

RULES OF THE ROAD for North Shore Chapter Women on Wheels

When riding as a single rider, you only need to think about your own safety and comfort, but when riding in a group, there is a lot more to consider. People who have never ridden in groups may not know what is expected of them, so these rules were written to help everyone understand what is expected and necessary to keep yourself, and your fellow riders safe.

1. No drugs or alcohol will be permitted on a ride. Anyone using drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave the ride.
2. Arrive at the designated meeting place at least 15 minutes before the ride is expected to depart. We need time to go over safety rules and have waivers signed. Please arrive with a full tank and empty bladder. If you are joining a ride, and you think you are going to be late, please call someone from the group, otherwise, the ride will leave as scheduled.
3. All riders must have a motorcycle license to ride in the group.
4. Guests are always welcome on our rides. You are responsible for your guest and it is your responsibility to inform him/her of these rules before the ride. The guest will be required to sign a waiver form. Introduce the guest to the Ride Leader. It is the Ride Leader or Safety Officer's responsibility to secure emergency information.
5. The Ride Leader will ride in the front left lane. The sweep will ride singly at the back.
6. The group will ride in staggered formation. (Single file will sometimes be required on back roads, construction zones, or whenever the road captain determines, for safety) For purposes of these rides, the inside is considered the lane closest to the yellow line and the outside is considered the lane closest to the curb/breakdown lane.
7. Obey all rules of the road. Stop at stop signs, yield at yield signs and obey all traffic signals.
8. When pulling up to a stop sign or red traffic signal, all riders should pull together, side by side while stopped, and proceed through the intersection two at a time, then fall back into staggered formation.
9. Hand signals will be given during the ride and riders are expected to pass them down to the riders behind them. To avoid confusion please use the discussed hand signals only.
10. All riders should observe the two-second rule: two seconds from the bike directly in front of you, one second from bike diagonal to you. (Please check with Safety Officer for clarification.) Try to maintain the speed of the group. Do not ride up on the bike in front of you and do not lag behind. If you are new to riding and uncomfortable with the 2-second rule, please use your own judgment. Allow yourself enough comfort to ride with the group without causing disruption. Do not fixate on the bike in front of you. Remember to always scan ahead.
11. When changing lanes, the sweep will block the lane after the Ride Leader signals the sweep to take the lane. When the lane is clear, the Ride Leader will move into the passing lane and the rest of the group will follow. Bikes will move into the passing lane from back to front. Every rider needs to verify that the lane is clear before changing. Do not take for granted that the lane is blocked. Always do a head check before changing lanes.
12. When a car signals to break into formation while entering the highway from a ramp, or when it signals to break into the formation to exit the highway-please give the car the courtesy. Don't leave your lane to go around them and do not cut off or illegally pass cars that get into the middle of our group. Please remember that we need to share the road with cars.
13. When riding in staggered formation and a position becomes vacant, the rider diagonal and behind to the vacant spot will wave forward the row that will fill the void (note that the entire row moves forward, no crisscrossing). The row will not move until given the signal by this rider. It is not mandatory that we fill a gap before the next stop. This situation can happen sometimes if we don't get into a perfect formation when taking off or if someone leaves the group.

14. Anyone leaving the group must inform the Ride Leader or Sweep.
15. In the event of a breakdown or any problem, the Sweep will stay with you to obtain help. The rest of the group will continue on the ride until the Ride Leader can come to a safe place to stop. Please stay with the Ride Leader!
17. If we get separated at an intersection, the Ride Leader will pull the group over at a safe distance and wait for the club to catch up. If the group gets separated and you are the first person in the second group, always leave space between yourself and the car ahead of you so that as you get closer to the first pack there is time for the car to pass the first pack and leave room for them to get in front of you.
16. At tollbooths everyone goes through (after paying of course) and regroups to the right of the booth in a safe position to wait for everyone else.
17. No talking on cell phones, applying makeup, using a camera, or smoking, while riding. We know that these sound silly, but these things do actually happen in some rides, so we are reminding everyone that when riding in a group, please use common sense, and think about the safety of those around you, as well as your own.
18. HAVE FUN!!!
19. *THESE RULES ARE NOT MEANT TO SCARE PEOPLE AWAY FROM GROUP RIDING, AND CERTAINLY NOT MEANT TO MAKE US SOUND LIKE A MILITARY GROUP. THEY ARE MEANT TO REMIND EVERYONE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO BE SAFE WHEN RIDING IN A GROUP. A SIMPLE MISTAKE WHEN RIDING IN A GROUP CAN CAUSE AN ACCIDENT, AND WE'D LIKE TO AVOID THAT AT ALL COSTS! HAVE FUN, BUT BE SAFE!*