

LIVING GUIDE MORIOKA

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Enjoy an eco-friendly life, following the rules of bicycle riding!

One of the familiar vehicles in our lives is a bicycle. Let's check the rules again to ride a bicycle safely and avoid causing an accident.



Five rules for bicycle safety

The five rules listed below are especially important ones you must obey when riding a bicycle. Failure to follow them can result in penalties.

① In principle, ride on the roadway, not the sidewalk.

Legally, bicycles are classified as "light vehicles", a kind of automobile. Therefore, if the road has a sidewalk, you must principally ride a bicycle on the roadway.

② Ride on the left side of the road.

When riding a bicycle, you must ride on the left side of the road.

③ On the sidewalk, yield to pedestrians and ride slowly on the closer side to the road.

If there is a sign as shown in the figure 1 below, or if you are an elderly person or a child, you can ride a bicycle on the sidewalk. On the sidewalk, you must ride at a speed you can stop immediately on the closer side to the road. You must stop when you may interfere with pedestrians.



figure 1

⑤ Children must wear helmets.

Parents (guardians) should have their children wear helmets.

④ Ride safely.

- Do not ride under the influence of alcohol.: If you drink alcohol, you can't drive not only cars but also bicycles.

- Use a headlight when it becomes dark. : When driving a vehicle including a bicycle, you have to drive it with its lights (head light, rear light etc.) on.

- Do not ride double. : It is prohibited to ride with more than one person on a bicycle. It's easy to lose balance and very dangerous. However, the case where an adult rides with a little child in a special seat is admitted.

- Do not ride in parallel. : Riding a bicycle in parallel with other cyclists is prohibited. It could get in the way of other cars or cause a traffic accident. Ride in a line on the left side of the road. However, up to two cyclists can ride side by side where there is a sign as shown in the figure 2 on the right.



figure 2

- Obey traffic lights. Stop and look both ways at intersections. : Always obey traffic lights. It is a basic rule of the road. Also, stop and make sure it's safe if there is a stop sign.

Failure to follow the rules can result in penalties as listed below!

There are various rules other than the five rules which we have just seen. The table below shows the violation penalties. There also exists other rules, so please check when you have time.

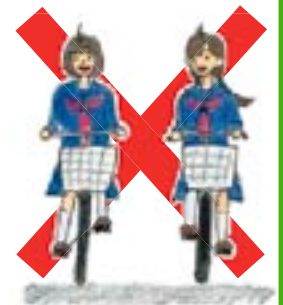
◆ Prohibited acts prescribed in the Iwate Prefectural Detailed Regulations for Enforcement of the Road Traffic Act

Prohibited Acts	Penalties
Riding double	Fines of up to 20,000 yen or lighter punishment
Using your cell phone while riding	
Riding with your umbrella open	
Listening to music with headphones while riding	



◆ Violating acts prescribed in the Road Traffic Act

Violating Acts	Penalties
Riding on the sidewalk or side strip permitted to bicycles at a speed or in a way you may interfere with pedestrians	Fines of up to 20,000 yen or lighter punishment
Not riding slowly on closer side to the road when riding on the sidewalk or side strip permitted to bicycles	
Riding in parallel where there is no sign saying up to two cyclists can ride side by side	
Riding at night without a bicycle headlight	Fines of up to 50,000 yen
Riding on the sidewalk where you are not allowed to	Jail time of up to 3 months or fines of up to 50,000 yen
Not riding on the left side of the road	
Not obeying traffic lights	
Not stopping at intersections or railroad crossings	
Causing a traffic accident or escaping after causing an accident	Jail time of up to 1 year or fines of up to 100,000 yen
Drunken driving	Jail time of up to 5 years or fines of up to 1,000,000 yen



Let's ride a bicycle with consideration for others.

In recent years, there have been a lot of bicycle accidents resulting in a pedestrian's injury or even death. Bicycles, as well as cars, can be a deadly weapon. Having consideration for pedestrians and other cyclists, let's enjoy an eco-friendly life without an accident. Riding a bicycle with consideration for others also means to protect you yourself as well.

