

ULYSSES CLUB OF NZ INCORPORATED
AUCKLAND BRANCH GROUP RIDE GUIDELINES

Group rides are organised by our Runs Coordinator (RC) and the Runs Committee. They are intended to give members and visitors a chance to be led over public roads by an experienced rider or riders, and to socialize over lunch and/or during any other stops.

Remember that if you want to ride with others, you must do so in a way that does not endanger anyone or interfere with the flow of traffic.⁽¹⁾ Safety on a group ride depends on everyone making, and then competently executing, good riding decisions.

There should always be a **Leader or Rider in Charge (RIC)** who will give a pre-ride briefing and lead the group to its destination(s).

There should also be a **Tail End Charlie (TEC)** who will always be last. If you have any problems or decide to leave a ride early, pull over and wait for the TEC to arrive.

All rides are graded to enable new members and visitors to choose rides that are within their capabilities and those of their machine:

SHORT: Up to 150 km

MEDIUM: Over 150 and up to 300 km

LONG: Over 300 km and up to 500 km

XTRA/LONG: Over 500+km

CRUISE: Inexperienced riders should be at the front, behind the RIC. All riders use their mirrors to keep an eye on the person behind. If they fall behind, slow down. When everyone does this the group will stay together.⁽²⁾

ANYONE: Experienced riders will usually be at the front, behind the RIC. Inexperienced riders catch-up when/if possible.

EXPERIENCED: Experienced riders will be at the front, behind the RIC. Inexperienced riders should talk to the RC or RIC before signing on.

Please do not ride outside of your comfort/competence zone in order to keep up, or show-off your riding skills. The aim is to enjoy the ride and arrive at the destination - not the nearest hospital.

When attending any ride, try to be at the departure point with a **FULL GAS TANK, EMPTY BLADDER** and having signed on to the **RUN SHEET**, at least **10 MINUTES** before the advertised departure time.

During the pre-ride briefing, **ask questions of the RIC if you do not understand or are unsure of anything**. If the RIC says that he will use (corner) markers, make sure you know what that means and know how it works.

Remember the ride destination and have a note of the RIC's mobile telephone number. Before riding off, make sure that you can easily recognise the RIC and TEC when they are on their bikes.

Always keep a safe following distance by using the **two second rule** (minimum in good weather) and extend to **four seconds** (minimum) in poor weather.

On open roads and in restricted speed areas through towns and cities **follow in an offset (staggered) position**. This helps forward vision and gives you more braking distance. If the rider in front is in the RH wheel track you should be at least one second behind and in the LH one. It also helps to keep the group together and very visible. However single file should be used on curves and when turning corners.⁽³⁾

When riders in staggered formation want to pass another vehicle, they should do it one at a time. As soon as the first rider is safely by, the second rider should move to the RH wheel track position and watch for a safe chance to pass.⁽⁴⁾

Close and pair up as much as possible when stopping at compulsory stop signs, traffic lights, etc. Be alert and aware of riders close to you. Move off with them if when/if safe to do so and resume following distances and formation.

The Common-Sense Bit & Disclaimer:

You should not attend a group ride if you are not in good health (mind and body) and free of drugs and alcohol. These factors will almost certainly lead to some very poor decision making and increase the risk to yourself and others.

Group rides are held on public roads and all participants take part at their own risk and are individually responsible for their own safety and compliance with all relevant regulations or legislation. The RIC and TEC take part as volunteer individuals and neither they nor the Ulysses Club of NZ Inc will accept any blame or liability in case of any accident or mishap whatsoever.

References:

The official NZ Road Code for Motorcyclists, NZ Transport Agency, 2016:

- (1) Group Riding, Page 101
- (2) Group Riding Tips, Page 102
- (3) Group Riding Tips, Page 103
- (4) Group Riding Tips, Page 104

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