



Cycling Esports

Rules and Regulations

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Cycling Esports Rules & Regulations

SUMMARY

This summary provides a quick reference to the general principles behind this ruleset.

Governance:

- These rules only apply to a small number of designated high-level events, not all Zwift racing.
- Disputes or complaints can be raised with legal@zwift.com, and are heard by an independent Arbitrator.

Rules of Racing:

- Register with ZwiftPower.
- Use your own Zwift account in your own name.
- Use your real height & weight, as measured in socks, shorts and jersey within 24 hours of each event.
- Calibrate your trainer and powermeter. Make sure your cadence sensor and heart rate monitor are working.
- Use the correct in-game virtual equipment.

Performance Verification:

- You must provide performance verification data at least 72 hours before the event starts.
- You may be asked to provide additional evidence to help verify your performance in an event.
- If there appears to be a problem, there is a second independent review before any decisions are made.

Sanctions:

- If your performance cannot be verified your result may be annulled.
- If you attempt to gain an unfair advantage you may be disqualified and receive a ban from future events.
- If you repeatedly break the rules, or bring the sport into disrepute, you may receive a permanent ban.

Code of Conduct:

- Be nice to others.
- Don't cheat.

PART I – GOVERNANCE

1.1 Scope

- 1.1.1 This ruleset governs races designated by Zwift as Zwift Cycling Esports events or series. It does not govern other events or series held on the Zwift platform.
- 1.1.2 This ruleset shall also incorporate the attached Appendices to this document, the Zwift Cycling Esports Dispute Resolution Rules and the Zwift Cycling Esports Anti-Doping Policy.
- 1.1.3 Where an event is held in conjunction with the UCI or a National Cycling Federation, the rulesets of the UCI or National Cycling Federation shall also apply. Where a rule in this ruleset conflicts with that of the UCI or National Cycling Federation, that of the UCI or National Cycling Federation shall take precedence.
- 1.1.4 Additional event or series specific rules may also be provided by an event organiser. Where a rule in this ruleset conflicts with such additional rules, that in this ruleset shall take precedence.

1.2 Zwift Cycling Esports Commission

- 1.2.1 The Zwift Cycling Esports Commission (hereafter “The Commission”) shall be responsible for maintaining, implementing and communicating this ruleset.
- 1.2.2 The Commission shall consist of the following.
 - a) The head of Zwift Cycling Esports
 - b) The chair of the Zwift Performance Verification Board
 - c) The chair of the Zwift Accuracy and Data Analysis Group
 - d) Any other members The Commission deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities.
- 1.2.3 The Commission shall have the power to modify or supplement these rules at any time. The latest version can be found at <https://zwift.com/p/eracing-rules>.

1.3 Zwift Performance Verification Board

- 1.3.1 The Zwift Performance Verification Board (hereafter “The Board”) shall be responsible for ensuring the integrity of results of Zwift Cycling Esports events and series.
- 1.3.2 The Board shall consist of the following.
 - a) A chair appointed by the head of Zwift Cycling Esports
 - b) A legal representative from Zwift
 - c) A technical representative from Zwift
- 1.3.3 The Board shall act as the decision making body on any matters regarding potential breaches of this ruleset.
- 1.3.4 The Board shall have the power to update the results of events, and apply further sanctions to riders, as set out in Appendix B (“Sanctions”).



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1.4 Zwift Accuracy and Data Analysis Group

- 1.4.1 The Zwift Accuracy and Data Analysis Group (hereafter “ZADA”) shall be responsible for providing expert technical analysis of the performances of riders in events held under this ruleset.
- 1.4.2 ZADA shall consist of the following.
 - a) A chair appointed by the head of Zwift Cycling Esports
 - b) Any other members the chair deems necessary to discharge ZADA’s responsibilities.
- 1.4.3 ZADA shall have the power to request information from riders to assist with their analysis, as set out in Appendix A (“Performance Verification”), and make recommendations to The Board as it sees fit.

1.5 Disputes

- 1.5.1 In the event of any dispute regarding decisions made under this ruleset, an initial request for an appeal to be heard pursuant to the Zwift Cycling Esports Dispute Resolution Rules shall be submitted to legal@zwift.com within 48 hours of the decision.

Note that, pursuant to Sections 2.15 and 2.16 of the Zwift Cycling Esports Dispute Resolution Rules, if the request is for an appealable dispute, the applicant shall be notified of this, and then have a further three days to submit a formal request to the independent Arbitrator.
- 1.5.2 Any complaints regarding the conduct or performance of participants of Zwift Cycling Esports event shall be submitted to legal@zwift.com within 48 hours of the end of the race.

PART II – RULES OF RACING

2.1 Scope

- 2.1.1. This ruleset shall apply to and bind any individual who participates (whether personally, or through any other individual) in any event held in accordance with this ruleset.
- 2.1.2. All riders shall also agree to the Zwift Terms of Service (<https://zwift.com/en/p/terms>) and may be disqualified from, or lose eligibility to compete in Zwift Cycling Esports events by violating these terms, even if the violation takes place out-of-competition.
- 2.1.3. It is the responsibility of each individual to review and understand this ruleset, and any additional event or series specific rules, and participation in any Zwift Cycling Esports event shall be deemed to indicate acceptance of them.

2.2 Eligibility

- 2.2.1. Unless explicitly authorized by Zwift, a rider shall have reached eighteen years of age by the event date to be eligible to participate in any Zwift Cycling Esports events or series. In no event or series shall a rider under eighteen years of age be eligible for any monetary prize.
- 2.2.2. Where an event is held in conjunction with the UCI or a National Cycling Federation, riders shall be required to submit evidence of their membership to Zwift on request.
- 2.2.3. Where an event uses a riders Nationality to determine eligibility, riders who are members of a National Cycling Federation, shall be considered to have the same Nationality as is recognized for them by the UCI. Riders who are not members of a National Cycling Federation shall select a Nationality based on either citizenship or residency and be required to submit evidence of this to Zwift on request.
- 2.2.4. To be eligible to compete in a Zwift Cycling Esports event or series, riders shall have completed all of the following at least 72 hours in advance of participating in order to assist with verification of their performances:
 - a) Registered with Zwift Power, and opted-in to data sharing through their Zwift account.
Note that further information on registering with Zwift Power is available here:
https://support.zwift.com/en_us/connecting-to-zwiftpower-SyldRc_4H
 - b) Competed in any 5 races on Zwift, with the results registered to ZwiftPower. These races may be on any course, over any duration.
 - c) Submitted all of the “Pre-Race Information” to ZADA, as set out in Appendix A (“Performance Verification”).



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2.4 Data

- 2.4.1. Riders shall save any data generated by Zwift at the end of each ride by selecting “End ride” from the pause screen, and then “Save” with “public” setting.
- 2.4.2. Riders shall be solely responsible for ensuring that race data is accurately recorded and stored, and that no signal interference or other noise source impedes the recording or storage of race data.
- 2.4.3. Riders whose Zwift client cannot, for whatever reason, connect to the Zwift servers for more than one consecutive minute during an event will have their result automatically annulled.
- 2.4.4. By choosing to participate in a Zwift Cycling Esports event or series, individuals shall agree that their image, power, heart rate, weight, height, racing history and other such data available to Zwift through their participation may be broadcast.
- 2.4.5. By choosing to participate in a Zwift Cycling Esports event or series, individuals shall agree to make available additional data, and respond to queries sent to their email address registered with Zwift in a timely manner, when requested by ZADA or The Performance Verification Board, as set out in Appendix A (“Performance Verification”).
- 2.4.6. Riders whose data recorded for a Zwift Cycling Esports event or series are not consistent with their In Real Life performances submitted for performance verification, or who fail to submit the data required in a timely manner for performance verification, shall be subject to sanctions, as set out in Appendix B (“Sanctions”).

2.5 Game

- 2.5.1. Riders shall compete using an account registered in their own name, and not shared with other riders. An exception shall be made for account-sharing that makes up less than 5% of the account’s cumulative time and is not used for the purposes of unlocking equipment or otherwise gaining an advantage in game.
- 2.5.2. Riders who are members of a National Cycling Federation shall use an in-game name that matches that used for their National Cycling Federation membership. Riders who are not members of a National Cycling Federation shall use their name as it appears in their passport or equivalent identity document and be required to submit evidence of this to Zwift on request.
- 2.5.3. Riders who are competing as a member of a team shall append their team name in square brackets to the end of their name as follows: “Rider Name [TEAM]”
- 2.5.4. Riders shall use an in-game weight and height as measured In Real Life within 24 hours of the start of the event. Measurements shall be made when clothed in socks, cycling shorts and a cycling jersey.
- 2.5.5. Riders shall use the most recent public release version of the game.
- 2.5.6. Riders shall not use the following in-game virtual equipment unless event or series specific rules explicitly permit it.
 - a) Zwift concept bicycles (e.g. Concept Z1 / “Tron” bicycles)
 - b) Time trial bicycles or helmets (except in time trial races)
 - c) Disc wheels (e.g. Zipp Super9)

2.7 Equipment

- 2.7.1. Riders shall compete using a primary power meter or smart trainer, paired with a cadence sensor and heart rate monitor. Primary power meter, cadence sensor, and heart rate monitor must be connected to the Zwift game client.
- Riders must record a second source of power data (e.g., powermeter) in addition to the primary source paired with the game client (e.g., smart trainer). The secondary power data source may be recorded using either a computer software application (such as Golden Cheetah or PerfPro) or using a cycling computer. The secondary recording device must be configured to also record the rider's cadence and heart rate. Data recorded using the secondary recording device must be recorded at one second intervals.
- 2.7.2. If direct-drive smart trainers and smart bikes are used, only those that are compatible with Zwift shall be permitted in Zwift Cycling Esports events – a current list of known compatible devices is maintained at: <https://zwift.com/hardware>.
- Wheel-on trainers and non-smart trainers shall only be used if the Zwift software is paired with a Zwift-compatible power meter.
 - The Elite Turbo Muin (any generation) shall not be used in any race.
- 2.7.3. Riders shall be responsible for ensuring that accurate cadence and heart rate data is recorded for at least 95% of the rider's race time.
- 2.7.4. Riders shall not attempt to tamper with equipment, modify any data recorded or otherwise use any mechanical, electronic or other device which provides an unfair advantage or false result.
- 2.7.5. Riders shall be responsible for following any manufacturer's specifications on maintaining the accuracy of their equipment, including but not limited to, conducting a spin-down, zeroing or other calibration or offset procedure for power meters or smart trainers immediately prior to an event.
- 2.7.6. Riders shall use the most recent publicly available (not beta or testing) firmware for any equipment.
- 2.7.7. Riders shall compete clothed in socks, cycling shorts and a cycling jersey.

2.8 Results

- 2.8.1. The results of a race shall be considered provisional until all performance verification processes have completed, and the time limit for any disputes to be raised has elapsed.
- 2.8.2. Where a result is annulled, or a rider is disqualified or receives a ban, all related results, classifications, points, prizes, trophies, medals, jerseys or other such awards achieved in the event or events in question shall be forfeited.
- Where such a rider contributed to a team result in the event or events in question, that contribution shall also be forfeit.
 - The placing of such a rider and/or team shall be taken by the next rider and/or team in the classification, such that all placings are occupied.
 - All benefits received by the rider and/or team, in particular any prize money and symbolic objects (trophies, medals, jerseys etc) must be returned to the event organiser within one month, who shall then redistribute it according to the amended classification.
 - The rider and/or team shall be automatically banned from Zwift Cycling Esports events if the benefits have not been returned within one month of notification, and this shall remain in force until such time as they are returned.

APPENDIX A – PERFORMANCE VERIFICATION

Zwift Cycling Esports events are very reliant on hardware. The Performance Verification Process ensures that issues with hardware do not give a rider an unfair advantage, even when there is no intent to gain one.

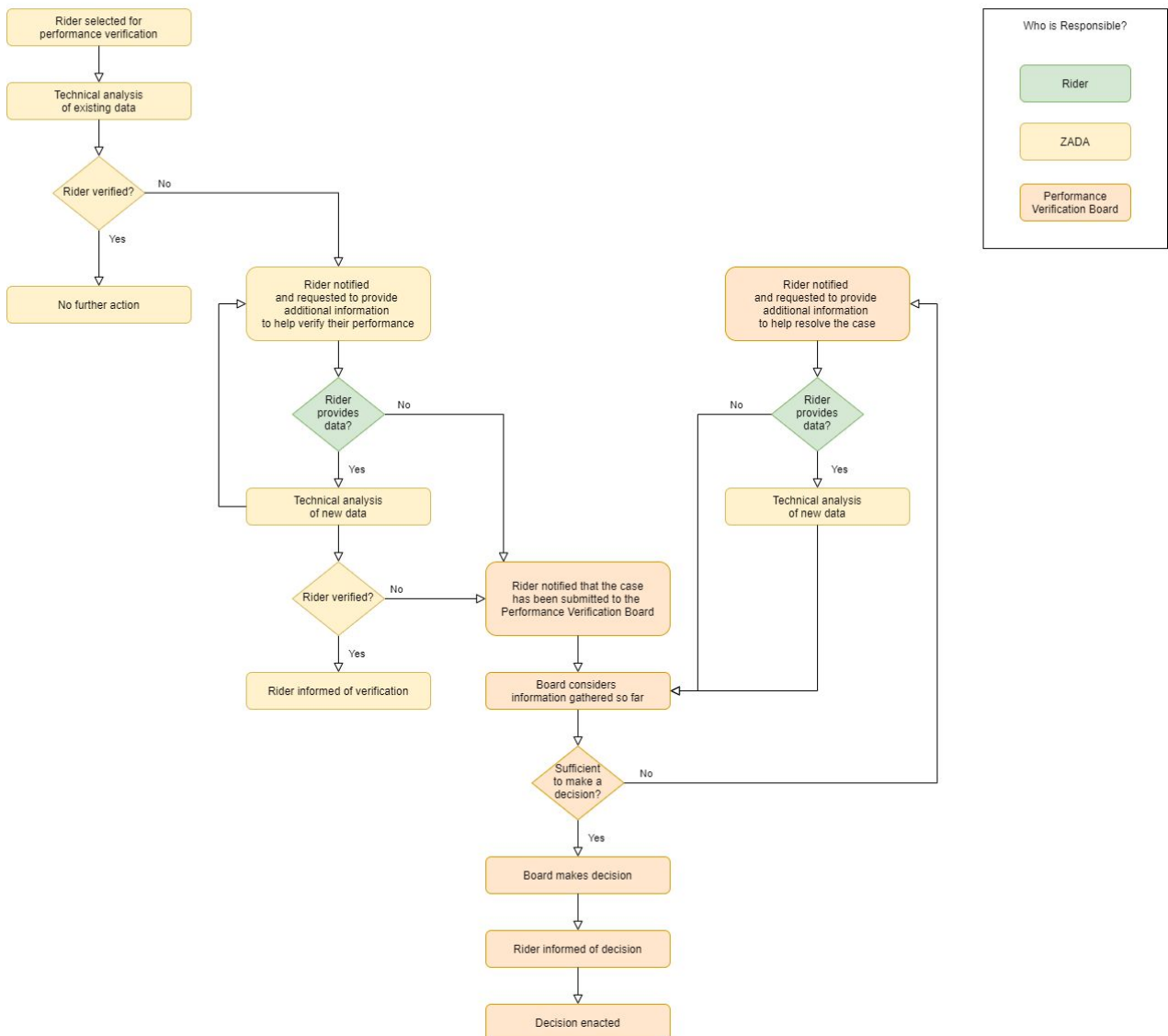
Overview

Performance Verification is a collaborative process between:

- The rider, who supplies data.
- The Zwift Accuracy and Data Analysis Group (“ZADA”), who provide expert analysis of that data.
- The Zwift Performance Verification Board, who make decisions about that data.

An overview of how these interact is shown below.

Zwift Performance Verification Process



Pre-Race Information

In order to compete in Zwift Cycling Esports events, riders must provide some data in advance. This both enables faster verification of race results, and an opportunity for potential issues with hardware to be identified and fixed before racing begins.

- Pre-race information must be submitted to zada@zwift.com at least 72 hours before the start of an event or first event in a series of events.
 - Data other than weight and height will remain valid for 6 months, after which updated data will need to be resubmitted.
 - If a rider changes the equipment they use during this period, this data will need to be resubmitted.
 - The subject line of the email must have the rider's last name and "ZADA" (e.g., "Smith - ZADA").

The requested pre-race information is as follows:

- A link to the rider's public Strava data.
- TCX or FIT files recording the rider's best 5sec, 1min, 5min and 20min efforts, conducted on a significant gradient (5% or more) that includes both power and heart rate data. Files may be from different rides, but all must have been made within the last 12 months.

Note that guidance for exporting files from Strava can be found at:
<https://support.strava.com/hc/en-us/articles/216918437-Exporting-your-Data-and-Bulk-Export#TCX>
- Makes, models, firmware, serial number and calibration information, slope number or calibration factor for power meters, and a photo of the hardware used by the rider.

*Your Smarttrainer model, firmware version and serial number can be found in the app for your device;
Your Powermeter model, firmware version, serial number, slope number or calibration factor can be found in the app for your device*
- Rider's height.
- A video recording of the rider measuring their weight.
 - Please follow the Pre-Race Weight Video instructions below.
- A video recording of the rider completing a test course.
 - Please follow the Pre-Race Test Course Video instructions below.

Pre-Race Weight Video

The full protocol for a rider measuring their weight is as follows:

- Before starting the test:
 - Set up scales suitable for measuring body weight in the middle of a room on a hard, even surface, with nothing nearby to hold on to.
 - Find a heavy weight (approx 10kg) that you can comfortably carry.
 - Make sure you are wearing socks, cycling shorts and a cycling jersey.
- During the test:
 - Start recording a video on any device; for example, a cell phone.
 - Show your face on the video.
 - Show a newspaper, television broadcast or other such media that shows the current date.
 - Show the scales.
 - Zero the scales.
 - Show the zero reading.
 - Place the heavy weight on the scales and show the reading.
 - Take the weight off and show the zero reading.
 - Stand on the scales yourself (without the weight) and show the reading.
 - Take yourself off and show the zero reading.
 - Stand on the scales with the weight and show the reading.
 - Take yourself off and show the zero reading.
 - Stop recording.
- After the test:
 - Send the recording to zada@zwift.com for verification.

An example recording is shown here: <https://youtu.be/78VeL3fKitU>. Please do not edit or trim the video. As shown in the example, the entire non-stop recording is required.

Pre-Race Test Course Video

The full protocol for the recorded test course is as follows:

- Before starting the test:
 - Set up a camera to simultaneously show you, your bicycle, your trainer and the Zwift screen throughout. This can be done with a Webcam and streaming software (such as Streamlabs OBS), or a mobile device.
 - The recording does not need to be a livestream, but must be recorded to a streaming platform such as Youtube or Twitch - it may be set to unlisted if desired, and only need be shared with ZADA. Please do not have any music on during the recording.
 - Decide whether you want to perform the test by yourself, or alongside others. If doing the test alongside others, then you will need to create a “Meetup” on the Watopia “Three Sisters” course as outlined here: <https://zwift.com/news/19189-zwift-how-to-ride-with-friends>
 - Note that the test is only to measure your power output and heart rate, not your time. It therefore does not matter what in-game virtual equipment you use, whether you ride in the draft of others, or use any power ups.
- During the test:
 - Start streaming from the point of login. In particular, your stream must include the pairing screen and selection of power meter, trainer control, cadence and heart rate. ***If these are automatically selected on logging in, then you must unselect them, and then reselect them.***
 - Set up Zwift to record the power from the trainer, and a separate cycle computer to record from a separate power meter (usually, powercranks / pedals).
 - Set up both Zwift and the cycle computer to record cadence and heart rate, but these can be from the same sensor for each.
 - Set the “Power Display” option in the Zwift settings menu to “instant” (not “3 second average”).
 - The cycle computer must be set to record at 1 second intervals.
 - Ride a 10-20 minute warm up of your own choosing.
 - Perform spindown of trainer and calibrate zero-offset of power meter after the warmup (*follow spindown and zero-offset calibration instructions below*).
 - If you are riding alongside others, join the Meetup.
 - If you are riding by yourself, exit Zwift, re-log on to Zwift using exactly the same procedure as above, and then select the Watopia “Three Sisters” course.
 - Complete the “Three Sisters” course. Note however that this is not a race, you are only required to perform the following 4 best efforts during the course, and may recover at a gentle pace inbetween:
 - The climb from the start to the end of “Hilly KOM (Forward)”.
 - The climb from the start to the end of “Epic KOM (Forward)”.
 - The climb from the start to the end of “Volcano KOM”.
 - A maximal sprint from the 300m to go marker to the finish line.
 - After you have finished the course, select “End ride” from the pause screen, and then “Save” with “public” setting.
 - Stop streaming after you have logged out.
- After the test:
 - Send the two FIT files (from Zwift and your cycle computer) for the ride over the Three Sisters course and a link to the stream to zada@zwift.com for verification.

An example recording is shown here: <https://youtu.be/Rhk1VLTd8>. Please do not edit or trim the video. As shown in the example, the entire non-stop recording, likely to be around 2 hours, is required.

Performing a Zero-Offset for Powermeter Calibration

For most devices the calibration option will be located under Sensor Settings on the device to which the powermeter is paired. The Zero-Offset can also be calibrated in the powermeter app. Please also refer to your powermeter manual for how to perform a Zero-Offset calibration.

Performing a Spindown for Smarttrainer Calibration

In order to receive an accurate power and resistance reading, a Spindown calibration needs to be performed frequently for a smarttrainer. A Spindown consists of 10-15min of easy pedalling, followed by a short acceleration up to 37-38kph, at which point you stop pedalling and let the internal resistance of the smarttrainer freewheel bring the flywheel to a stop.

For most devices the Spindown option will be located in the smarttrainer app on your smartphone. Additionally, the Spindown calibration can be completed for many devices within the Zwift pairing screen (<https://zwift.com/ca/video/how-to-cycling/calibrate-smart-trainer>).

Further Information

ZADA reserves the right to ask for any additional reasonable information relevant to verifying a riders performance, using additional protocols as required, providing that these do not create an undue burden on riders, and have a reasonable prospect of helping to determine the outcome of the verification process. Failure to provide any such information reasonably requested by ZADA may result in disqualification.

In particular, if a riders performance in an event cannot be verified using the video recorded test on Zwift, ZADA will ask riders to perform a test either in a ZADA approved lab, or outdoors with a power meter (with all efforts conducted on a significant gradient of 5% or more) using the following protocol.

- 20min warm-up
- Video calibration of power meter
- 5min easy

- 1min @ 90-100rpm, 65% FTP
- 1min easy
- 1min @ 90-100rpm, 75% FTP
- 1min easy
- 1min @ 90-100rpm, 85% FTP
- 5min easy

- 15sec peak sprint
- 5min easy

- 5min @ 80-95rpm, max effort
- 5min easy
- 20min @ 80-95rpm, max effort (*)
- 5min easy
- 1min max effort
- 10min easy

(*) If conducting this test outdoors, and a long enough gradient is not available to complete a 20min effort, this may be shortened to the length of the available gradient, provided that the effort is at least 10min long.

APPENDIX B – SANCTIONS

Any breaches of this ruleset may be subject to sanction at the sole discretion of the Performance Verification Board. To help set expectations, The Board typically use the following guidelines when determining a sanction to apply. The Board reserves the right to apply different sanctions and recognise other sanctions applied by the UCI, National Cycling Federations or other such competent bodies.

Tier 1: No Intent to Gain An Advantage

- Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Incorrect virtual equipment
 - Incorrectly calibrated or otherwise ineligible physical equipment
 - Malfunctioning cadence sensor or heart rate monitor
 - Incorrect attire in a In Real Life event
 - Unable to verify performance
- Sanctions include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - If the issue is identified before an event has started: Rider not permitted to start
 - If the issue is identified after an event has started: Event result annulled

Tier 2: Intent to Gain An Advantage

- Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Race disruption
 - Incorrect rider height / weight
 - Exploiting disconnection / lag / dropout behaviour
 - Exploiting bugs in Zwift software
 - Failing to provide data (or respond in a timely manner) to the performance verification process
- Sanctions include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - First violation: Disqualification from event or series.
 - Second violation: One year ban from Zwift Cycling Esports events.
 - Third violation: Lifetime ban from Zwift Cycling Esports events.

Tier 3: Bringing the sport into disrepute

- Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Fabrication or modification of any data
 - Equipment modification or other external trainer control
 - Use of bots / simulated riders
 - Identity fraud
 - Abuse of race officials
- Sanctions include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - First violation: One year ban from Zwift Cycling Esports events.
 - Second violation: Lifetime ban from Zwift Cycling Esports events.

APPENDIX C – CODE OF CONDUCT

Zwift firmly believes in fair competition conducted in an environment that enables people to enjoy racing. Any participant engaging in conduct that is unsporting or otherwise inconsistent with this aim shall be subject to sanction under this ruleset. Such behaviour includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Taking any actions, including use of language, that could be considered as threatening, discriminatory or otherwise could be deemed abusive or cause offence to others.
- Attempting to use, showing others how to use, or colluding with another person who is using, any method to gain an unfair advantage, such as:
 - Disrupting a race, including inappropriately reporting, distracting or otherwise impeding the performance of other riders.
 - Using in-game equipment that has not been earned solely by the in-game effort of the rider.
 - Deliberately mis-calibrating or otherwise tampering with equipment or software configuration such as in-game height or weight.
 - Submitting false or misleading information.
 - Use of mechanical or electronic devices that provide an unfair advantage, such as motors, devices that alter equipment signals, devices that control the smart trainer resistance, devices that broadcast simulated data or devices that interfere with broadcast data.
 - Use of bots or other means of simulating riding.
 - Exploiting connectivity issues or bugs in the Zwift software.
 - Modifying the Zwift software, data files or memory values, or otherwise using methods to gain access to game elements, or alter game play, beyond the normal operation of the game.
 - Altering data transmissions between Zwift clients and servers.
- Gambling, or passing on information to others for the purpose of gambling, on any races you take part in, or have inside information on.

Additionally, riders and any other individuals who have been invited by Zwift to participate in any Zwift Cycling Esports events or series must not conduct themselves in a way that is inconsistent with representing the Zwift brand in their actions in relation to the events or series. Such behaviour includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Breaching any confidentiality agreements.
- Using any material that is unlicensed or relates to any competitor of Zwift.

APPENDIX D – IN REAL LIFE EVENTS

Zwift may designate some Cycling Esports events as being held “In Real Life” where riders all compete in the same physical location, or across a small set of locations. Details of these events will be defined in event specific regulations, but to help set expectations, the following general principles will apply.

Prior to the event:

- Selected riders will be invited by Zwift to attend.
- All invites are subject to verification of past performances and eligibility.
- If riders fail to respond to invites or requests for information in a timely manner, Zwift may choose to offer their place to another rider.
- Unless otherwise notified, riders will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

At the event:

- Riders will be supplied a trainer, display, computer and sensors which they must use in the event.
- Riders need only supply their own bicycle, clothing and nutrition. It will be the responsibility of riders to ensure that:
 - their bicycles are compatible with the trainer provided.
 - their clothing is suitable for broadcasting to an audience of all ages - riders may not be permitted to participate if the clothing worn is not considered by Zwift (in its sole discretion) to be appropriate.
- All equipment calibration, selection of in-game settings and other such actions will be performed by the event organisation.