

Guidelines for Group Riding

The guidelines have been developed and introduced following requests by the members, to enable their safe participation and enjoyment of the group riding activities.

Due to the unpredictability of members' attendance at group runs and the varying level of skill and experience, our guidelines must be flexible to accommodate these variations but at the same time be firm enough to ensure the safety and enjoyment of those in attendance is maximised.

In order to achieve this, group members will receive an advanced briefing email of the planned route, food and fuel stops, the meeting place, starting time and the group riding etiquette. The members shall then be able to 'Self Brief' and respond to the notification email confirming their understanding and intention to attend, together with any potential training / assessment requirements they may have.

- a) The group leader on the day will review those in attendance and decide which group riding option would be most suitable for that day's run.
- b) The group leader may also at this time establish that all members have sufficient fuel and who has the shortest tank range.
- c) Talk to any 'non members' present to ascertain they understand details of the run. If they are looking to have a riding assessment then they must complete a group membership form prior to run commencing.
- d) Ensure any member who has requested a riding assessment / training during the ride are introduced to the assigned group tutor.
- e) The group leader will then give a short pre-ride briefing to the group ensuring that he/she has their full attention throughout the briefing.

Pre-Ride Briefing

The content of the pre-ride briefing should cover:

- a) An outline of the planned route to the destination and where the intended coffee / lunch / fuel stops are located.
- b) The group riding option to be used during the run. (See options below)
- c) Establish and advise the group of any members who will be making their own way to the destination and are not following the predefined route.
(This could be members who are going to have some tuition during the run or those who wish to progress on their own and meet up for lunch / coffee).
- d) Incident handling procedure to be followed in the event of an incident or a rider wishing to leave the run.

Group Riding options

Dependant on the number and skill set of the members in attendance then the group leader on the day should decide which of the following options is most appropriate for that days ride.

- **Small Group (6 or less) Riders**
 - Lead and Tail riders appointed & destination agreed.
 - No drop off system required.
 - Lead rider will control speed / progress through traffic.
 - All riders will maintain visual contact with following rider.

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- **Large Group (6 to 12) Riders**
 - Lead and Tail riders appointed & destination agreed.
 - Drop off system required to operate.
 - Leader to explain principle and operation of the drop off system:
 - All those not wishing to mark junctions must advise the Leader at commencement of briefing.
 - Riders must ALWAYS follow the current road they are riding on. Marking will only take place where the route deviates from the current road.
 - Leader will slow and indicate to following rider a turning to be marked to indicate the route deviation.
 - It is marking riders responsibility to ensure they stop in a safe and suitable position to indicate the route deviation.
 - Marking rider MUST remain at this point until Tail rider approaches.
 - Subject to traffic conditions, the Marking rider will rejoin in front of Tail rider. If not possible due to traffic then Tail rider will pull over at a safe location and allow Marker to overtake them.
 - Lead rider will control speed / progress through traffic.

- **Large Group (More than 12) Riders**
 - Group leader may decide to split run into groups of smaller subgroups.
 - Lead and Tail riders are appointed for each group & destination.
 - Each sub group will set off separately at approximately 5 minute intervals.
 - Each group will follow the guide lines above for either :
 - Small Groups (6 or Less Riders) as above
 - Large Groups (6 to 12 Riders) as above

Group Riding Etiquette

All group members must ride safely and with due diligence, concentration and alertness to the road and traffic conditions and other group members ensuring:

- All in attendance are required to ride in accordance with the Highway Code and Roadcraft principles.
- Riders shall be responsible at all times for their own safety and for ensuring their machines are road legal.
- Rider shall maintain reasonable safe progress throughout the ride and that they must ensure that they ride within their own capabilities and those of their machines
- All overtakes MUST be executed safely and in accordance with the Highway Code and Roadcraft . Riders must be vigilante at all times and be prepared to reduce speed when being overtaken to allow the manoeuvre to be executed safely.
- Rider MUST ensure a safe stopping distance is maintained from the rider in front.
- Riders MUST avoid focusing on the rider in front and should look beyond them reading the road ahead and anticipating any potential hazards.
- Rider should where appropriate, consider moving to staggered position to achieve a clear view of the road ahead past the rider in front.
- When coming to a halt at a junction or traffic lights then riders should adopt a close stagger position alongside each other thereby helping to keep the group together.



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Ride incident handling procedure

In the event of a riding incident (breakdown, puncture, etc) then either the rider or a following rider MUST contact the Group Leader to advise them of the situation.

- The Group Leader will then stop the ride and regroup the remaining members and/ or establish the location of other sub groups as appropriate.

Any member wishing to leave and breakaway from the group run, must inform the group leader prior to breaking away from riding group.