



## WHAM Group Riding Policy – v3 June 2023

**On the day briefing** to be given by the Chief Observer, a National Observer or Committee Member.

- Form into groups of 3 or 4 riders.
- All riders should exchange mobile phone numbers.
- Cover the weather conditions and potential hazards for the time of year.
- Mention any known events, roadworks etc. that are on the route.
- Leave 2 / 3 minutes between groups to add separation with the more experienced groups going first.

### Group riding principles

**As always each individual is responsible for their own safety, so ride your own ride and make your own decisions.**

- Your ride should always be safe and legal.
- Check with members of your group if they have not ridden for a while or are **new** to Group Riding.
- If you are not completing the full journey and plan to leave the ride early you must inform your other group members.
- The lead rider(s) must either have a programmed SatNav or know the route off by heart.
- Where the route deviates from the straight ahead, all riders in the group should ensure that the rider following them has seen them turn or can see them indicating the turn from a safe place.
- If you lose touch with your Group: stop and call them. Go back if necessary.
- Where possible manage the ride to keep your group together especially before entering complex routing or urban areas.
- Overtaking within the groups is allowed (by agreement at the start). Only overtake the rider in front of you when safe and you are both expecting it.
- To keep the group together and prevent confusion, if the leader takes what you think, or your SatNav is telling you is a wrong turn, you should still follow the rider in front.
- Always resist the pressure to keep up. Remember sometimes we do get separated due to traffic and/or overtaking opportunities.

### Other WHAM groups

We often have several groups all heading in the same direction on the same roads. It is inevitable that some group's pace will be different from others. As we prefer not to create convoys of bikes we encourage everyone to stay aware of other groups that may catch them up it's a matter of judgment as to how this is managed:

- Following group can stop to regain 2 or 3 minutes separation.
- The last rider of the leading group can start the process of allowing the following group through by moving to "Position 1" on the road, showing that your group is happy to be overtaken.

If everyone understands and applies the above rules then the system we use allows riders of differing pace to ride together and should prevent any anxiety about keeping up, getting lost or feeling pressured into out-of-comfort-zone riding.

**REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE: RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE** – That means your own pace, make your own overtaking decisions and don't respond to perceived pressure from other group riders to keep up.