

Santa Maria Harley Owners Group #1403 General Guidelines

These guidelines 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. If you need to 'Tap Out' due to illness, being tired, etc. then you should do so before the ride. It is better to ride another day when you are in the right mental and physical condition.
 - 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.
 - Members MUST be current in National / Chapter dues to participate in any sanctioned ride.
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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 are in a double row, 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.
- 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. Single file riding will have a 2 second distance between riders.
- 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!
- If a rider drops out of a staggered formation and the group is not going to stop (e.g., a rider decides to ride with the Sweep,) it is desirable to preserve the integrity of the formation by filling the gap. However, you should not fill the gap until the rider in front of you acknowledges your presence by waving you to move forward. Gradually each rider behind the gap, waiting for a signal from the rider ahead to move forward, will fill the gap safely. If the rider in front of you does not wave you forward maintain your position and do not fill the gap. The gap will eventually get filled either by stopping at a stop sign or light or when the group stops for a break, which is the preferred method of filling the void.
- Hand signals will be used as appropriate – these will be demonstrated at the pre-ride briefing.
- It is desirable for riders to try and 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. You should ride in your third of the lane.
- No one will be expected to ride beyond his or her comfort level. If you feel you are riding outside your comfort level, then ask the Lead Rider or Sweep if you can ride behind or just in front of the Sweep.

- 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.
 - Do not be tricked into blindly following the rider in front of you. Remain aware – you are responsible for your own safety!
 - In most cases all rides end at the destination or 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 on 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.
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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. For your protection, alcohol consumption, prescription (those that could impair one's abilities), recreational, 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 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 Rider / Road Captain will designate the termination point for the ride. At this point riders may choose to consume alcohol at their own discretion but may be asked **not** to ride back with other riders who have not made the choice of consuming alcohol. This is for their own safety.
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Inappropriate Language and Behavior

Some people use profanity and dirty words freely. Some people use foul language when their emotions run high. Other people think they are just being funny. However, there is no excuse for obscene or sexual language, ethical jokes or slurs, or personal attacks using foul language. This includes not only the spoken word but also any photos and written material. Chapter members should not be forced to endure dirty words or sexual talk that makes them uncomfortable. Inappropriate patches shall not be worn or displayed on a members clothing at any time as a Chapter member. There is no place for this type of language or behavior, and it will not be tolerated in the Santa Maria Harley Owners Group and could be grounds for termination of membership with the Chapter. If the Chapter Manager determines that a member's conduct is undesirable or contrary to the sponsoring Dealer's standards or vision the membership may be revoked per National H.O.G. Chapter Charter guidance. This applies to both rider and passenger.