

# Lead Vehicle

## *Job Description*

One of the most important jobs during a race is that of the Lead Vehicle. The Lead Vehicle is responsible for making sure the racers stay on course and let the race officials know when the leaders are approaching the finish line. There will typically be a Lead Vehicle for each Category or group of Categories. All Lead Vehicle Drivers will receive pre-race instructions from the Chief Referee.

When the race starts, the Lead Vehicle will need to maintain a distance of 50-100 yards in front of the leaders of their assigned group. If one group is about to overtake another group that started before them, the driver of the overtaking group must notify the Chief Referee to determine if the group about to be overtaken needs to be neutralized.

If a group must be **neutralized** by order of the Chief Referee, the Lead Vehicle of that group must either slow the pace of the group or pull over at a safe location and stop their group for the time determined by the Chief Referee. During neutralization, there is to be no racing amongst the group until the neutralization is lifted.

As a Lead Vehicle approaches the finish line for the final time, it is customary for the driver to honk the horn to notify the race officials and spectators that the winner or sprint is approaching. It is also important to not stop the vehicle at the finish line but to continue until the vehicle can be moved off the course without disrupting a sprint finish. Cyclists in a sprint can often exceed speeds of 40 mph, even at the amateur level.

## FOLLOW VEHICLE

During some event, a Follow Vehicle may be used. The Follow Vehicle is to stay behind the very last rider of all groups. It is typically used in road races. There are a couple of reasons for a Follow Vehicle.

1. If a rider has a mechanical problem, they could be picked up by the Follow Vehicle and dropped off at the finish to report to the race officials.
2. If the last rider is about to be lapped by the race leaders, they can be pulled from the race without getting in the way of the other racers.
3. If the race route changes on each lap, then the Follow Vehicle can notify the Course Marshals when the last rider has passed through their point so they can make whatever changes are necessary for the next lap before the leaders arrive.