

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland

Rules for Group Riding

BMWOC club rides are GROUP RIDES where we stay together as a group. The designated ride captain is authorized to enforce all rules of group riding.

RIDING FORMATION

On the open road we ride using a staggered formation. The leader rides in the left third of the lane while the next rider stays at least 1 second behind in the right third of the lane. The rest of the group follows the same pattern. This formation helps us keep together in traffic and through busy intersections.

When the road gets rough or curvy, or weather conditions deteriorate, we ride single file with larger gaps to provide more maneuvering room as needed. Riders should yield the right of way to the rider in front of them and likewise, have the right of way relative to the rider behind them.

Every rider should keep an eye on the rider behind and if he/she lags far behind or drops out of sight pull off on the side of the road, turn on your flashers and wait (go back and investigate if needed). When every rider does this it alerts the lead rider to the situation.

If you need to leave the ride early be sure to notify the ride leader.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

When the group is small (4-8 riders) we simply FOLLOW THE LEADER. Riders maintain a 1-2 second interval allowing the group to stay together through intersections and turns.

When the group is larger we split into several smaller groups, or use the DROP AND SWEEP method to keep the large group together.

The group DOES NOT have the right to block intersections or ignore red lights or stop signs for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the group. Riders should follow all traffic rules, regulations, signs and devices as if they were riding solo while on a group ride.

DROP AND SWEEP

In DROP AND SWEEP we designate a LEAD rider and a SWEEP rider who keep their positions throughout the ride. At decision points along the route the LEAD rider points to a place along the side of the road where the 2nd rider in line is "dropped" to become a CORNER MARKER for following riders. The CORNER MARKER motions in the direction following riders should take and stays at his/her post until the SWEEP appears, at which point the CORNER MARKER gets back in line ahead of the SWEEP.

To review.... the LEAD rider drops CORNER MARKERS (the 2nd rider in line) at decision points (turns, y's, etc.) along the route. The CORNER MARKER pulls over to a safe place to stop, ACTIVELY points in the direction riders are to go, and STAYS at their post until the SWEEP rider collects him/her. The SWEEP rider is always the last rider, and is the only rider to use their high beam headlight.

Riders always continue straight ahead through intersections, turning only when they come to a CORNER MARKER.

RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE

These suggestions should make group rides enjoyable for everyone, but if for any reason you are not comfortable in the group please let the LEADER or SWEEP know. The group may be able to make adjustments or you may prefer to ride on your own. ***Never let the group take you out of your comfort zone - in the final analysis it is your responsibility to ride your own ride within your own ability and comfort zone.***

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