

Follow the Rules When Riding a Bicycle

Based on amendments to the provisions of the Road Traffic Act applying to bicycles, from June 1, 2015, any cyclist who repeatedly commits a dangerous rule violation will be required to take a bicycle safety retraining course (duration: 3 hours; standard course fee: 5,700 yen).

“Dangerous rule violation” refers to 14 reckless acts and violations such as ignoring red lights, riding through stop signs without stopping, entering railroad crossings when the barrier is lowered, and riding while intoxicated (see “Note”). Any cyclist committing two or more violations within a 3-year period will be issued an order to attend the retraining course from their local public safety committee. Violators not attending the course after receiving the order will be fined.

Please read the “Five Rules for Safe Bicycle Riding” on page 2. By following the rules, you can reduce the number of traffic accidents involving bicycles.

(Note) 14 Dangerous Rule Violations

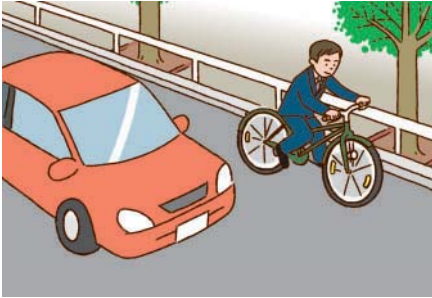
1. Ignoring traffic signals
2. Entering “no-riding” zones or riding the wrong way on a one-way street
3. Riding on sidewalks without slowing down
4. Riding in the wrong lane or on the wrong side of a roadway
5. Obstructing pedestrian traffic on the side of a roadway
6. Entering railway crossings when the barrier has been lowered
7. Interfering with the flow of traffic at intersections (obstructing vehicles with the right of way, etc.)
8. Obstructing right-turning traffic at intersections
9. Interfering with the flow of traffic at roundabouts or circular intersections
10. Failure to make a complete stop at stop signs
11. Impeding pedestrian traffic while riding on sidewalks
12. Riding a bicycle with malfunctioning or non-functioning brakes
13. Riding a bicycle while intoxicated
14. Reckless behavior that endangers pedestrians and/or other cyclists (using a mobile communication device (e.g. cell phone) while cycling, etc.)

Observe the Five Rules for Safe Bicycle Riding

1 In principle, bicycle riders should use roadways, and should only use sidewalks under exceptional circumstances

Under the Road Traffic Law, bicycles are categorized as mini-vehicles. In principle, bicycle riders should use roadways where sidewalks and roadways are separated.

[Penalty] Imprisonment for up to three months or a fine of up to 50,000 yen



2 On roadways, bicycle riders should keep to the left side

[Penalty] Imprisonment for up to three months or a fine of up to 50,000 yen



Bicycle riders should keep to the left side of the road.

3 On sidewalks, bicycle riders should yield to pedestrians and go slowly

On sidewalks, bicycle riders should go slowly so that they can stop immediately. They should stop when their riding may block a pedestrian.

[Penalty] A fine of up to 20,000 yen or pecuniary penalty



4 Bicycle riders should observe safety rules

- Riding on a bicycle while drunk is prohibited.
- Riding double on a bicycle is prohibited.
- Riding side by side on bicycles is prohibited.

Drunken bicycle riding is prohibited, just as drunk driving is.

[Penalty for drunken riders] Imprisonment for up to five years or a fine of up to one million yen



Except for riding a bicycle with a child under six years old, riding double on a bicycle is prohibited.

[Penalty] A fine of up to 20,000 yen or pecuniary penalty



Riding side by side on bicycles is prohibited, except for areas with road signs indicating "riding side by side is permitted."

[Penalty] A fine of up to 20,000 yen or pecuniary penalty



- Bicycle riders should have lights on during evening hours.
- Bicycle riders should obey the traffic lights.
- Bicycle riders should stop and check for safety at an intersection.

Bicycle riders should have headlights and rear lights (or reflectors) on during evening hours.

[Penalty] A fine of up to 50,000 yen



Bicycle riders must obey the traffic lights. Special traffic lights for pedestrians and bicycles should be complied with.

[Penalty] Imprisonment for up to three months or a fine of up to 50,000 yen



Bicycle riders should stop and check for safety at an intersection.

[Penalty] Imprisonment for up to three months or a fine of up to 50,000 yen



5 Children on bicycles should wear helmets

Guardians of children under 13 years old should instruct their children to wear helmets when riding on bicycles.



Talk on (or operate) a mobile phone

Bicycle riders should not:

Use an umbrella



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