brakes, tires, wheels, drivetrain, steering, and any required lights and reflectors.

4.2 Riding ability. Participants must be familiar with their bicycle and able to ride it safely at the speeds, distances, surfaces, grades, and loads of the Tour.

4.3 Legal bicycles. Every bicycle used on the Tour must be legal under New York State and local law and equipped as those laws require.

4.4 E-bikes. Anyone using an e-bike must accept and follow the E-Bike Policy before using it on the Tour.

4.5 Other equipment. Participants are responsible for all other equipment and property they bring, including helmets, clothing, footwear, lights, locks, bags, tents, sleeping gear, luggage, electronics, chargers, and batteries. They must use and store it safely and follow venue and Tour rules for its use.

4.6 Repairs. Participants pay for all repairs and replacement parts. Inspection, adjustment, advice, or repair by Tour Staff, mechanics, or vendors does not make PTNY or CCSD responsible for a Participant's bicycle or equipment.

4.7 Locks and unattended property. Participants must bring a lock and secure their bicycle whenever it is unattended and not loaded for transport. PTNY and CCSD do not guarantee the safety of baggage, bicycles, or other equipment. Tour Staff and volunteers have no duty to watch, secure, collect, store, or return property left unattended at any Tour site, including campsites, indoor camping areas, overnight venues, rest stops, charging areas, staging areas, and shuttle loading sites. PTNY has no obligation to search for, collect, hold, or return items left behind. Any item PTNY chooses to hold may be discarded or donated if not claimed within 30 days after the end of the Tour.

5. Health and Fitness

5.1 Fitness to ride. The Tours are physically demanding, with long daily distances, consecutive days of riding, heat, and overnight camping. Each Participant is responsible for deciding whether they are healthy and fit enough to take part. Anyone with a physical or medical condition that could endanger themselves or others should not take part.

5.2 Health information. Participants must provide accurate emergency contact information at registration and tell Tour Staff about any condition, before or during the Tour, that may affect their safety or the safety of others.

6. Communicable Illness and Public Health

6.1 Public health rules. Participants must follow all New York State and local public health laws, orders, and guidance in effect between registration and the end of the Tour, including any requirements for vaccination, testing, masking, distancing, quarantine, or limits on group gatherings, and any related measures PTNY adopts.

6.2 Illness on the Tour. Participants who seek medical guidance from the Ride Medical Crew or ask for SAG support because of symptoms of a communicable illness may be asked to take a rapid test where one is available. A Participant who tests positive, or whose illness Tour Staff reasonably determine poses a risk to others, must leave the Tour.

Tour Staff may require a Participant who needs continued SAG support because of illness to get a test or medical clearance from a medical facility, at the Participant's own expense, before continuing.

6.3 Masking. Participants who need SAG support because of any illness must wear a mask in support vehicles and whenever they cannot keep a distance of six feet from others.

6.4 Group activities. The Ride Director and overnight venues may cancel or modify indoor camping or other group activities for the health and safety of the group.

These rules are part of the Release of Liability & Participation Agreement and apply to every Participant. No separate signature is required.