

## General Chapter Guidelines

**These rules are written for the safety and well-being of those attending H.O.G. rides and are designed to maximize everyone's enjoyment.**

- Arrive prepared: full gas tank, fluids and tire pressure checked, proper gear and an attitude for fun
  - Times posted in the ride calendar are the departure times. Please arrive 20 - 30 minutes before for the pre-ride and safety briefing.
  - Non-chapter members need to sign an Adult waiver release form. Minors have two special releases: one to be signed by a parent or legal guardian and the second (for minors between the ages of 12 and 18) – a Minor's Assumption of Risk – to be signed by the minor involved.
- 

### **H.O.G. functions under the following general guidelines:**

- All rides are led by a Lead / Road Captain assisted by other qualified Road Captains – the Road Captain riding at the back of the pack is called the Sweep. Occasionally, on large rides, additional Road Captains will be within the group to assist riders and serve as Lead Road Captain should the riders become separated.
- The Lead Road Captain will give a pre-ride briefing which will include the route, gas and rest stops, a review of riding rules, an introduction of Road Captains for the ride, mention of any hazardous conditions discovered on the pre-ride and the destination plan. The Lead Road Captain will also review the group riding guidelines and will designate the termination point of the ride.
- H.O.G. rides in a staggered formation – the Lead Road Captain will ride in the left-hand side of the lane and the next rider in the right-hand side and so forth. Single file formation may also be designated on some roads and there should be a 2 second distance between riders.
- Riders will maintain at least a 2 second distance from the rider directly in front of them and 1 second behind the rider to their right or left. The actual distance will increase as speed increases – Note: if you cannot see the face of the rider diagonally in front of you in their mirror, you are too close. You are in their blind spot.
- You “own” your entire lane – if a rider needs to swerve to avoid an obstacle or use another line through a corner the lane must be clear. Do NOT slide up on the bike in front of you!
- You should ride in your third of the lane when in a staggered formation and the rider should continue to use their third of the lane and not the whole lane as in a single file formation.
- If gaps occur in the formation, they will be filled by moving to the other side of your lane (turn your head and look, then use your directional before moving) – do not “slide up” and pass the rider in front of you – this is illegal and unsafe.
- Hand signals will be used as appropriate – these will be demonstrated at the pre-ride briefing and should be passed back to the rider(s) behind you.
- Riders should try to maintain their starting position in the group for the entire ride. This will allow them to become comfortable with the riding style of those riders around them. However, if you would like to move to a different position in the group please talk with the other riders before making the change and DO NOT make the change during the ride. Please wait until the next stop.
- No one will be expected to ride beyond his or her comfort level.
- H.O.G. riders do not block lanes at stop signs and traffic lights as it is illegal. Do not run red lights or stop signs in an attempt to remain with the pack. The Lead Road Captain will be aware that the ride has become separated and will either slow down or stop and wait until the group is reunited.

- If a rider has any problems, they are encouraged to approach either the Lead Road Captain on a ride or any other available Road Captain. A problem cannot be solved if it is not addressed.
  - Ride your own ride: do not be tricked into blindly following the rider in front of you. Remain aware – you are responsible for your own safety! Know the ride route prior to the ride and don't just be a follower.
  - In most cases all rides end at the destination / termination point as designated by the Ride Leader / Road Captain. If possible, it is a good idea for the chapter to ride back to the general area of departure as a group. Every effort will be made to ensure that all riders know where they are and how to get back from a destination. However, it's always a good idea to carry a map of the local areas in case you are separated on the return.
  - If there is a problem or a breakdown the Sweep will stop with the disabled bike along with the buddy rider and all other riders will continue with the Lead Road Captain to a safe location before stopping.
  - H.O.G. rides are drug and alcohol-free events. The Lead Rider / Road Captain will designate the termination point for the ride. At this point riders are free to go their own way and at this point if so, desired may choose to consume alcohol but may be asked **not** to ride back with other riders who have not made the choice of consuming alcohol. This is an individual choice and due to liabilities is not condoned by H.O.G. before or during rides.
- 

### H.O.G. Chapter Alcohol Policy

- Absolutely 'NO ALCOHOL' before or during a H.O.G. ride. Liquor liability coverage is not covered by the chapter, our sponsoring dealership, or Harley-Davidson. For your protection, alcohol consumption and illegal drugs are not tolerated.
- Anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the start of a H.O.G. ride will be unable to participate in the ride at the discretion of the Lead Road Captain.
- Anyone consuming drugs or alcohol during a H.O.G. ride will be asked to leave the ride by the Lead Road Captain. The Lead Road Captain will designate the destination / termination point for the ride. At this point riders may choose to consume alcohol at their own discretion but will be asked **not** to ride back with other riders who have not made the choice of consuming alcohol. This is for their own safety. This policy also applies to passengers.