

Ride Planner Responsibilities

- Organizes the ride.
- Prepares the route.
- Plans alternate route in case of unexpected conditions.
- Pre-rides the route (a few days before the ride).
- Appoints group lead and tail riders.
- Gathers insurance, registration, and emergency information from all participating riders.
- Provides route maps or directions for all riders, with locations of rest stops and lost rider info.
- Can form sub-groups according to riding styles.

Group Lead Rider Responsibilities:

Pre-Ride Responsibilities:

- Conducts a short meeting with their group before riding to access:
 1. Skill levels of all riders and suggest positioning (putting inexperienced riders up front in #2 or #3 position).
 2. Mileage range of rider with the smallest tank.
 3. Communicate to the group what type of ride they will lead (fast twisties or leisure ride): the speed they plan on maintaining, riding style, straight or curvy roads, gravel roads, rest stops, and other information.
 4. Review passing, lane change procedures, and hand signals.

Ride Responsibilities:

- Signal thumbs up and wait for all to respond before riding off (at the start of the ride and before leaving each rest stop).
- Start slow (1/2 speed) till group is together.
- Set the pace for the group.
- Communicates road hazards.
- Communicates formation changes.
- Stop for yellow lights.
- Wait at stop signs for group to catch up.
- Makes the decision on passing.
- Communicates with tail rider on lanes changes, group riding skills, etc.

Group Tail Rider Responsibilities:

- Most experienced rider.
- Communicates with the Group Lead Rider.
- Secures lanes for lane changes.
- Observes Group Riding Skills (can ask to have group pull over to address problems).
- Stops to help those that pull off from the group.
- Works to keep the group together.

Rider Responsibilities (For ALL Riders):

Pre-Ride Responsibilities:

- Arrive with a full tank of gas.
- Wear proper attire for weather conditions.
- Be physically ready to ride (with an empty bladder).
- Motorcycle should be in good mechanical condition, properly insured and ready to ride.

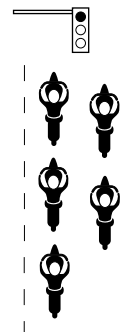
Ride Responsibilities:

- Follow the Group Lead Rider.
- Relay hand signals to those behind.
- Stay in formation, with proper following distance. Do NOT pass within your group.
- Each rider is responsible for keeping the rider behind them in sight.
- Each rider is responsible for their own safety, and for not hitting the bike in front of them.

Formations

Ride double file formation unless the Lead Rider signals single file formation.

- Turns – retain lane position unless lead rider signals single file.
- On-coming semi-trucks, narrowing roads, or road construction may require signal file formation.
- Curves – single file formation.
- Parked cars on a narrow street – single file
- Stop at signs/lights – pull up two across (as shown in drawing).



Curves

- Slow down before the curve, (tap your brake to let those behind you know that you will be slowing down).
- Ride single file formation thru curve.

Lane Changes (4-lane highways & freeways)

- Lead Rider asks Tail to “Secure the Lane”.
- When safe, Tail moves into the lane and communicates to lead “Lane Secure” when it is safe for the group to change lanes.
- Lead Rider signals and changes lane, with the group following in succession.

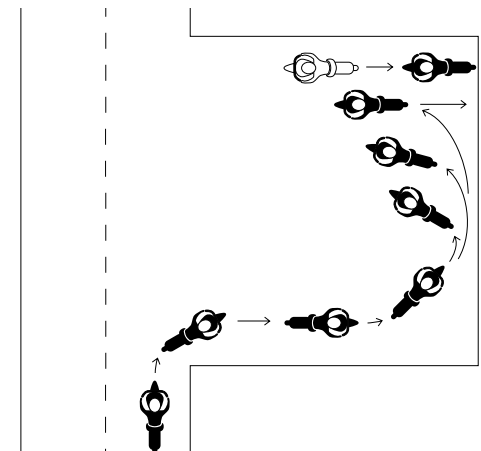
Passing (2-lane highways, county roads)

DO NOT PASS AS A GROUP. Pass one bike at a time. Each rider is responsible for passing safely.

- Lead Rider signals, passes vehicle and returns to formation. Lead Rider accelerates ahead to allow plenty of room for the rest of the group to pass safely and move back in ahead of the vehicle.
- 2nd rider moves to left wheel track and waits until they can safely pass, then 3rd, etc. etc.
- Try not to pass at intersections, driveways, etc.

Parking

- Pull into parking lots in single file formation behind the lead rider and park one by one.



Group Riding

Think of your group as a team. Work as a team and for the team.

Advantages:

- Security
- More Visible in a Group
- Assistance Available
- Social (meet people)
- Learning Experience

Disadvantages:

- Consensus Rules
- Personality Conflicts
- Compromise Riding Styles
- Group Limited by the Ability of Weakest Rider
- More Time Needed

Know your group, their experience, riding style, goals and expectations. Talk about these in your pre-ride meeting. Discuss and agree on the speed that the group will travel. Everyone in the group needs to agree on ride issues and know what is expected of them, before the ride. Doing so will enhance the enjoyment and safety of everyone in the group.

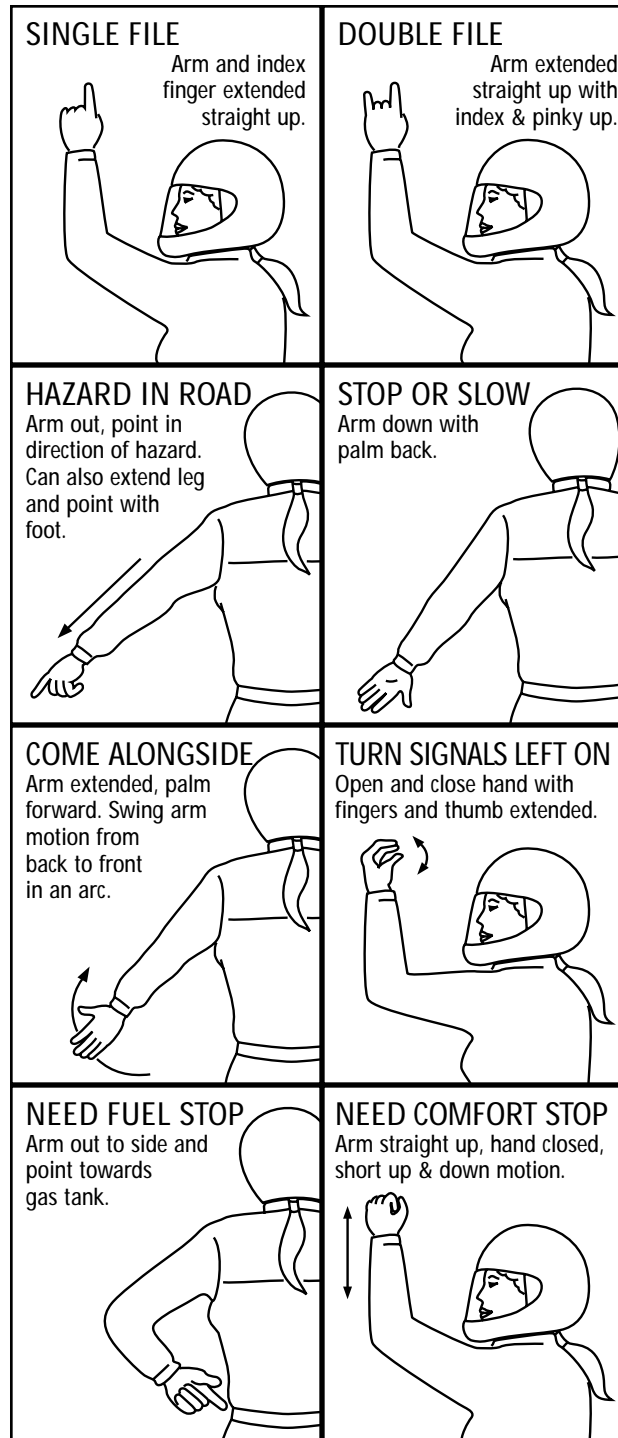
Absolutely No Drinking Alcohol and Riding.

Group size should be limited to 5 motorcycles. For larger groups, it is recommended that you break into sub-groups of 4-5 riders with enough room (ideally 4 seconds) between each sub-group for other motorists to safely merge, change lanes, pass, or exit if they need to.

NOTE: Anyone can drop out and ride ahead or behind the group. It is best to wait till a rest stop and then inform the lead rider and tail rider of your intentions.

Plan rest stops every hour to stretch your legs, get fluids, fill gas tanks, empty bladders, etc.

Hand Signals



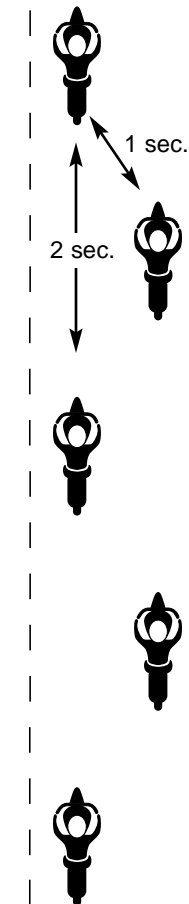
Group Riding Guide

Group rides can be a great way to travel, socialize and meet new people. Successful group riding requires good communication, courtesy among riders, and a willingness to look out for the safety of others. This guide aims to help you organize and execute a safe and fun group ride.

Group Riding Formations

Double File Formation

(For Normal Riding)



Single File Formation

(For Special Situations)

