



Guided Ride – Rules

Definitions

- **Group** - two or more motorcycles riding together.
- **Guided ride** - a group organized and led by a Ride Leader.
- **Single file** – a formation in which riders ride one behind the other at two (or more) second intervals.
- **Stagger** – a formation in which riders ride in alternating left and right tire tracks.
- **Tire track(s)** – tracks in a motor lane made by cars i.e. left and right, and includes a third “centre” track.

General Goals

- Our goal is for the Club to organize and lead rides on scenic and interesting routes.
- The Club primordial concern is “risk management” resulting in “uneventful” rides.
- Safety is everyone’s responsibility, leaders and followers.
- Riders will always at all time observe all traffic laws.
- Consumption of alcohol and/or use of drugs or medication that would be expected to impair the rider’s judgement or bike handling skills, are explicitly forbidden at Club Guided Rides.

Group Riding ...

- ... is for experienced riders (not novices) and demands both a higher level of skill and situational awareness than solo riding.
- ... does not absolve the individual rider of responsibility for his or her safety and that of other riders.
- ... does not absolve the individual rider of respecting and obeying the Highway Traffic Act.

Ride Protocols

The club generally uses two basic ride formations, Single File and Staggered.

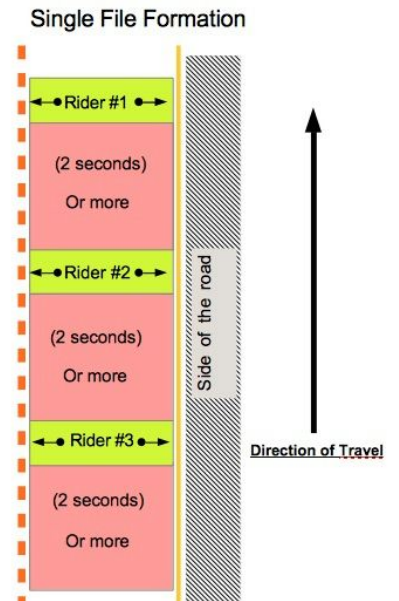
Single file - using entire width of the lane.



Following the single file hand signal by the Ride Leader, riders will create a buffer section (a no riding zone) between his or her bike and the rider ahead of two seconds or more. The interval will be dictated by the nature of the road condition (twisties, construction, road surface, etc.). When in "single file" riders "own" the entire width of a lane and indeed should choose a lane position (left-center-right)

appropriate for the road and conditions.

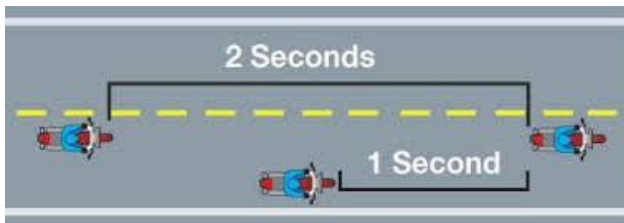
In no circumstance a rider is allowed to encroach on the buffer zone of the rider aheadnever! Do not tailgate!



Staggered



Club rides will use the staggered formation in many situations. The staggered formation allows the group to stay close together without reducing following distance and without having riders drive alongside one another at speed. When stopped however, it is suggested for riders to come alongside (pair up) with one another (1+2, 3+4, 5+6 etc.). The staggered formation resumes immediately once underway again.



In the staggered formation, an individual rider will ride in the left or right tire track within a lane, two seconds behind the rider ahead and one second behind the rider in the other tire track. Riders will adjust their choice of tire track to conform to the riders ahead.

Ride Speed

The Ride Leader will keep an average speed that will be at or below the posted speed limit.

Passing of a vehicle

If the group ride leader decides to pass a vehicle, e.g. car or truck, each rider will pass the vehicle when and if it is safe to do so, and accelerates beyond the passed vehicle ensuring there is ample room for the next passing rider.

Dealing with a Motorcycle Group Ahead

When/if one of our groups comes up behind a large, slower motorcycle group on a two lane road, the Ride Leader should not attempt to pass but ASAP find a good and safe resting area and give the other group a healthy head start.

Controlled intersections

If a group becomes separated at a traffic light, the last rider in the forward group becomes the temporary sweeper; and, the first rider in the separated group becomes the temporary group leader. The forward group may stop at a safe and convenient place and let the following group re-join them or continue to the next planned stop, as appropriate and required under the circumstances.

How to proceed in case of mechanical problems, mishap or accident

In case of an unscheduled event during a ride, riders ahead of the event should continue to follow the Ride Leader until he/she brings the group to a safe area to stop. Riders behind the event should safely stop on the side of the road, park and proceed to render assistance and/or call the appropriate emergency services. The Sweeper should, when appropriate, contact the Ride Leader to inform him/her of the event and its possible effect on the scheduled ride.

Responsibilities

Rider Responsibilities

- Obey the Highway Traffic Act and exercise good judgement at all times.
- Wear appropriate protective riding gear (ATGATT); helmet, suit, pants, gloves, boots.
- Ensure that their motorcycle is in good mechanical condition before arriving at the meeting by performing the pre-ride motorcycle check list:
 - Tires
 - Pressure - check the pressure when tires are cold, before starting your ride
 - Tread - check for worn and/or uneven wear
 - Damage - check for cuts or nails stuck in the tread
 - Brakes
 - Front and rear - check that each one holds the motorcycle when fully applied. Check for brake fluid leaks.
 - Lights
 - Headlight, brake and turn signals - check that all are working before you ride
 - Fuel and oil levels
 - Do a visual check of oil levels and arrive with a full tank ready to ride
- Familiarize themselves with the route, directions and ultimate destination of the ride.
- If they are not experienced at group rides position themselves near the front of the group.
- Withdraw from the group ride or change groups, if they feel that their riding skills are exceeded by the ride conditions.
- Trying to “keep up” can be dangerous to both the individual rider and the group.
- Check their mirrors every 5-8 seconds at all time. Know what is happening behind you!
- Maintain lane position except to conform to the lane position of the rider ahead.
- Instruct passenger on proper riding techniques and ensure that they wear appropriate protective gear (ATGATT); helmet, suit, pants, gloves, boots.
- Notify the Ride Leader or the Sweeper of their intention to leave the Guided Ride midstream.

Ride Leader responsibilities

- Provide a route map and/or description to riders.
- Pre-ride the route to offer the most pleasant experience for all avoiding unnecessary complications and delays.
- Notify the lunch stop restaurant owner/staff of the ride plans and confirm numbers with a day of ride morning call.
- If the attendance is large enough, separate the group into levels of ability and create a number of smaller groups e.g. five (5) to eight (8) riders, if possible.
- Coordinate the small group's Leaders and Sweepers and exchange contact information (cell phone) if applicable.
- Ensure that any participant in a Club Ride who is not a Club member signs a waiver before the ride commences.

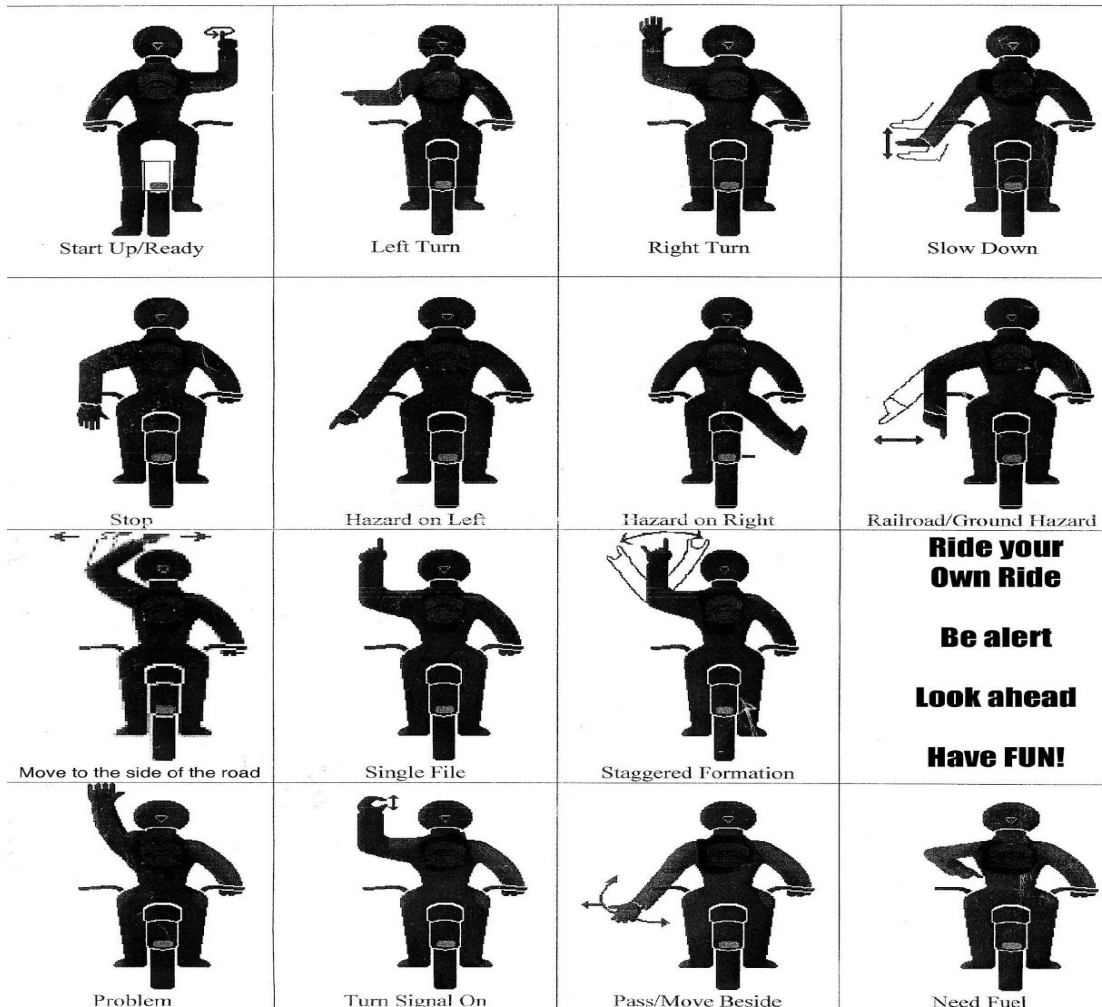
Sweeper responsibilities

- Follow at the back of the group.
- Stop to assist any rider from the group pulled on the side of the road.
- Report to the group Ride Leader on rider(s) who have dropped out.
- Report to the Ride Leaders of the general performance and pace of the group.

Hand Signals

Ride Leaders will use a variety of hand signals as required. Once the signal is given, each individual rider should also pass the signal to the riders behind (this is especially important in larger groups).

- **Start engine** – extend right arm over the head and rotate in a circular motion.
- **Stop engine** - a horizontal movement across the throat
- **Left turn** – extend left arm horizontally.
- **Right turn** – extend left arm horizontally and extend the upper arm vertically (L shape).
- **Road hazard** - point the left arm down or extend a leg in the direction of the hazard.
- **Speed up** - extend left arm vertically and make a pumping action
- **Slow down** – extend left arm horizontally and make an up-and-down motion
- **Stop** – extend left arm and point with index finger towards the ground.
- **Single file** – raise the left arm and point up to the sky with the index finger
- **Staggered** – raise the left arm and point up to the sky with two fingers
- **Need fuel** – with your left arm, point to your gas tank
- **Move to the side of the Road** – raise the left arm and point to the right side.



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