

Group Riding Safety

Riding with other motorcyclists is a great way to enhance your ride, however, riding in a group safely will require you to adhere to some conventions and limitations. When you ride alone, you have total freedom to vary your position on the roadway, make stops and turns, set your own pace, and ride without considering the impacts of your actions on other riders. The entire roadway is yours to use any way you wish. When you ride in a group you will be riding in close proximity to other riders and the actions of each rider can create dangerous conditions for other riders. The rider behind you requires enough space in front of him or her to be able to see road hazards in time to avoid them and will also need enough maneuvering space to do so. Each rider also needs to be able to see far enough ahead to anticipate traffic conflicts, estimate entry speeds for corners, and be prepared to stop or turn. For these reasons, riders in groups need to adhere to some special rules. Following the group riding conventions as described in the “Motorcycle Safety Foundation Guide to Group Riding Video” and the Clubs’ “BMWDFW Guidelines for Group Riding” document will give you the basics. These resources are available on the BMWDFW website. Like all riding skills, practice is required for proficiency.

When you decide to ride in a group ride you are electing to follow the route and pace set by the ride leader. You can choose to leave the group at any stopping point if you inform the ride leader before you do so. While riding on a group ride you will be expected to stay in your position in the group formation and ride at the pace set by the group leader. If the speed of the group is too fast for you, slow to a speed you think is safe and continue until the ride pauses at a safe stopping place and talk to the ride leader about your concern. He or she will work out a solution that is best for the group and for you. Keep your visual focus far ahead of the rider you are following and avoid fixating on the back of that motorcycle. Do not proceed across an intersection until it is safe to do so; never follow the bike ahead of you across an intersection without first checking for crossing traffic. On a group ride you are expected to keep the rider behind you in sight most the time. You share a responsibility for helping each other complete the ride safely. If you lose sight of the rider behind you for more than one minute, you are expected to slow as needed until they are again in sight. If you must stop to wait for a following rider to catch up, be sure to pull off the road in a safe place that does not obstruct other traffic on the road. If someone has a problem during the ride, the riders in front and behind are responsible for assisting the rider with the problem. The last rider in the formation has a responsibility to take charge and coordinate assistance efforts in the event of an unplanned stop.

Your safety is always your own responsibility when you ride a motorcycle, and this does not change when you join others for a group ride. It is always your responsibility to operate your motorcycle safely and ensure that your speed and proximity to other vehicles allows you to do so. You always have the option of choosing to follow the route as a solo rider and meet up with the group at stops or at the destination of the ride instead of riding in a group formation. Be prepared to navigate for yourself if you get separated from the group. Always carry personal medical info and emergency contact information in a conspicuous way on your person.

[BMWDFW Guidelines for Group Riding](#)

[Motorcycle Safety Foundation Guide to Group Riding Video](#)