

**APPENDIX "A"**

**GUIDE RIDE RULES**

## BMW Motorcycle Club of Ottawa

### Guided Ride – Rules<sup>1</sup>

#### 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 an interval of two (2) seconds.
- **Stagger** – a formation in which riders ride in alternating left and right tire tracks.
- **Tire track(s)** – tracks in a lane made by cars i.e. left and right, and includes a third “centre” track.

#### General

- Safety is everyone’s responsibility.
- Riders will always observe traffic laws and signals.
- Consumption of alcohol and/or use of drugs or medication that would be expected to impair the riders judgement or bike handling skills, are explicitly forbidden.

#### Ride protocol

Formations. Club rides will use the staggered formation. In the staggered formation, an individual rider will ride in either the left or right tire track, two (2) seconds behind the rider ahead and one (1) second behind the rider in the other tire track. Riders will adjust their choice of tire track to conform to the riders ahead.

Riders will use single file in curves or on roads where the road surface or width or other conditions warrant.

Lane. Riders “own” the entire width of a lane. Riders will not encroach on the lane space or pass the rider ahead.

Passing. If the group ride leader decides to pass a vehicle eg car or truck, each rider will pass the vehicle (if safe to do so) and move into the right tire track. If the right tire track is their usual position in the formation, the rider will remain in that track. If the riders normal position is the left tire track, he/she will adjust his/her position after the rider behind has passed the vehicle and is ready to or has started to move into the right tire track.

Controlled intersections. If a group becomes separated at a traffic light, the last rider in the group becomes the temporary sweeper; and, the first rider in the separated group becomes the temporary group leader.

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<sup>1</sup> With thanks to Pierre Thibaudeau, BMW “Adventure Rider” and inspiration from GWRRA and Eastern Ontario HOG.

**Responsibilities:****Riders**

- Exercise good judgement at all times.
- Arrive at the meeting point with a full tank of gas, ready to ride.
- Ensure that their motorcycle is in good mechanical condition.
- Familiarize themselves with the route, directions and ultimate destination of the ride.
- Ride near the front of the group, if they are not very experienced at group rides.
- Withdraw from the group ride, 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 10-15 seconds at highway speed and every 5-8 seconds in city traffic.
- 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.
- Notify the group ride leader or sweeper of their intention to leave the group ride.

**Ride leader**

- Provide a route map and/or description to riders.
- Pre-ride the route, note road construction and/or hazards, make adjustments to the route and timings, advise the lunch stop restaurant owner/staff of the ride plans.
- Circulate an attendance sheet and obtain cell phone numbers of riders, other group leaders and sweepers, as appropriate.
- Divide the group into levels of ability and create a number of smaller groups eg five (5) to eight (8) riders, if possible.
- Lead and/or coordinate the small group leaders and riders.
- If passing, ensure that all riders in the group can also pass safely and will accelerate to provide room for following riders to pass safely.

**Sweeper(s) aka “Tail-end Charlie”:**

- Follow at the back of the group and will stop to help any rider who has to drop out of the group.
- When the group changes lanes on a multi-lane highway, move into the new lane immediately to hold back traffic until all riders are in the new lane.
- Report to the group ride leader on riders who have dropped out.

**Signals**

- Start engine – extend arm over the head and rotate in a circular motion.
- Left turn – extend left arm horizontally.
- Right turn – extend left arm horizontally and extend the upper arm vertically.
- Stop – extend left arm towards the ground.
- Road hazard - point the left arm or extend a leg in the direction of the hazard.
- Slow down – extend left arm horizontally and make an up-and-down motion.
- Single file – raise the left arm and point up with the index finger
- Speed up – extend left arm horizontal and upper arm vertically and make a pumping action.
- Need gasoline – point to the gas tank.
- Stop engine - a horizontal movement across the throat.