

Five Rules for Riding a Bicycle Safely

1. In principle, cycle on the left side of the road. Sidewalks are to be used as an exception and you must give way to pedestrians.

(1) In principle, cycle on the left side of the road

[Penalty: A maximum of 3 months imprisonment or a maximum fine of ¥50,000]

Bicycles are a mode of transport, just like a car. On roads that are separate from sidewalks, cyclists must, in principle, cycle on the road. If there are bicycle lanes or traffic lanes exclusive to standard bicycles, cyclists must use them.

(2) Sidewalks are to be used as an exception and you must give way to pedestrians (if you can travel on the sidewalk)

[Penalty: A maximum fine of ¥20,000 or a petty fine]

Only when cyclists can travel slowly (a speed at which they can stop immediately) on the part of the sidewalk near the road. If a cyclist gets in the way of a pedestrian, the cyclist must come to a complete stop and give way to the pedestrian.



- (1) If there are road signs, etc. on the right.
- (2) If children under the age of 13, seniors 70 years old or over, or people with disabilities are driving.
- (3) If it is difficult to cycle on the left side of the road and deemed unavoidable to ensure safety.

◆ Traveling on roadside lanes

[Penalty: A maximum of 3 months imprisonment or a maximum fine of ¥50,000]

Cyclists can cycle only in roadside lanes established on the left side of the road. Cyclists cannot travel on pedestrian-only roadside lanes.



2. At crossings, make sure to obey the traffic lights, come to a complete stop, and check it is safe

(1) Obey the traffic lights and check it is safe

[Penalties: A maximum of 3 months imprisonment or a maximum fine of ¥50,000]



If there are traffic lights for pedestrians and cyclists only or if cycling on a pedestrian crossing, obey the pedestrian lights.

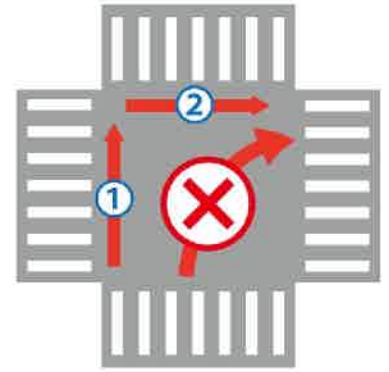


Signal lights to be obeyed by cyclists

- Cycling on the road: traffic lights
- Designated lanes for bicycles or when pushing your bicycle across a pedestrian crossing: pedestrian lights
- Locations with pedestrian-and-cyclist-only lights: pedestrian-and-cyclist-only lights

◆ When turning right, always perform a hook turn

When turning right at an intersection with lights, perform a hook turn (right figure: ① proceed to the other side of the intersection at the green light and turn right, then ② proceed when the light in front turns green). Cyclists cannot turn right at the light of the right-turn arrow. If there are designated lanes for bicycles, cyclists must use them. In the case of pedestrian crossings, if there is a possibility of getting in the way of crossing pedestrians, cyclists must get off their bicycle and push it across the crossing.



◆ Properly check it is safe even at green lights!

At intersections, even if the light is green, be cautious of vehicles turning left or right. You need to be careful of vehicle blind spots.



(2) Come to a complete stop and check it is safe

[Penalty: A maximum of 3 months imprisonment or a maximum fine of ¥50,000]

◆ Crossings with road signs/markings

Cyclists must obey road signs and markings too.



◆ Crossings with no road signs/markings

When reaching an intersection during cycling in the opposite direction on a one-way road, when at an intersection with poor visibility, or when exiting a narrow road into a wide road, come to a complete stop and check it is safe.



3. Use a light when cycling at night time

[Penalty: A maximum fine of ¥50,000]

4. No drunk cycling

[Penalty: A maximum of 5 years imprisonment or a maximum fine of ¥1,000,000]

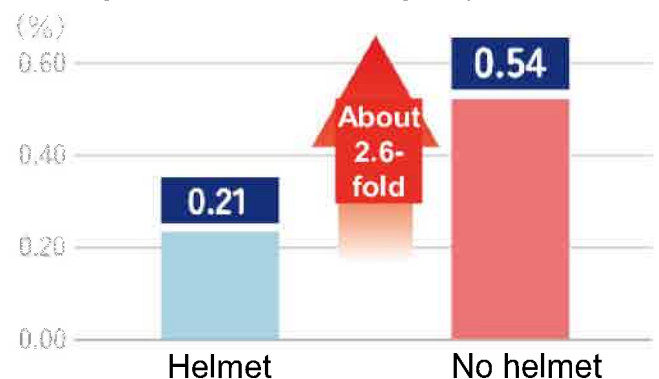
This applies to all cyclists!

5. Wear a helmet

About 60% of cyclists who are killed die as a result of a head injury. Since April 1, 2023, all cyclists must wear a helmet (best-effort obligation).



Comparison of fatality rate by helmet or no helmet (2022)
According to National Police Agency materials



*The fatality rate is the percentage of casualties who are killed.

Understand Safety and Ride Safely!

▶ Power-assisted bicycles

- Be careful of sudden acceleration and your traveling speed!
- Pedaling while standing up is dangerous!
- Placing both feet on the ground and holding the brake firmly are basic principles when waiting for lights to change, etc.



▶ Parent and child bicycles

- You can ride with up to 2 infants under elementary school age
- Be careful of accidents caused by the bicycle tipping over when stationary. Keep your hands on the bicycle at all times when a child is seated on the bicycle.
- Seat the smallest child on the front seat and the largest child on the rear seat. Order when placing children on the bicycle: place from rear seat to front seat / Order when taking children off the bicycle: front seat to rear seat

Correct way to ride (example)



Dangerous way to ride (example)



Signs and Markings for Cyclists (From July 1, 2023)



Road closed



Road closed to vehicles



Road closed to vehicles (combination)



No entry for vehicles



Road closed to specified small motorized bicycles and bicycles



Locations where cyclists must come to a complete stop

Roads that cyclists cannot cycle on

Roads that cyclists can cycle on

Roads where cyclists can only cycle in the direction of the arrow



Motor vehicles only



Pedestrians and so forth only



Specified small motorized bicycles and bicycles only



Standard bicycles and pedestrians and so forth only



One way for bicycles



One way for specified small motorized bicycles and bicycles

Locations where cyclists must slow down

Sidewalks that exceptional specified small motorized bicycles can travel on

Lane in which standard bicycles must cycle in

Marking that indicates an intersection where cyclists cannot enter



Sidewalks that exceptional specified small motorized bicycles and standard bicycles can travel on



The part of sidewalks for exceptional specified small motorized bicycles and standard bicycles to travel on



Traffic lanes exclusive to standard bicycles



Prohibits standard bicycles from entering the intersection