

GROUP RIDING GUIDELINES

of the

MONCTON MOTORCYCLE TOURING CLUB Inc.

(Approved May 2008)

1. The *prime directive* in a group ride – the *primary job* for every rider – is to not hit the motorcycle in front of you.
2. Ride in *the* staggered formation unless circumstances dictate that single-file is more appropriate. When riding in curves, the stagger is no longer warranted and a single-file type of formation is appropriate (two-second rule). Single-file riding allows more freedom to negotiate curves and swerve around obstacles while using the full lane width.
3. Riders should maintain the formation as much as practical.
4. If a rider in the formation needs to pull out for any reason, the group will close the gap and reorganize the staggered formation.
5. In a staggered formation, maintain a safe following distance behind the motorcycle directly in front of you (two-second rule), and the offset motorcycle (one-second rule). These rules are minimums.
6. More experienced riders should be at the front and rear of the formation, with the less experienced riders in the middle (preferably in the right-hand lane position).
7. It is also preferable to have the ride leader and the sweep rider (last rider) with communication capability.
8. The ride leader is responsible for navigation; others in the group should follow the ride leader. (Even if the leader takes a different route or appears lost. Resist the temptation to try and correct the move, and wait until the group stops before giving your input).
9. Advise others in the group if you are planning to leave the group before completion of the return leg. Failure to advise your intentions may result in others going to look for you.
10. If you are uncomfortable with the pace of the group, do not ride at speeds above your comfort level. Communicate your intention to leave the group to the sweep rider, and then proceed at your own pace. You may reach your destination a few minutes behind the others, but you will get there, and that's what's important.
11. Maximum group size should be limited to approximately 5 (five) bikes in the formation. If there are more than 6 (six) bikes, consider splitting into two or more groups while trying to maintain an equal number of bikes in each group.
12. Group ride participants are expected to be ready to go at the designated departure time. Their bikes should have a full tank of gas, they should be in proper attire for the conditions, and physically ready to ride (potty stop made, medications packed if needed, sober and alert).
13. Prior to departure the ride leader should brief the participants on the ride specifics, i.e. destination, routing directions, planned stops, etc.

These guidelines have been extracted from the following sources: American Motorcycle Association - amadirectlink.com; motorvike.com; mmsgroups.org-GroupRidingGuide; [files.meetup.com-group riding](http://files.meetup.com-group-riding).