

# North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program

## *Post Training* Information

**Congratulations on your achievement and welcome to the sport of motorcycling!** The following information has been compiled to assist you in obtaining your Motorcycle Operator License and acquaint you with North Carolina motor vehicle laws as they apply to motorcycles. We have also included motor vehicle insurance information.

The overall objective of a *RiderCourse* is to develop your capabilities to become a safe and responsible motorcyclist. It provides the opportunity for you to learn and practice both the physical and mental skills important for operating a motorcycle on the street. Successful completion of this course indicates that you have *minimum proficiency* in the *basic skills* required to ride a motorcycle. Please keep in mind that both you and your motorcycle have limitations that you must continue to explore and always ride within. We have discussed the various risks involved in riding a motorcycle and learned many techniques for managing and minimizing these risks. It is now *your responsibility* to practice and become the best rider possible.

### COURSE COMPLETION CARD NOTES

- North Carolina waives the skill test licensing requirement for graduates of a *RiderCourse* taken under the supervision of the NCMSEP; *however*, you must take the Motorcycle Operator Knowledge Test.
- **Neither** the MSF Course Completion Card nor the NC Skills Waiver Card **is a license**. You must take the original cards to the Driver License Bureau and have a motorcycle endorsement added to your current driver license. The Examiner **will retain** the NC Waiver Card and return the MSF Course Completion Card to you.
- Please ensure that your cards are signed by a *RiderCoach* and the names on both cards match the first and last names on your Driver License.
- **The Waiver Card is only valid for one year from the date of issue.**
- Treat your MSF Course Completion Card with care and **store it in a safe place**. It is proof that you completed a Motorcycle *RiderCourse* and will be inconvenient to replace. You can laminate the card to ensure its longevity.
- Military members must show proof that they have completed a *RiderCourse* to register and operate their motorcycle on a military installation.
- Requests for replacement cards should be directed to the NCMSEP state office if you took the course at a community college; at the HD dealership if you took the class from the Riding Academy and at the military base if you took the class on a military installation.

### MOTORCYCLE LICENSING

- North Carolina law requires the operator of a motorcycle to have a valid driver license with an “M” endorsement or a full provisional license with a Motorcycle Learner Permit. **Note:** A Motorcycle Learner Permit authorizes a person to operate a motorcycle **without** passengers.
- Licensing fees are variable dependent upon the length of time remaining on your current driver license plus the cost of a duplicate license (duplicate license \$14.00; endorsement \$2.55 per year).
- A person less than 18 years of age with a motorcycle endorsement may not carry a passenger.
- **Please go to the DMV website, <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/license-id/driver-licenses/new-drivers/Documents/motorcyclist-handbook.pdf> and study their Motorcyclists’ Handbook. It may also benefit you to look at the North Carolina Driver’s Handbook, <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/license-id/driver-licenses/new-drivers/Documents/driver-handbook.pdf> as it has information concerning basic NC traffic laws that may show up on your motorcycle written exam.**

## EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION

- Driver and passenger must wear a properly fastened motorcycle helmet that meets or exceeds Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218 [DOT] at all times when the motorcycle is being operated.
- No person shall operate a motorcycle when the number of persons exceeds the number of persons that it was designed to carry. (There must be passenger foot pegs and a seat area for a passenger on the bike.)
- Motorcycles must burn headlight and tail lights both day and night. Every motorcycle shall be equipped with at least one and not more than two headlamps.
- Every motor vehicle shall exhibit a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of such vehicle. The vehicle must also have a stop lamp that shall display a light that is visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet to rear in normal sunlight and shall be actuated upon application of the brakes.
- Motorcycles may ride two abreast in a lane of traffic. (Not recommended, but legal.)
- Every motorcycle and every motor driven cycle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with at least one brake which may be operated by hand or foot.
- Motorcycles must be equipped with a rearview mirror mounted in such a way to provide a clear, undistorted and unobstructed view of at least 200 feet to the rear of the motorcycle.
- No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway unless such motor vehicle is equipped with a muffler, or other exhaust system of the type installed at the time of manufacture, in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise, annoying smoke and smoke screens.

## MOTORCYCLE LAWS

### AN ACT TO CREATE ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR MOTORCYCLISTS FROM UNSAFE MOVEMENTS BY OTHER VEHICLES.

(a1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section and causes a motorcycle operator to change travel lanes or leave that portion of any public street or highway designated as travel lanes shall be responsible for an infraction and shall be assessed a fine of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.00). A person who violates subsection (a) of this section that results in a crash causing property damage or personal injury to a motorcycle operator or passenger shall be responsible for an infraction and shall be assessed a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) unless subsection (a2) of this section applies.

(a2) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section and the violation results in a crash causing property damage in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or a serious bodily injury to a motorcycle operator or passenger shall be responsible for an infraction and shall be assessed a fine of not less than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). A violation of this subsection shall be treated as a failure to yield right of way to a motorcycle for purposes of assessment of points. In addition, the trial judge shall have the authority to order the license of any driver violating this subsection suspended for a period not to exceed 30 days.

### AN ACT TO ALLOW THE OPERATOR OF A MOTORCYCLE TO PROCEED THROUGH AN INTERSECTION CONTROLLED BY A TRAFFIC SIGNAL ONLY IF THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL USES AN INDUCTIVE LOOP VEHICLE SENSOR THAT ACTIVATES THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND THE INDUCTIVE LOOP FAILS TO DETECT THE MOTORCYCLE AND ACTIVATE THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL.

Defense. – It shall be a defense to a violation of sub-subdivision (b)(2) a. of this section if the operator of a motorcycle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27) d., shows all of the following:

- (1) The operator brought the motorcycle to a complete stop at the intersection or stop bar where a steady red light was being emitted in the direction of the operator.
- (2) The intersection is controlled by a vehicle actuated traffic signal using an inductive loop to activate the traffic signal.
- (3) No other vehicle that was entitled to have the right-of-way under applicable law was sitting at, traveling through, or approaching the intersection.
- (4) No pedestrians were attempting to cross at or near the intersection.
- (5) The motorcycle operator who received the citation waited a minimum of three minutes at the intersection or stop bar where the steady red light was being emitted in the direction of the operator before entering the intersection."

**If you have trouble with a sensor not recognizing your bike, you may report it at the following NCDOT site:**

<https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/ContactUS/PostComment.aspx?Unit=Motorcycle>

## DWI

- Any person charged with DWI who refuses to take an Intoxilyzer test or has results of 0.08 or more; 0.04 if driving a commercial motor vehicle; or under age 21 and the results are above 0.00, will have their license revoked immediately for 30 days.
- Upon conviction of DWI for first offense, the license is revoked for one year, four years for the second and permanently for the third or more offenses.
- Actual costs for a DWI conviction differ from case to case. One thing is certain—a DWI conviction is expensive, time-consuming and represents a heavy burden. Direct costs you can expect if you are convicted of DWI include: • Attorney fees (between \$500 and \$1,500). • Court costs of \$190. (Jury trial or appeal to a higher court boosts costs even more.) • Fines up to \$10,000. • Insurance premium increases up to 400 percent.
- For more information concerning DWI laws in North Carolina, visit:  
<https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/license-id/license-suspension/Pages/default.aspx>

## INSURANCE

- **Shop for your insurance!** The difference in premiums may be hundreds of dollars from one company to another. Premiums will vary according to your age, driving record, engine size, model and value of your motorcycle. Remember, your Course Completion Card may entitle you to premium discounts through participating insurance companies.
- The minimum requirements for liability for private passenger vehicles are \$30,000 for bodily injury for one person; \$60,000 bodily injury for two or more people and \$25,000 property damage. You may want to discuss increasing these limits with your agent, as they can be surpassed easily.
- Also, ask about “uninsured” or “underinsured” coverage, to ensure that you are well covered.
- For more information on insurance requirements visit: <http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/help/insurance/>

## PUBLICATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The following is a sampling of publications and organizations that may be of interest to you as a new motorcyclist. The listings do not imply any endorsement by the North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program or the persons involved in the presentation of a *RiderCourse*. There are many more riding clubs and organizations available to riders. A quick search on the internet will connect you with enthusiasts of any make, model and style of motorcycle and riding that you can imagine.

North Carolina	WEB ADDRESS
North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program	<a href="http://ncmsep.org/">http://ncmsep.org/</a>
North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program – Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Carolina-Motorcycle-Safety-Education-Program/194192920627378">https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Carolina-Motorcycle-Safety-Education-Program/194192920627378</a>
Program Retired Training Motorcycle Sales	<a href="http://www.govdeals.com">www.govdeals.com</a>
North Carolina Education Foundation	<a href="http://www.ncmef.com/index.html">http://www.ncmef.com/index.html</a>
BikeSafe NC	<a href="http://www.bikesafenc.com/">http://www.bikesafenc.com/</a>

MAGAZINES	WEB ADDRESS
Cycle Trader – (For motorcycle purchases and sales.)	<a href="http://www.cycletrader.com/">http://www.cycletrader.com/</a>
Road Runner Magazine	<a href="http://www.roadrunner.travel">www.roadrunner.travel</a>

FOR ALL MOTORCYCLISTS	WEB ADDRESS
American Motorcyclist Association	<a href="https://americanmotorcyclist.com/">https://americanmotorcyclist.com/</a>
Motorcycle Safety Foundation	<a href="http://www.msf-usa.org">www.msf-usa.org</a>
Motorcycle Riders Foundation	<a href="http://www.mrf.org">www.mrf.org</a>
Concerned Bikers Association/ABATE of NC	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/CBAABATEofNC/">https://www.facebook.com/CBAABATEofNC/</a>
Motorcycle Industry Council Guide to Buying or Selling a Used Motorcycle	<a href="https://www.mic.org/downloads/MIC_Buying-Selling_Used_Motorcycle_Guide(Printable).pdf">https://www.mic.org/downloads/MIC_Buying-Selling_Used_Motorcycle_Guide(Printable).pdf</a>

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES	WEB ADDRESS
Cycle Gear	<a href="http://www.cyclegear.com/">http://www.cyclegear.com/</a>

## NCMSEP FUNDING

Funding for the North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program (NCMSEP) comes from a \$4.00 tax that is imposed on every motorcycle registration.

## THE “NEXT COURSE”

When you are ready to work on improving your riding skills and learn more about *you and your motorcycle*, consider enrolling in the “Basic RiderCourse 2”. You also may want to consider the “Advanced RiderCourse”. Call your local training site for details and scheduling.

The benefits of motorcycle safety education as well as general class and program information is at our web site: <https://ncmsep.org/>

- Basic RiderCourse (BRC) : <https://ncmsep.org/courses/brc/>
- Basic RiderCourse 2 (BRC2): <https://ncmsep.org/courses/erc/>
- Advanced RiderCourse (ARC): <https://ncmsep.org/courses/arc/>
- 3 Wheel Basic RiderCourse (3WBRC): <https://ncmsep.org/courses/3wbrc/>
- RiderCoach (Instructor) Preparation (RCP) classes: <https://ncmsep.org/rider-coach-training/>

Motorcycles are provided for students in the Basic Rider Course, students use their own motorcycles for the Basic RiderCourse 2 and for the Advanced RiderCourse.

- Classes are offered at 32 community colleges around the state and each administers its own program and schedule.
- This link will provide the list of sites and contact information: <https://ncmsep.org/sites/>
- Visit the web site of the community college in your area to find their class schedule, costs, and additional information about taking the course at their location.

For any additional questions contact our staff at 1-800-428-7433 or 252-233-6883.

Thank you again for your interest in motorcycle safety training, you are helping to make North Carolina highways safer for all!

*Bob*

Bob Wagner  
Director  
North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program  
602 W. Harper Street  
Snow Hill, NC 28580  
800-428-7433  
252-233-6883

*Ride safely... and often!*

