



## Guided Ride – Rules

### Definitions

- **Group** - two or more motorcycles riding together.
- **Guided Ride (or Club Ride)** - a group organized and led by a Ride Leader.
- **Open Formation** – a loose formation where riders leave more space (a minimum of two second intervals) between bikes (see page 2).
- **Staggered Formation** – a tighter formation in which riders ride in alternating left and right tire tracks (see page 2).
- **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’s primary objective is managing risks, resulting in “uneventful” rides.
- Safety is everyone’s responsibility, leaders and followers.
- Riders will always 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 ...

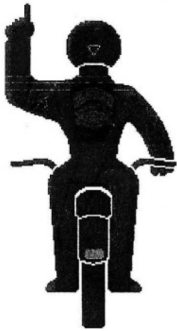
- ... demands both a higher level of skill and situational awareness than solo riding.
- ... does not absolve the individual rider of responsibility for his or her safety and that of other riders.
- ... does not absolve the individual rider of respecting and obeying the Highway Traffic Act.

# Ride Protocols

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

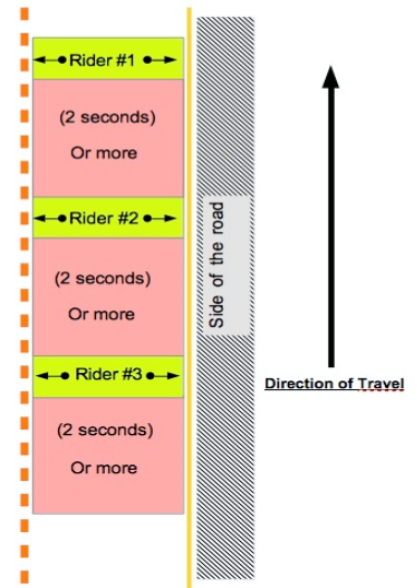
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Open Formation

Following the [ ] ^} Á { æ} Á and 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 [ !Á [ !^ . The interval will be dictated by the nature of the road condition (twisties, construction, road surface, etc.). When in "open formation" riders "own" the entire width of a lane and indeed should choose a lane position (left-center-right) appropriate for the road, conditions and their preferred "line".



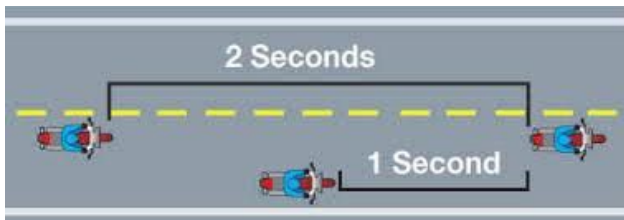
In no circumstance a rider is allowed to encroach on the buffer zone of the rider ahead ....never! Do not tailgate!

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Staggered Formation

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.

## **&VR ]RO**

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

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## **\$N`VTNoRUPR**

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

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## **~RN[TdVUN \a\_FPRF\|b] ~URD**

When 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. ASAP find a good and safe resting area and give the other group a healthy head start.

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When a group is waiting at intersections (ie stop signs or signal lights) they should do so in pairs. Riders should come alongside (pair up) with one another (1+2, 3+4, 5+6 etc.) when stopped and resume the formation as they pull away in sequence.

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.

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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

### **&#160;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 checklist:
  - 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 frequently (every 5-8 seconds). Know what is happening behind you!
- Maintain lane position except to conform to the lane position of the rider ahead.
- Instruct pillion 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.

### **&#160;RIDE LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Plan the route in order to offer the most pleasant experience for all. Pre-ride the route to confirm the status of the roads, and modify the plan if required to avoid any complications.
- Based on the pre-ride, prepare a GPX file for distribution to Club members.
- Notify the lunch stop restaurant owner/staff of the ride plans and confirm numbers with a morning phone call on the day of the ride.
- At the ride briefing, provide a route map and/or description to riders. If the attendance is large enough, separate the group into levels of ability and create a number of smaller groups of five to eight riders (commonly called packets), if possible. Each packet to be led by a Club Ride Leader.
- Coordinate the packet 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.

### **&#160;PACKET LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

