

**BMW Motorcycle Club Pretoria,  
South Africa**

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# **Club Rider Manual S and GS**

**Members please ensure that you read this before  
every ride.**

**April 2015**

## A. Ride Rules for participants (S- and GS-Rides)

(Ride leaders to brief the following before the ride and members please read this before the ride.)

### Before the Ride

- Prior to the ride; the club member/rider is responsible for his/her own motorcycle; mechanical condition, road worthiness, license, and driver's license. Please fill up with fuel prior to departure.
- If a club member/rider feels the need to declare a specific medical condition, and feel it will aid the rider leader/sweep in the case of an emergency, he/she is free to do so.
- Riders with a learner's license, please inform the ride leader/sweep so that they can assist and make your ride safe and pleasurable.
- The ride leader to brief the route, stop points, dangerous areas (potholes, blind rises etc.) and arrangements for the destination.
- Ride leader to ensure all club members/riders has signed the attendance register; rider and pillion must both sign in their separate entity and fill in an emergency contact. Guest/non-members must each sign the indemnity forms before they can participate in the ride.
- All persons joining the ride **must** wear the appropriate rider and pillion protective gear.
- In the event of a club member inviting guests along, he/she is responsible to ensure the guest is experienced enough to ride in a bigger group, have a valid license, motorcycle is road worthy and licensed, wear the appropriate rider gear(helmet, gloves, jacket and shoes) and have signed the indemnity forms.
- Ride leader and sweeps to convey their phone numbers before departure.

Ride leader/sweep has the right to refuse anybody that endangers the group in any other way.

### During the Ride

- No one is allowed to pass the ride leader. If the ride leader indicates for the faster riders to pass, they are allowed to pass, but must stop at the next turn and join the ride again.
- During the ride, when a direction change is required, it will be indicated by the ride leader. The ride leader will indicate to the second bike to stop for the turn. The second bike has to stop, where it is safe for him-/herself in the most visible place at a turn to show the third and following bikes how and where to turn safely.
- The second or indicator bike can **only** leave this point when the designated sweep (last bike) indicates the rider to proceed and never before. This could be a significant time depending on group size. Please wait for the sweep otherwise members will get lost.
- No overtaking on the left. Ever.
- Try to ride staggered formation when safely possible on a single lane road, but advisable on freeways. It gives x2 the safety distance when the need arises to brake in an emergency. Make sure the rider in front of you can see you.

- Do not fiddle with GPS, helmet, gloves while riding the bike. Undivided attention is required while riding in a group.
- Always keep a safe riding distance to the rider in front. And keep the rider behind you in your mirror. Higher speed requires increase the following distances for safety. Two telephone poles between bikes is a good indicator at 100 km/h.
- New/first time riders with the club, to stay in the back of the group. Observe fellow riders and familiarize themselves to the group riding of the club.
- Ride within your own comfort zone and enjoy the ride, even if it is slower. Rider and group safety is important. Slower riders will catch up during regroup stops. Faster riders are to respect the slower and new riders.
- In the event of a breakdown, the sweep will assist the rider with breakdown and the ride leader will take the rest of the group to the destination. With the stop, the group will regroup and another sweep will be appointed in this case.
- Do not hold up faster cars, let them pass. Always drive on the left hand side of the road
- Everyone fills up with petrol at the same time, every time. No exceptions.
- Stay in the speed limits.

It is advisable to acquire a **Life Cap** from the Regalia Committee member, emergency details is filled in on the label, important medical information and **ICE** (In Case of Emergency) numbers. It can be worn on rider gear, on your key ring or any easy accessible place.

### **B. Additional Rules for Off-road Riding (GS- Rides)**

(Ride leaders to brief the following before the ride and members please read this before the ride.)

- The GS ride leader will always designate the route as easy- new rider-friendly or as an advanced ride. The ride leader is to supply enough information for club members to make an informed decision.
- Route Designations:
  - Easy- New Rider-friendly – Route consist of gravel secondary dirt roads. Ride Leader to indicate corrugation sections, sand and other obstacles.
  - Advanced Ride – The route will challenge the more experienced GS Riders. Route will include sandy, rocky and technical terrain riding.
  - *Routes can include obstacles like: water crossings, steep inclines or declines or what so ever, the group will stop and help all bikes to overcome the obstacles safely.*
- Club members, who join the ride, are politely requested to download GPS routes or tracks and take GPS devices along on rides.
- For the tar roads leading to the gravel road, the approach stays as above in *Section A*. The ride leader will indicate direction change to second rider and the second will indicate direction change to the group and the whole group will pass. The second rider will join the group before the sweep.
- Please ask the new riders to fall in at the back of the group to familiarize them with group/club riding first.

- When the gravel starts, stop the group. To deflate the bike's tyres and set up the bikes by disabling ABS and Traction Control. Ride leader and sweep is to float in group, to ensure the new riders are deflating to correct tyre pressures and knows how to disable riding aids. Ride leader and sweeper also to assist to see that luggage is secure to bikes.
- Ask riders to ride in their own comfort zone. It is not a race.
- Even though the GS group is travelling on gravel roads, still keep left, and pass right. **Never pass a rider on the left.** When passing a rider, do it when it is safe for both riders. Do not give the rider in front a fright.
- Brief the group about the ride and obstacles. Tell everybody what is to be expected and indicate to the group when an obstacle is encountered that the group will stop. Indicate where the bikes will be taken through one at a time. Safety always first.
- When a technical obstacle is encountered, only allow one bike in the obstacle with the other members to aid. Safety first.
- Allow ample following distance when riding in dust.
- In mud allow a good following distance.
- On GS rides ensure that rider takes along sufficient water to avoid dehydration. Also breakfast bars, protein bars and jelly type sweet to keep sugar levels stable.
- GS riders also needs to take along puncture repair kits, tow ropes and tools to do basic bush maintenance to get bikes out of bundu's to civilisation.
- **Most important – ENJOY THE RIDE!**