

# Group Riding/ Road Captain Guidelines

**Central Midwest** 

**HOG 2793** 

Olathe, KS

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#### I. Objectives

The Mission of our Chapter is to Ride & Have Fun. In order to accomplish this everyone needs to be aware of group riding techniques and safety procedures. In addition, the Road Captain plays a critical role in accomplishing this mission by making every effort to assist with the safety of our members and guests on Chapter rides.

As Road Captain, you have two basic objectives:

- 1. Lead the group to its destination in a well-organized, disciplined, and safe manner.
- 2. Avoid hazardous situations.

#### II. Road Captain/ Sweeps

Anyone can be a Road Captain, however it you choose to lead a ride below are some **suggestions** to make the ride more enjoyable and safe for everyone. It is expressly noted that Road Captains share no responsibility or liability for actions of others that may be deemed irresponsible or occur due to inadequate rider skills. Motorcycling is inherently dangerous and each rider is responsible for his/her own safety. Everyone should "ride their own ride" at all times.

#### 1. Road Captain:

- a. Plan the ride, the route and destination, if possible.
- b. Is responsible for ensuring that the HOG release forms are completed and signed for the ride by all non-members.
- c. Is expected to lead a group of riders in a safe manner until the final destination has been reached.
- d. Should execute his or her best judgment in situations not specifically covered in these guidelines.
- e. Assign a Ride Sweep
- f. At the discretion of the Road Captain, he or she may designate and assign additional Road Captains and Sweeps for the ride.
- g. Conduct the pre-ride briefing for all riders.
- h. May change the route as actual road and/or weather conditions dictate, or may cancel the ride when necessary.
- i. Should instruct any rider to ride in a specific position within the group, or to leave the group entirely for reasons of misconduct, disorderly or unsafe riding, or for faulty and unsafe equipment.
- j. Should assure that a first aid kit and basic tool kit is available for the ride.
- k. Ensure that the HOG alcohol policy should be enforced.
  - i. HOG alcohol policy is: No alcohol before or during a ride.
- I. As soon as practical, following an accident/incident, the Road Captain shall notify the Director, Assistant Director or Head Road Captain of the circumstances of

the event. All accidents/ incidents should be relayed to National HOG as soon as possible by the Director, Asst. Director or Head Road Captain.

#### 2. Sweep

- Should be observant of any hazardous conditions or conduct, take immediate corrective action as appropriate, and inform the Road Captain at the earliest safe opportunity.
- b. In the event the group becomes split and in the absence of a Road Captain, the Sweep should use his or her best judgment to determine in which position (Lead or Sweep) to ride. Consideration should be given to the experience of the group:
  - i. is someone else available that can assume either position,
  - ii. how safely the Sweep could move into the Lead position,
  - iii. how far apart the two groups are, and
  - iv. how long it would be before they could rejoin the rest of the group.
- c. Should carry a well-stocked first aid kit to the ride (see special note on page 5)
- d. Should carry a well-stocked tool kit to the ride, (see special note on page 5)
- Should carry a cell phone or make sure that one is available from another
  participant in the ride in order to stay in touch with the other Road Captains and
  to call 911.

#### III. Road Captain/ Sweep Safety Equipment

#### 1. First Aid Kit

All Road Captains/ Sweeps should carry a well-stocked first aid kit. The Chapter should provide the kit if the Road Captain/ Sweep does not have his own. Kits provided by the Chapter should be signed out to Road Captains/ Sweeps.

#### 2. Tool Kit

Although Road Captains/ Sweeps are not mechanics, all Road Captains/ Sweeps should carry a basic tool kit to assist others who may need to make minor repairs. A recommended tool kit includes the following: assorted hex head wrenches, assorted torx head wrenches, flat head & Phillips screwdrivers, pliers, electrical tape, and zip ties.

#### 3. Communication Kit

Clear and precise communication is critical during the pre-ride briefing as well during any critical incident. The communication kit shall contain, but is not limited to, the following information and documents.

- a. The Pre-Ride checklist and ride evaluation criteria form
- b. Accident report forms
- c. Camera

- d. List of Ride Participants cellular telephone numbers
- e. The HOG Road Road-Side Assistance Number (888-443-5896)

#### 4. Mobile Communications

It is recommended (but not required) that the Road Captain and Sweep be equipped with some type of mobile communication system (ie: CB radio or other) so that constant communication within the group can be maintained.

#### **IV.** Meeting Place & Time

The Road Captain/ Sweep should determine the meeting place and time for each ride. Local rides should normally meet and depart from Rawhide Harley Davidson. All of the Road Captains/ Sweeps for each ride should meet at least 30 minutes prior to the ride to discuss ride specifics. Any Chapter member(s) can request rides; however, it is the responsibility of a Road Captain/ Sweep to facilitate and coordinate all aspects of rides.

Local rides with multiple groups going to the same location should use the same route used by the planning Road Captain. The planning Road Captain should establish the appropriate departure times for each group to assure the integrity of the smaller group concept, which is consistent with established safety protocols (written or unwritten).

Out of town overnight trips can have more than one ride plan, which may involve multiple Road Captains/ Sweeps going to the same final destination. Overnight ride meeting locations should be pre-determined by the Road Captain planning the ride. Each Road Captain should lead their group as one ride and should play an integral role with the ride planning and related pertinent information for their ride.

#### V. Pre-ride Briefing

Prior to each ride, the Road Captain should conduct a briefing for the entire group. During this briefing the Road Captain should review the route to the final destination (end of ride), planned stops as applicable, procedure for return ride (i.e. on your own, organized groups, and routes home if needed) and if necessary, break the riders into groups for safety. Road Captains and Sweeps should be identified during the briefing. The Road Captain should conduct the pre-ride brief utilizing the pre-ride briefing sheet. The briefing should be done as expeditiously as possible. The following talking points should be covered prior to every ride.

#### 1. Staggered Riding -

- a. 1 sec interval minimum between you and the rider in the alternate lane position in front of you
- b. 2 sec interval minimum between you and the rider directly in front of you
- c. No crossover to fill the gap of alternating lane positions.
- d. Trikes should ride in the center of the lane keeping a minimum of 2 seconds between them and the closest bike in front of them.
- 2. **Stop Signs** double up, proceed through as pairs and then return to normal staggered formation.
- 3. **Stop Lights** stop if the light turns red, regardless of your position in the group. Proceed on green when the way is clear.
- 4. **Lane Changes** pass signal back, each rider is ultimately responsible for their own safety. If possible, on multiple lane highways, the Sweep should secure the lane.
- 5. **Passing traffic** single up while passing, use your own judgment. The Road Captain in the passing lane indicates no oncoming traffic. Return to your own lane and proper formation as soon as possible. Warning; Passing may only be done where legal to do so!
- 6. **Blocking** Lane blocking is not permissible.

#### 7. Hand Signals



#### 8. Accident or Breakdown Procedure

#### The Sweep

The Sweep, along with a witness, should stop to assess the situation and/or:

- 1) Ensure all other riders continue with the planned route,
- 2) Direct traffic away from incident/accident and administer first aid to any injured parties, if necessary.
- 3) Call 911 if necessary,
- 4) Remain with the disabled vehicle to provide any needed assistance as long as necessary, and
- 5) You may be asked to coordinate the transport of the vehicle to a repair facility and assist the rider with necessary transportation if able.

#### **The Road Captain**

- 1) Should continue to either the next planned stop, or to a safe location that should accommodate the remainder of the group.
- 2) Contact the Sweep and obtain the information regarding the accident/breakdown.
- 3) Determine what action to take after discussing the situation over with the Sweep.

#### VI. Riding Formations

The basic formation for Chapter rides is normally the staggered formation. Environmental conditions should dictate when the Road Captain places the group in a single file formation.

Environmental considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Road width
- 2) Presence of frequent or tight curves (the twisties)
- 3) Road conditions (construction, sand or gravel, potholes, etc.)
- 4) Weather

#### **VII. Hand Signals**(see Section V-6)

Hand signals should be used to maneuver the group, change formation or point out hazards.

Hand signals should be given in a timely manner. Not so early that they are meaningless, and not so late that they become unnecessary.

Normally, the Road Captain should initiate all hand signals with the exception of pointing out hazards. Any rider in the group, in any position, upon becoming aware of a hazard, should point out the hazard to all riders that follow.

When the Road Captain issues a hand signal, he or she shall hold the hand signal for sufficient time to alert the riders behind the Road Captain of an important

instruction/notification. Each subsequent rider should maintain the hand signal until the rider behind acknowledges receipt by also performing the hand signal. The Sweep should perform the hand signal to acknowledge receipt to the rider in front of the Sweep.

### CAUTION: DO NOT MAINTAIN OR PERFORM ANY HAND SIGNAL IF SAFETY REQUIRES TWO HANDS ON YOUR HANDLEBARS

#### **VIII. Road Captain Candidates**

- 1) Anyone can become a Road Captain/Sweep.
- It is suggested that the candidate attend Group Rider Orientation and Road Captain Training administered by the Head Road Captain or Senior Road Captains and/or Safety Officer first.

### **Road Captain Pre Ride Check List**

Sign up s	hee	<u>.t</u>
		Check that everyone has completely filled in information Note Road Captain or Captains and all Sweeps on form.
Waiver SI	heet	<u>ts</u>
		Check that everyone has signed a waiver (riders & passengers)
Accident	rep	<u>orts</u>
		Check for copy of form to be present on all rides.
List of ce	ll nu	umbers for Captain and Sweeps
		Make available a list of cell phone #'s to each rider, upon request.
Maps of r	out	e (road conditions)
		Go over route to be covered and any road hazards that may occur.
Note Road Captain or Captains and all Sweeps on form.  Waiver Sheets   Check that everyone has signed a waiver (riders & passengers)  Accident reports   Check for copy of form to be present on all rides.  List of cell numbers for Captain and Sweeps   Make available a list of cell phone #'s to each rider, upon request.  Maps of route (road conditions)   Go over route to be covered and any road hazards that may occur.  Ride level of ride (all riders are skilled for the level)   State level of ride, makes sure everyone is comfortable, and divides into two groups in needed.  Stops on ride and where ride is to end   Announce any stops along ride and where it should end. Assist anyone needing help in returning.   Ask if anyone needs more frequent stops than planned stops?  Roadside Assistance (888-443-5896)   Furnish number for those that have Road Side Assistance  First Aid Kit, Tool Kit, Cameras   Check for riders that have First Aid Kits, Tool Kits, Cameras, if none available, Road Captain needs to check out chapter Kits & return after the event  Hand signals (pass signals back)		
		State level of ride, makes sure everyone is comfortable, and divides into two groups if needed.
Check that everyone has completely filled in information Note Road Captain or Captains and all Sweeps on form.  Waiver Sheets  Check that everyone has signed a waiver (riders & passengers)  Accident reports Check for copy of form to be present on all rides.  List of cell numbers for Captain and Sweeps Make available a list of cell phone #'s to each rider, upon request.  Maps of route (road conditions) Go over route to be covered and any road hazards that may occur.  Ride level of ride (all riders are skilled for the level) State level of ride, makes sure everyone is comfortable, and divides into two groups in needed.  Stops on ride and where ride is to end Announce any stops along ride and where it should end. Assist anyone needing help in returning. Ask if anyone needs more frequent stops than planned stops?  Roadside Assistance (888-443-5896) Furnish number for those that have Road Side Assistance  First Aid Kit, Tool Kit, Cameras Check for riders that have First Aid Kits, Tool Kits, Cameras, if none available, Road Captain needs to check out chapter Kits & return after the event		
		· ·
Roadside	As	sistance (888-443-5896)
		Furnish number for those that have Road Side Assistance
First Aid	Kit,	Tool Kit, Cameras
Hand sigi	nals	(pass signals back)
		Go over all hand signals to be used and make sure that they are passed back.

### **Ride Tally Sheet**

Ride Type: Open Closed (Circle one)	Date:
Ride Name:	Mileage:
Road Captain:	First Aid Kit: #1:
Sweep:	First Aid Kit: # 2:

	Participants Name	Signature	Email	Emergency Contact	Emergency Contact Number	Guest
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						

Participants Name	Signature	Email	Emergency Contact	Emergency Contact Number	Guest
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
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37					
38					
39					

#### MSF's Guide to Group Riding: Hand Signals

Stop - arm extended straight down, palm facing back



Slow Down - arm extended straight out, palm facing down





Speed Up - arm extended straight out, palm facing up





You Lend/Come - arm extended upward 45 degrees, palm forward pointing with index finger, swing in are from back to front





Follow Mo - arm extended straight up from shoulder, palm forward



Single File - ann and index finger extended straight up



Double File - arm with index and middle finger extended straight up



Hazard in Roadway - on the right, point with right foot; on the left, point with left hand





Highbeam - tap on top of helmet with open palm down



Pull Off - arm positioned as for right turn, forearm swung toward shoulder





Tirrn Signal On - open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended





Firel - arm out to side pointing to tank with finger extended



Refreshment Stop - fingers closed, thumb to mouth



Comfort Stop - forearm extended, fist clenched with short up and down motion





### **CHAPTER EVENT RELEASE FORM FOR ADULTS**

Name of <b>EVENT(S)</b> :	Date:
Location:	

The undersigned (on my own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns), for and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in a "Ride," "Poker Run," "Rally," "Field Meet" or "Activity" (hereinafter, **EVENT(S)** sponsored and/or conducted by Harley-Davidson, Inc., Harley-Davidson Motor Company, the Harley Owners Group®, authorized Harley-Davidson Dealer(s) and/or local H.O.G.® chartered Chapter(s) and their respective officers, directors, employees and agents (hereinafter, the "RELEASED PARTIES") releases and holds harmless the "RELEASED PARTIES" from any and all claims and demands, rights and causes of action of any kind whatsoever which I now have or later may have against the "RELEASED PARTIES" in any way resulting from, arising out of, or in connection with the performance of their Chapter duties and my participation in any said **EVENT(S)**.

This Release extends to any and all claims I have or later may have against the "RELEASED PARTIES" resulting from or arising out of their performance of their Chapter duties whether or not such claims result from negligence (except willful neglect) on the part of any or all of the "RELEASED PARTIES" with respect to the EVENT(S) or with respect to the conditions, qualifications, instructions, rules or procedures under which the EVENT(S) are conducted or from any other cause. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MEANS THAT I AGREE NOT TO SUE ANY OR ALL OF THE "RELEASED PARTIES" FOR ANY INJURY RESULTING TO MYSELF OR MY PROPERTY ARISING FROM, OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR CHAPTER DUTIES IN SPONSORING, PLANNING OR CONDUCTING THE EVENTS.

I am experienced in and familiar with the operation of motorcycles and fully understand the risks and dangers inherent in motorcycling. I am voluntarily participating in the **EVENT(S)** and I expressly agree to assume the entire risk of any accidents or personal injury, including death, which I might sustain to my person and property as a result of my participation in the events, and any negligence (except willful neglect) on the part of any or all of the "**RELEASED PARTIES**" in performing their chapter duties.

#### **WAIVER OF RIGHTS UNDER STATE STATUTES**

I further agree to waive all benefits flowing from any state statute which would negate or limit the scope of this release and Indemnification Agreement, including but not limited to Section 1542 of the California Civil Code which provides:

"A general release does not extend to the claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing this release, which if known to him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor."

By signing this Release, I certify that I have read this Release and fully understand it and that I am not relying on any statements or representations made by the "RELEASED PARTIES."

#### THIS IS A RELEASE - READ BEFORE SIGNING

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Passenger</u>
Signature:	Signature:
Print Name:	Print Name:
Address:	Address:
City/State/Zip:	City/State/Zip:
Date:	Date:



## CHAPTER EVENT RELEASE FORM FOR MINORS

Chapter Name:	Date:
Event Name/Location:	
In consideration of my minor child ("the <b>Minor</b> ") being permitted to "Activity" (hereinafter, <b>EVENT(S)</b> sponsored and/or conducted by Harley Owners Group®, authorized Harley-Davidson Dealer(s) and/o officers, directors, employees and agents (hereinafter, the <b>"RELEA</b> ")	Harley-Davidson, Inc., Harley-Davidson Motor Company, the or local H.O.G.® chartered Chapter(s) and their respective
1. I know the nature of the <b>EVENT(S)</b> and the <b>Minor's</b> experience participate, in the <b>EVENT(S)</b> or enter into restricted areas where the ANYTHING IS UNSAFE, I WILL INSTRUCT THE <b>MINOR</b> TO IMMEDIATE EVENT(S) AND/OR LEAVE THE RESTRICTED AREA.	e <b>EVENT(S)</b> are conducted. IF I OR THE <b>MINOR</b> BELIEVE
2. I FULLY UNDERSTAND and will instruct the <b>Minor</b> that: (a) THE participation in the <b>EVENT(S)</b> and/or entry into Restricted Areas manually instruction in the <b>EVENT(S)</b> and/or entry into Restricted Areas manually instruction. In the <b>Minor's</b> own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions or inactions or inactions, the actions or inactions or inactions, the actions or inactions, the actions or inactions, the actions or inactions or inactions, the actions or inactions or inactions, the actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of the premises and equipment performing their Chapter duties: (c) there may be OTHER RISKS Not time; (d) THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES and/or damages COULD PERMANENTLY CHANGE THE <b>MINOR'S</b> FUTURE.	ay involve RISKS AND DANGERS OF SERIOUS BODILY DEATH ("RISKS"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be ctions of others participating in the <b>EVENT(S)</b> , the rules of the at, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE " <b>RELEASED PARTIES</b> " in OT KNOWN TO ME or that are not readily foreseeable at this
3. I consent to the <b>Minor's</b> participation in the <b>EVENT(S)</b> and/or enall such risks, known and unknown, and assume all damages following such injury, disability, paralysis of the Negligence of the " <b>RELEASED PARTIES</b> " in Perform	RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LOSSES, COSTS AND OR OR DEATH, EVEN IF CAUSED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY
4. I HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO S and lessors of the premises used to conduct the <b>EVENT(S)</b> , FROM personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin FOR ANY ACCOUNT OF ANY INJURY, including, but not limited to, death or IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEAS"	ALL LIABILITY TO ME, THE <b>MINOR</b> , my and the Minor's AND ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON damage to property, CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED
5. If, despite, this <b>release</b> , I, the <b>Minor</b> or anyone on the <b>Minor</b> 's to <b>PARTIES</b> " named above, I AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AN of them from ANY LITIGATION EXPENSES, ATTORNEY FEES, LOSTHE CLAIM MADE AGAINST ANY OF THE " <b>RELEASED PARTIES</b> " of THE " <b>RELEASED PARTIES</b> " in performing their Chapter dutie	D HOLD HARMLESS THE <b>"RELEASED PARTIES"</b> and each SS, LIABILITY, DAMAGE, OR COST THEY MAY INCUR DUE TO S" NAMED ABOVE, ASSERTING NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART
6. I sign this agreement on my own behalf and on behalf of the Mir	nor.
I HAVE READ THIS PARENTAL CONSENT, RELEASE AND WAIVER AGREEMENT, UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT I GIVE UP SUI OTHERWISE HAVE TO RECOVER DAMAGES FOR LOSSES OCC, IT VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT.	BSTANTIAL RIGHTS I AND/OR THE <b>MINOR</b> WOULD
Child's Name (printed):	
(Signature of Parent or Guardian)	(Printed Name of Parent or Guardian)



Name of Event:	Date:
Location:	
	/ITIES conducted over the course of the above EVENT(S) and/or of the risks of personal injury which might occur during the EVENT
Both my parents and I believe I am qualified to participate in established in connection with the <b>EVENT ACTIVITIES</b> . I will to be unsafe, I will immediately leave and refuse to participate.	I inspect the area and equipment and if, at any time, I feel anything
2. I understand that the EVENT ACTIVITIES MAY BE VERY DAM SERIOUSLY INJURED OR HURT, MY BEING PARALYZED OF	NGEROUS AND INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS OF MY BEING R KILLED.
	wn actions or inaction, the action or inaction of others participating <b>TIES</b> , the condition and layout of the premises and equipment, or e for conducting the <b>EVENT ACTIVITIES</b> .
I HAVE READ THE ABOVE ASSUMPTION OF RISK ACKNOWL IT VOLUNTARILY.	EDGMENT, UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE READ, AND SIGN
(Signature of Minor Participant)	(Date)
(Printed Name of Minor Participant)	(Age)



Mail or fax completed form to: Harley-Davidson Insurance

222 W. Adams, Suite 2000 Chicago, IL 60606-5312

**FAX:** 800-699-2142 • **PHONE:** 888-690-5600 • **EMAIL:** dealershipinsurance@hdfsi.com

Chapter Name:Reporting Chapter Officer Name:								
Mailing Addres	SS:					Work Phone:		
						Best time to c	all:	
E-mail Addres	s:							
Chapter Insura	ance Certificate	e #:				Date of Injury:		
Place of Injury	:							
Name, addres	s, ages of pers	on(s) injured:						
Names, addre	sses, telephon	e numbers of	persons who sav	w incident. At	tach extra she	eets if necessar	y.	
When, where,	how injury occ	urred. Attach	a separate sheet	if necessary				
	, ,		•	,				
Type of injury.	Check appropr	riate boxes.						
Fatal	Head	Neck	Back/Spine	Arms	Legs	Internal Injuries	Amputation	Other
Name, addres	s, phone numb	per of person(	(s) having pictures	of accident	scene:			
Name, addres	s, phone numb	per of respond	ding police depart	tment and co	mplaint #:			