



For the Iron Butt to recognise a long distance motorcycling achievement, there needs to be not only a stringent auditing trail but also the ride in itself must pose a test to man and machine.

The IBA 32 county challenge, to be completed in less than 32 hours, provides that challenge.

Every time I read these guidelines, they seem overly complex. However, they were developed by one of our members involved in record keeping for various sporting events and they were revised for the 32 county challenge by Chris McGaffin, our Ireland representative . There is no doubt that the documentation requirements for these certification are tough, but when you hang your certificate on the wall, you can rest easy knowing that we just don't hand these out to anyone. When the ride is over, you have survived not only a very tough ride, but you'll have the documentation to back up your claims. How many riders can say that?

When you read the following guidelines, keep in mind that our goal is to see a well-documented ride. If you cannot follow the guidelines exactly, feel free to drop us a line with a proposal. We will be happy to review your plans and possibly accept changes to this format.

**Michael Kneebone**  
**President**  
**Iron Butt Association USA**

### **Iron Butt Association Guidelines for the 32 County Challenge**

Last Revision: October 2022- always check that these are the current guidelines before starting your ride! *Note:* The IBA Ireland web site will always have the most current guidelines for this ride.

Following are the guidelines for earning a Certificate of Completion for an IBA 32 county Challenge

**YOU MUST HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN IBA RIDE BEFORE ATTEMPTING THIS RIDE.**

You may also complete the ride two-up (with one person doing the piloting, the other being a passenger the entire distance - you **may not** share piloting duties!). In these cases, the Iron Butt Association issues one certificate, with both rider and passenger on it, but we provide two copies of it; one for the rider and one for the passenger. There is no additional charge for a passenger.

## There are Three steps to earning IBA 32 County certification;

1. Choose your start/finish location
2. Collect and track required receipts,
3. Copy and submit your documentation. Since safety is our primary concern, no pre-registration of your ride is needed. Our goal is to give you added flexibility to decide on any given day whether the combination of weather, your motorcycle and most importantly, your attitude, are ready for a big ride.

You do not need to pre-register your ride for a certain date .We feel this removes the pressure to complete the ride should you become tired or otherwise feel unsafe. While group rides bring with them the safety of group travel, they can also increase your risk by encouraging you to press on when you might otherwise stop. Group rides can also encourage aggressive riding. Be sure riding styles of others in your group match your style. When planning a ride, keep in mind that group rides are only as fast as the slowest person in the group. Also bear in mind that this ride requires 32 stops for verification. Each of these stops take time. If you stop for 10 minutes each time then this will add up to 320 minutes ! This can extend your riding day many hours pushing you toward fatigue.

Motorcycling comes with risk and riding. It is imperative you understand the risk you are taking and minimize the possibility of an accident by practicing safe motorcycle habits. No one, not even the most experienced long distance rider, can safely fight off fatigue. If you are tired, the only option is to stop and rest. Ignoring the symptoms of fatigue can be fatal. If you are tired, having a bad day, or facing other hurdles that are impacting you're riding skills, please stop and rest so that you may enjoy motorcycling another day!

Please remember that the Iron Butt Association is dedicated to the sport of **safe**, long-distance motorcycle riding. It does not condone nor will it tolerate unsafe activities such as excessive speed, reckless motorcycle operation, riding while fatigued or otherwise impaired, the use of stimulants to maintain alertness, or any other activity that results in riders exceeding their personal limits. Any rider found to have engaged in these or other unsafe activities, as determined in the sole discretion of the IBA, will have their certification refused. If the certification is already issued and we find out about these infractions after the fact, the certification will be revoked. For these purposes, the IBA will consider as an admission of violating this policy any public statements made by the participant that describe participation in unsafe activities during a ride subject to certification.

### Step One. Choose your start/finish location

The IBA 32 county challenge involves riding to **each and every one** of the following county towns:

Antrim,Downpatrick,Dundalk,Trim,Mullingar,Tullamore,Portlaoise,Naas,Dublin,Wicklow, Wexford,Carlow,Kilkenny,Waterford,Clonmel,cork,Tralee,Limerick,Ennis,Galway,Castlebar, Sligo,Carrick on Shannon, Roscommon, Longford,Cavan,Enniskillen,Lifford, Londonderry,Omagh,Monaghan and Armagh

You may visit these towns in any order you wish. However, you should try to make your route as efficient as possible to minimise your riding time. You do not have to finish in the town you started.

Bear in mind that you will be looking for a fuel receipt at the finish location. You should choose to start and finish your ride in towns where you know fuel is available either actually in that town or close by.

The receipts and/or other evidence that are required from these towns must be within the locality. Eg get a receipt from anywhere within Cavan town **NOT** get a receipt from near cavan town. A town receipt may be a fuel receipt if you wish.

## STEP Two: Collect and track receipts

Before the start, you will want to try petrol stations or ATM machines to find one that has a receipt with a good location, time and date on it to document the start of your ride.

Fill up your fuel tank and obtain a computer printed gas receipt with a legible date and time stamp. You may also elect to use a bank ATM receipt with a time and date stamp for your start time.

**\*\*\* THE COMPUTER TIME STAMP WILL BE YOUR OFFICIAL STARTING TIME \*\*\***

**TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR MOTORCYCLE ODOMETER WITH THE START RECEIPT CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE SAME PHOTO.**

The following log entries are mandatory:

Log entries must be made at each fuel stop and each town on the 32 county challenge, and be accompanied by receipts and/or gps evidence (see GPS rules below) . The town receipts can be any sort of receipt but **must have a date & time stamp**. (please note, that the receipts from fuel stops, where possible should include a date stamp - we do NOT care about time stamps on these receipts, do not waste time worrying about time stamps on fuel receipts, the only time stamps that are critical are **the start and finish receipts and the town receipts!**

The 32 County Challenge is the only IBA Certified ride which permits GPS Photo verification. Because of the nature of this ride, collecting receipts in the normal way in such a short period of time would be a major annoyance and inconvenience not to mention potentially impossible in some locations at night. Therefore, a digital photo of your Bike mounted GPS will be accepted as proof of you visiting most county Towns (**except Derry, Antrim, Tralee & Wexford**). There are stringent rules for using this method which are detailed below.

1. You must be able to take clear, close up pictures of your GPS. A Smart phone or digital camera with a Macro setting may be required. (see camera advice below)
2. Your GPS must be capable of displaying Latitude and longitude co-ordinates and date/time.
3. GPS photo verification **is not** permitted for the **Start** and **Finish** Locations **nor** is it permitted at the following locations. **Derry, Wexford, Antrim, Tralee**. Therefore, at these locations, you must obtain the normal receipt based evidence.
4. The GPS information required under item 2, Must be clearly legible in your photographs. For this reason when you take the photo, you should review it to make sure the information is legible in the picture. If it is not you will have to get a receipt as normal.
5. If your GPS does not display Lat/long and time on the same screenshot, you may take more than one photo to show this information.

**It is suggested that you practice taking photographs of your gps in both daylight and darkness, before your ride to make sure you are capable of taking pictures of the required quality.**

In order for the verification team to account for your time, log entries must be made at each stop longer than 20 minutes (for example you decide to stop at a roadside rest stop for a rest

during the ride). Each entry for extended stops must include the approximate length of the stop or the start time and ending time. Meals that take longer than 20 minutes are considered rest stops - where possible please try and obtain a restaurant receipt. Obviously, many types of stops, for example a stop in a rest area, will not generate any kind of receipt - this is acceptable, but please account for the time in your trip log. If in doubt its better to log every stop

WARNING: If your motorcycle is equipped with a large fuel tank, please note that you must stop at least once every 350 miles for gas (this is purely for documentation for your ride). Although we know it is possible to ride greater distances non-stop, we will not accept a claim of this type.

At the end of your ride, before the 32-hour time period is up, obtain a computer printed gas receipt with a legible location, date and time stamp.

**\*\*\* THE COMPUTER TIME STAMP BE YOUR OFFICIAL ENDING TIME \*\*\***

**TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR MOTORCYCLE ODOMETER WITH THE FINISH RECEIPT CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE SAME PHOTO.**

**STEP THREE: Prepare, Copy and submit your documentation.**

COPY your receipts and number the copies to correspond to your trip log.

COPY your log.

COPY your GPS photographs **FROM THE MEMORY CARD TO YOUR COMPUTER AND MAIL THE MEMORY CARD.THE CARD WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU. Do not copy onto a disc and mail the disc**

**\*\*\* Retain your original documentation - only send copies! \*\*\***

If needed, write a short note about any problems with your ride, for example, "The receipt from Letterkenny does not have the correct date. I had the attendant write the correct date. The stations number is 123-123-1234.

COMPLETE the attached form.

**FINALLY, send it to:**

**IBA Ireland, Graeme Ferguson, 44 Finlaystown Road, Portglenone, Ballymena, Co.Antrim, BT 44 8EA**

You will receive confirmation when we receive your packet.

When we get your ride documentation, one of several people will start the verification process. Due to the extensive work involved (keying data into mileage spreadsheets, map verifications, witness contacts where needed and custom certificate preparations) and the fact that all of the labour involved with producing these awards are performed by volunteers, it will usually take a minimum of **1 month** before your certificates will be ready for signature and mailed to you.

We realize this is a long time to wait for your certification. However, our certification process is very thorough. In fact, the entire certification process is what gives your certificate value. It would be very easy for the Iron Butt Association to simply take money and print up a generic "you rode a 1,000 mile day" certificate, however, the value of the entire certification program is in the fact that not just anyone can get an Iron Butt Association ride certification. The downside is this process takes time... We can only offer that when you receive your certification you know that not only you earned it, and so did any other rider that you meet with the same certification.

Before we can issue your certification, you may be asked to clarify certain aspects of your ride and/or documentation by e-mail, phone or letter. Additionally, certain aspects of your ride are subject to audit by yet another set of IBA volunteers charged with insuring only people that rode the miles get the award. Should your package get tagged for that audit, it too may delay the final determination of your claim for the award.

We strongly caution that *out on the road it may not be possible to follow these guidelines to the letter*. If that happens, please explain any problem you encountered and we will do our best to work out a solution. For example, 23 hours and 35 minutes into this ride, one person could not find a gas station with a computer-generated receipt (obviously, our favourite type), so he got a few locals to witness the time he arrived. His other documents clearly supported his claim of riding the distance in the time frame he claimed so we did not hesitate to process his award.

If you have any questions about this ride, e-mail [ironbuttireland@gmail.com](mailto:ironbuttireland@gmail.com)

Hints for taking clear pictures of your GPS. It is recommended to use a good old fashioned digital camera rather than a smartphone.

1. Turn the flash off
2. Macro mode works best. Zoom in or out until you can read the figures clearly
3. Check each photo after you take it to make sure the required information is legible.
4. You need a steady hand at night when not using flash. Leaning on a tank bag helps.
5. Remember to copy pictures to your computer and to mail the memory card. The copies on your computer are to insure against the card being lost in the post.
6. You do not need to take pictures at a high resolution. There is no need. The lowest camera resolution setting will be fine for audit purposes.

# IBA 32 County Challenge



## RIDER INFORMATION

Start of ride	
Rider Name:	
Pillion Name:	
Date:	
Time:	
Location:	
Odometer:	

End of ride	
Date:	
Time:	
Location:	
Odometer:	

# IBA 32 County Challenge



## LOGSHEET

RECEIPT/GPS photo/rest/fuel stop	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	FUEL Quantity	ODOMETER Reading
1 Start receipt & take required photo					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

# IBA 32 County Challenge



## LOGSHEET

RECEIPT/GPS photo/rest/fuel stop	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	FUEL Quantity	ODOMETER Reading
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30					
31					
32					
33					
34					
35					
36					
37					
38					
39					
40 – Finish receipt and take required photo					



## Copyright © IBA Ireland

Checklist of documents needed for Iron Butt Association 32 county Challenge

\_\_\_ Copies of Rider Information form (starting and ending)

\_\_\_ Copies of Receipts (do not send originals!)

\_\_\_ Memory card

\_\_\_ Explanation of any problems encountered.

### **FEE SCHEDULE**

No payment is due when you submit your paperwork. If your ride passes the verification process you will be informed and then instructed to forward payment.

32 County Challenge certificate only £23 (€27)

Iron Butt Association Metal Pin Badge (if desired) £6.50 (€8)

Address to mail certificates to:

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Contact phone number(s), best time to reach you:

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your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your IBA number?

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Name you want on certificate: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For example, Jonathan J. Smith, SR or John Smith)

Your age (only used for statistics): \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One (only used for statistics): Male Female

Did you do this ride with anyone else or in a group? Y/N If so, who:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of start: \_\_\_\_\_ (for example, 05 August 2007)

Motorcycle make/model ridden: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: this is used on your certificate. For example, do you want us to list your Honda Gold Wing as a Honda GL1500 or do you want us to list it as a Honda Gold Wing. You may also include a model year if you want, for example; 1993 Honda Gold Wing.

Miles Ridden according to your odometer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: These will probably be changed by the verification team.

If you also recorded your mileage using your GPS device, please enter that reading here: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: The following is used only for the people that do the certificates to make them more understandable. Answer the following questions to make your certificate reflect your ride.*

Sample wording of a 32 County Certificate (please keep this format in mind as you answer the following questions):

**This is to certify that on the 2nd April 2009, Joe Bloggs riding a Honda ST 1300, visited all 32 County Towns in Ireland in less than 32 hours. Starting in Mullingar and then continuing to (custom list of county towns in order rider visited) before finishing in Kildare, a total distance of 1,157 miles, thereby successfully completing the IBA 32 county challenge.**

Name of start Point \_\_\_\_\_

Intermediate Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of end Point: \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, you must certify that what you are telling us is accurate:

I (print name): \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that  
the  
Statements in this application for certification are true to the best  
of my knowledge and belief.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send the package to:

IBA Ireland

**Graeme Ferguson**

**44 Finlaystown Road,**

**Portglenone,**

**Ballymena,**

**Co. Antrim**

**BT44 8EA**

**Remember no payment is due at this stage.**

Should you decide to tackle the 32 County Challenge

We wish you the best of luck and look forward to hearing about your  
ride!