

Social rides are organized for the enjoyment of Associates, Observers, Members and their guests. They are an ideal event for associates to practice advanced riding by following more experienced riders, and for observers to learn new routes.

The following information is for the guidance of people organising such rides and acting as ride leaders. *Please note that these are only recommendations, and may be adjusted to suit the riding style and group dynamic of each region as they see fit.*

Planning. The leader must plan each ride, taking into account the following:

- Route. Determine the best route to achieve maximum enjoyment:
 - Ride duration should be 2-3 hours.
 - Ride routes should include interesting back roads or a place of interest.
 - Ride routes should avoid boring roads such as motorways (where possible).
 - Gravel and road works should be avoided (where possible).
 - The destination should accommodate social interaction between participants (such as a coffee shop, lunch bar, pie shop, ice creamery at a beach, etc).
- Promulgation. Rides should be advertised in advance (at least two weeks) to ensure participants are aware that the rides will be taking place. Facebook is an ideal tool, as is e-mail or the IAM website <http://iam.org.nz/>. Participants must be informed that:
 - The start time advertised is the briefing time, not the arrival time. They should come early if they want to chat before the ride starts.
 - They must wear suitable riding gear. Hi-viz is not mandatory, but is desirable.
 - Riders must arrive with a full tank of fuel.
- Weather. Rides should be postponed or cancelled if heavy rain or extreme wind is forecast. Riders should be able to cope with light rain or showers.
- Gear. The following additional gear is recommended:
 - Cell phones for Leader & Tail End Charlie (TEC) (Mandatory)
 - Communications systems for Leader & TEC (Highly desirable)
 - First Aid Kits for Leader & TEC (Highly desirable)
 - Hi-Visibility vests/jackets or reflective accessories for Leader & TEC (Desirable)

Preparation. Before delivering a riders brief, the leader should conduct the following actions:

- Ensure all riders load their cell phones with the Leader & TEC phone numbers (or write them down).
- Ensure Leader & TEC have a first aid kit (if available - if there is only one kit, give it to the TEC).
- Ensure all personnel are wearing full riding gear appropriate to the conditions.
- Remind all personnel that they need the appropriate licence for the bike they are riding.
- Remind all personnel that they need to have a current Warrant of Fitness.
- Ensure all motorcycles have enough fuel for the journey.

- Determine the best method of route indication (Follow the Leader (FTL) is preferred, but pointer system can be useful for rides with more than 6 participants).
- Take a head count, ensure riders details along with their “In Case of Emergency” (ICE) contact details are annotated on rider briefing sheet (Annex A).

Briefing. A recommended briefing sheet is attached, however the brief should be adjusted as needed to cater for the number of participants on the ride, and how well they know each other. The rider brief should cover the following subjects:

- Route, distance & times.
- Meeting/Rendezvous points.
- Roles (Leader, TEC, Observers, etc).
- Method of route indication (FTL or Pointers).
- Anticipated hazards, and tips and techniques for avoiding them.
- Cover riding in staggered formation.
- Emphasising that everyone needs to “ride their own ride” to avoid riding beyond their capabilities and that safety is the priority at all times. Inconsiderate or unsafe riding won’t be tolerated and should be reported to the Ride Leader if it is seen.
- Emergency Actions.

During the Ride

The following guidelines should be observed:

- The ride needs to be run in accordance with the plan. “On the fly” route changes should be avoided where possible in case the group gets separated.
- Riders should ride to the IAM system throughout the ride, and ride within the law.
- Riders should ride in staggered formation where possible, but single file in twisty sections of the ride.
- After crossing major intersections or passing through traffic lights, the Leader should slow down or even stop in a safe place to allow the group to reform.
- When it is safe to do so, passing manoeuvres should be completed one at a time until the group is past slow moving traffic.
- All riders should be as courteous as possible to other road users.
- If you someone needs to leave the ride early, it is essential that you tell the TEC – otherwise everyone will stop and search for the missing rider

Completion. It is up to the leader to decide where the ride will conclude – this may be at the destination, or at a logical point so that people do not have to back-track home. At the conclusion of the ride, the Leader needs to:

- Account for all participants.
- Emphasise any lessons learned.
- Recover all gear. (First Aid Kits).
- Report any incidents or near misses to the Group’s Regional leader.

SUGGESTED RIDER BRIEFING SHEET

Pre-Briefing

As Leader, you should ensure that:

- All riders load your contact number on their phones or have it written down
- Communications between Leader & Tail End Charlie (TEC) are determined
- Leader & TEC should have a first aid kit
- All participants are wearing full riding gear appropriate to the conditions. Hi-Viz gear is not compulsory, but recommended
- All personnel should have the appropriate licence for their bike (They are personally liable if stopped)
- All motorcycles are roadworthy (they should have a current Warrant of Fitness & registration, and no obvious defects. [They are personally liable if stopped])
- All motorcycles have enough fuel for the journey
- Riders details are annotated on the reverse of this sheet

Briefing (Add or delete as required)

- The ride today will be to_____. It will take approximately _____ and will be approximately _____km in length.
- To ensure we stay together we will use the Follow the Leader/ Pointer system of indication. If you get separated from the group, meeting/rendezvous points will be at _____.
- The Ride Leader will be myself, and I am riding a _____. Tail End Charlie is _____ and they are riding a _____. We both have first aid kits.
- Anticipated hazards we need to consider are: road conditions, weather conditions, traffic, cyclists and livestock.
- Ride in staggered formation on the straights, single file on twisties.
- Safety is paramount. Do not attempt to keep up with the bike in front if you are uncomfortable with the pace, ride your own ride. Ride to the System, and ride within the law. People putting others in danger may be asked to leave the group. If you overtake another rider, do so legally and safely.
- In the event of an emergency, ensure your own safety first. Park in a safe place, and take corrective action as required. Tail End Charlie will be on the scene quickly, and if required contact the ride leader and emergency services.
- If you wish to leave the ride early, please tell the Tail End Charlie. We need to account for everyone at the end of the ride.
- Are there any questions?

Rider Briefing Sheet (Reverse)

Rider Declaration

I declare that I am participating in this ride at my own risk, and will do my utmost to demonstrate responsible riding techniques to safeguard myself and other participants.

I will not hold the IAM responsible or liable for any injury to myself or damage to my vehicle or possessions through my participation in this event.

Name	Bike	Cell phone #	Emergency Contact	Signature

Ride Leader Declaration

I declare that I am participating in this ride as Ride Leader, and as such will ensure that the ride will be conducted in accordance with IAM guidelines as promulgated by the Council.

Name	Signature	Date