

## SECTION 4. ABOUT BASIC OPERATION

**Introduction:** This section provides basic knowledge for learning to ride. The information will help when you first learn to operate a motorcycle in this course.

### ENGINE START AND STOP

A procedure called **FINE-C** is used as an engine pre-start routine. It stands for Fuel, Ignition, Neutral, Engine Cut-off Switch, and Choke/Clutch.

**Fuel:** If equipped, turn the fuel supply valve *On*.

**Ignition:** Turn ignition switch to the *On* position. Some indicator lights should come on.

**Neutral:** Be in neutral. The green light in the instrument cluster indicates neutral. When in neutral, the motorcycle will roll forward and backward with the clutch lever, front brake lever, and rear brake pedal released.

**Engine Cut-off Switch:** Put the switch in the *Run/On* position.

**Choke/Clutch:** Set the choke as needed (*On* for a cold engine). Some motorcycles do not have a choke. Also, many motorcycles require the clutch lever to be squeezed to start the engine.

When you start the engine, apply at least one of the brakes, squeeze in the clutch lever fully, and press the starter button. Do not use the throttle if using the choke as this could provide too much fuel to the engine. Once the engine is started, you can release the clutch lever, but do so slowly in case the motorcycle is not in neutral.

Some engines will not start if the side stand is down. Many motorcycles will allow the engine to start but will stall when the motorcycle is shifted into gear if the side stand is down.

To stop the engine, first move the engine cut-off switch to *Off* with your right thumb. Do this every time so you can develop the habit in case you need to shut off the engine for an emergency. Then turn the ignition switch to *Off*. Turn the fuel supply valve to *Off* if it has that position. An easy way to remember this is “Thumb, key, valve.”

### CLUTCH LEVER AND FRICTION ZONE

Proper use of the clutch lever and friction zone is critical for starting out smoothly and for slow speed maneuvers. The friction zone is a small area in the travel of the clutch lever that controls the connection between the engine and the rear wheel. Fully squeezing in the clutch lever removes power from the rear wheel. If you lose control of the motorcycle while riding in this course, you should squeeze in the clutch lever fully and use the brakes as needed.

### RIDING POSTURE

Good posture helps you control the motorcycle. Keep your back straight and head and eyes up. Keep both feet on the footrests and near the controls. Keep your knees and elbows in. Arms should be relaxed and bent. Keep your fingers around the throttle with your wrist flat.

As you are learning to ride, it may be helpful to keep the fingers of your left hand over the clutch lever (cover the clutch lever). This is so you can readily remove power from the rear wheel.

