

# Key Points of the Revised Road Traffic Act 2024

-New traffic rules for cyclists-



## 1 Introduction of Fines

Cyclists aged 16 or more who ignore traffic lights or fail to stop at stop signs will be subject to the traffic violation notification system (payment of fines).



## 2 Strengthening of Penalties

From November 1, 2024  
For details, see the reverse side.

The revised Act prohibits cyclists from using mobile phones while riding and introduces penalties for cycling under the influence of alcohol.



## 3 Ensuring Safety

When a car passes a bicycle on the right: ※1

- Cars must travel at a safe speed and maintain an appropriate distance from the bicycles.
- Bicycles are required to ride as close as possible to the left edge of the road.

※1 This refers to situations where there is not enough space between a car and a bicycle.



According to the Revised Road Traffic Act, issued on May 24, 2024:

- Items **1** and **3** will take effect within two years of issuance.
- Item **2** took effect on November 1, 2024.



# New penalties have been implemented for dangerous **bicycle** riding.



## Using a smartphone while riding a bicycle



Holding a smartphone or similar device to make calls or look at the screen while riding a bicycle has been newly prohibited and is now subject to penalties.

※ Operations while the bicycle is stopped are excluded.

Violators are subject to **imprisonment for not more than six months** or a **fine of not more than 100,000 yen**.

If the violation results in a traffic hazard, the offenders are subject to **imprisonment for not more than one year** or a **fine of not more than 300,000 yen**.



## Riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol and aiding or abetting it



Penalties have been newly established for riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol, as well as for providing alcohol, riding along with someone intoxicated, or providing a bicycle to an intoxicated individual.

Violators are subject to **imprisonment for not more than three years** or a **fine of not more than 500,000 yen**.

Those who provide bicycles to violators are subject to **imprisonment for not more than three years** or a **fine of not more than 500,000 yen**.

Those who provide alcohol to violators or accompany a cyclist under the influence are subject to **imprisonment for not more than two years** or a **fine of not more than 300,000 yen**.



“Using a smartphone while riding a bicycle” and “riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol” are subject to the bicycle rider training program.

## Bicycle Rider Training Program

Those who repeatedly commit certain violations (dangerous actions) that may pose a traffic hazard while operating a bicycle are subject to the training program. ※ Violation of an attendance order: fine of not more than 50,000 yen.

**Dangerous actions**

**Ignoring traffic signals, failing to stop at designated places, entering closed railway crossings, violating safety driving obligations, violating traffic lane rules, etc.**

**To prevent serious accidents, let's follow traffic rules.**

# Let's follow the **Five Rules** for Safe Cycling!



**1** Cyclists must generally ride on the left side of the street. Ride on sidewalk only in exceptional cases, and pedestrians have the right of way on sidewalk.

Bicycles are considered vehicles, so they must be ridden on the road. Let's ride on the left side of the road. However, there are exceptions that allow riding a bicycle on the sidewalk.

### Exceptions

- When this sign is posted



### Exceptions when no sign is posted

- Children under 13
- Individuals aged 70 and older
- Individuals with physical disabilities
- When it is dangerous to travel on the road

**2** Cyclists must obey traffic lights and stop signs at intersections and ensure safety.

At stop signs or places where "STOP" is written on the road, always come to a complete stop and check for safety to the left and right. Even if there are no signs, slow down and check both sides for safety at places with poor visibility.

**3** Turn on the lights at night.

By turning on your lights, you not only see what's ahead but also make other vehicles aware of your presence, enhancing safety.

**4** Cyclists are prohibited from riding under the influence of alcohol.

Bicycles are considered vehicles. You should never ride a bicycle after drinking alcohol, and children must not drink alcohol at all.

**5** Cyclists must wear a helmet.

As of April 2023, all cyclists are encouraged to make an effort to wear a helmet.

A helmet is a piece of equipment that protects your head.

More than half of the people who died in bicycle accidents suffered fatal head injuries. (Statistics from 2021 to 2023 • Hyogo Prefecture) Wear a helmet to protect your valuable life.



## Wear a bicycle helmet .

**1** All cyclists are encouraged to make an effort to wear a helmet.

**2** Wear a helmet that has a safety certification mark.



Japanese Industrial Standard Mark



Safe Goods Mark



Japan Cycling Federation Approved Mark



Japan Cycling Federation Recommended Mark

There are other safety standards, such as European Conformity Mark (EN1078), Consumer Product Safety Commission Mark