**Putting a group together**

To follow IAM Guidelines please ensure that groups consist of full members only.

**Be welcoming**

Take directions from the ride organiser, and be prepared to include someone you don't know into your group. Don't just hang out with your mates. If you are allocated someone you don't know, make sure they feel involved. Include everybody in discussions and stick together when you stop for a break or lunch.

**Leading a group**

Familiarise yourself with the group members and before setting off, brief your group members to make sure they are all familiar with the basic rules of group riding. These are covered in the “Group Leaders Briefing Sheet”

Set out any additional rules e.g. overtaking other groups.

Remember to remind all riders to ***obey the law at all times***.

It is good practice to exchange mobile telephone numbers in case of getting lost or an emergency.

**Organise the riding order**

Less experienced members should be in the middle with more experienced and confident at the back. The best practice is for the least experienced rider to be second and the last rider should be able to follow the route.

Check what each person’s fuel tank range is so you know when the first person will need petrol and plan accordingly. Ensure they all know the destination and have a GPS or designate another member who does to keep a special eye on anyone who doesn't.

**Keep together**

When safe to do so, wait on junctions/changes of direction until you are absolutely certain the rider behind you knows which way you are going. If the group has spread out, consider finding somewhere safe and waiting until you have all regrouped.

If you don't see the person behind you for anything other than a short while, slow down or stop somewhere safe until they catch up. If they don't appear for a few minutes, consider going back to look for them. If you have regrouped but others are still missing, consider back tracking as a group to find the missing rider.

**Be tolerant**

Your group should all be travelling at approximately the same pace as the slowest rider.

Never criticise someone for going too slowly, nor encourage them to go beyond a speed at which they feel comfortable. If someone is completely out of step, consider re-

organising with another group during a stop, but if this can't be done, be nice.

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The idea is for everyone to enjoy themselves. It is your role as group leader to enable all the members of your group to have an enjoyable day out by providing a safe and relaxed atmosphere. Everyone has to start slow, and if they are discouraged on a group ride, they won't come back.

If you can't go as fast as you'd like to, practice accuracy rather than speed. Ride smoothly and at a steady pace.

Check at stops to see who needs petrol or a toilet break. On long runs, consider a coffee break if an opportunity presents itself. If it starts to rain, pull in to see if anyone needs to put on waterproofs, or take them off if it stops. Only stop where it's safe for everybody.

Brief everyone in your group on how you would like the ride to go. Some riders have been out on group rides before but many do not know what the rules are and what is expected of them to ensure a safe and enjoyable day out. Below is just a simple guide of things you might like to cover.

**Group**

Introductions – be friendly and exchange numbers

Abilities – positions within the group

Route – GPS, plans etc.

Destination – first stop

**Riding**

Waiting at direction changes (junctions etc)

Speed Limits – obey them!

No overtaking within the group

Be careful to avoid being drawn in to overtakes

Staggered positioning

Indian running line

Finally, point out that everyone is responsible for their own riding and they must not push themselves into doing things they are uncomfortable with. If in doubt – DON’T.

Group Leaders will ensure everybody is introduced and there is the opportunity to discuss any problems or concerns. Group Leaders must provide a briefing on what is expected and how they want the ride to proceed. Group positioning is allocated according to known experience and familiarity with MAM riding rules.

One last thing as a group leader, remember, if you are doing 60 mph and carry out a number of overtakes, the last person will be working very hard to keep up. You should therefore reduce your speed in places on the route to allow the group to reform thereby easing the pressure on those behind to make up ground.

**Cautionary note**

Should an incident occur or complaint be received from any of the participants, we will follow the guide lines in the IAM handbook which state;

*"If in the opinion of the most senior person present, a full member, through his/her attitude or actions, endangers others within a group ride or members of the public or whose riding would bring the IAM into disrepute he/she should be advised by that senior member to rectify said actions immediately or be excluded from continuing within the group ride. The member should be advised that at the conclusion of the ride a report will be submitted to the committee, regarding the incident.”*