

GROUP RIDING GUIDELINES

BEFORE THE RIDE

- Be prepared for the ride.
 - The bike should be gassed and ready. Tire pressures and oil checked.
 - If the ride is to include night riding, assure lites are in proper working order.
 - The rider/passenger should be dressed accordingly.
 - Have food/drink as needed.
 - Bathroom needs completed.
- Familiarize yourself with the Road Captains.
 - Know who they are so you can visually spot them.
 - If you have questions about the ride, ask the Road Captains before the ride.
 - If you feel uncomfortable about where you are going to ride in the group, tell the Road Captains and let them move you to a more comfortable position.
- All riders turn off their Side/Passing/Aux lites except the Lead Bike and the Sweep Bike. This will allow the Lead Bike to know where the end of the line is.
- No Alcohol or Drugs before or during the ride.
 - Once you decide to use either, your ride with the group is over.

DURING THE RIDE

- **Number One Rule (The 'Prime Directive')**

In a group ride, the primary job for every rider is to not hit the motorcycle in front of you.

- Regardless of the Lead Bike's signals, a rider is responsible for his or her own safety at all times. **Ride Your Own Ride.**
- Ride in a staggered formation unless instructed otherwise by the Road Captain; or if road conditions become unsafe to maintain the staggered formation.
- Follow the 1 second – 2 second spacing. Allow 1 second of spacing from the bike in your front and opposite lane. Allow 2 seconds of spacing from the bike directly in front of you in your same lane. Use shadows or markings on the pavement to judge distance.
- **Each rider commands his entire area within a lane and may move to left or right in it as required.**
- If a bike is following you too close in your comfort zone, motion for them to drop back a little, or ask them to back off a little when stopped at a stoplight or sign. If they continue to invade your comfort zone, either mention it to the Road Captain at a rest stop, or move to another location in the formation at a rest stop.
- If a rider ahead of you motions for you to "back off a little", do so. Respect the other rider's comfort zone, as you would want yours to be respected. The rides are meant to be safe and fun for everyone – not a demonstration of intimidation. If you don't

GROUP RIDING GUIDELINES

like the position that puts you in or makes you uncomfortable in the group, notify the Road Captain or change your position in the group at the next rest stop.

- If a rider ahead of you is leaving a large gap in the formation, do not try to “push” them ahead by crowding them. Do not try to pass them to get ahead. If the gap is continually excessive, mention it to the Road Captain or change to a different riding position in the group at the next rest stop.
- On any stretch of curvy road and in any corner, the group may ride in single-file momentarily, to enable each rider to corner at his own speed and to have as much room as possible for maneuvering. This is especially important to riders with little experience in a group, as they may “wobble” or be nervous about making turns with another bike to their side or riding close behind them. This is an accepted variance to staggered formation; usually the Lead Bike will not signal for single-file at each turn but will expect the riders to choose their own path of travel.
- On narrow and/or twisting roads, ride in single file and increase spacing through curves to allow each rider use of the entire lane in the curve.
- Use single file to enter or exit a hiway or a roundabout.
- During rainy, windy, or otherwise inclement weather, slow your speed and increase the safety gap to the other bikes.
- When riding at night, slow down, increase the safety gap to the other bikes, and watch for critters.
- Use your mirrors to periodically check the position of riders behind you.
- At intersections with stoplights or stop signs, stop in a side-by-side formation to form a tighter group. That will allow the maximum number of bikes to clear the intersection. The lead bike will proceed first from the intersection followed by the remaining bikes – one at a time. If all bikes cannot clear the intersection before the light turns red or traffic interferes, do not feel pressured to hurry through. The group can rejoin down the road.
- If you or a group becomes separated from the main group, continue ahead when safe to do so. Maintain your position in the group. Do not change positions to form the standard left-lead formation. You may have to change back when connecting with the main group.
 - **Exception:** If you are going to pass vehicles to catch up to the main group, follow Passing guidelines.
 - Watch along the roadside for the stopped main group, or a single rider indicating the main group has turned.
 - If you are going to fill a vacant hole, wait until the next stop light or stop sign. If you are going to change position while in motion, inform the riders behind you.
- Point to hazards in the road to inform the following riders. If the hazard is on your right, use your right foot to point to the hazard. If the hazard is on your left, use your left hand or left foot to point to the hazard.

GROUP RIDING GUIDELINES

- If you plan to drop out of the group, let the leader or someone else know so they won't think you've had trouble and stop for you. As the departing riders leave the group, the remaining riders safely adjust their position in the group as necessary.