

Key Points of the Revised Road Traffic Act 2024

-The bicycle traffic rules have changed.-



Blue Ticket
(Traffic Violation Notice)

1 Introduction of Fines

The effective date is April 1, 2026.

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

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

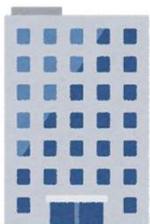
3 Ensuring Safety

The effective date is April 1, 2026.

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.



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.



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 up to six months** or a **fine of up to 100,000 yen**.

If the violation results in a traffic hazard, the offenders are subject to **imprisonment for up to one year** or a **fine of up to 300,000 yen**.

Violators are subject to **imprisonment for up to three years** or a **fine of up to 500,000 yen**.

Those who provide bicycles to violators are subject to **imprisonment for up to three years** or a **fine of up to 500,000 yen**.

Those who provide alcohol to violators or accompany a cyclist under the influence are subject to **imprisonment for up to two years** or a **fine of up to 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.

The revised Road Traffic Act scheduled to come into effect on April 1, 2026

A traffic violation notification system (blue ticket) will be introduced for bicycles and other light vehicles.

These are not exhaustive.

Using a mobile phone while driving.



Penalties

Imprisonment for up to 6 months
or a fine of up to 100,000 yen

Fine

12,000 yen

Ignoring traffic signals

• Failure to follow bicycle lane rules (riding the wrong way, riding on the sidewalk, etc.)



Penalties

Imprisonment for up to 3 months
or a fine of up to 50,000 yen

Fine

6,000 yen

Failure to stop at an intersection with a stop sign.



Penalties

Imprisonment for up to 3 months
or a fine of up to 50,000 yen

Fine

5,000 yen

When a car or other vehicle was passing on the right side of a bicycle and there was not enough space between the two, the bicycle did not pass as close to the left edge of the road as possible.

• Riding a bicycle that has no brakes or whose brakes do not work (fixed gear bicycle, etc.)



Penalties

Fine of up to 50,000 yen

Fine

5,000 yen

Riding bicycles side-by-side

• Riding double on a bicycle



Penalties

Fine of up to 20,000 yen

Fine

3,000 yen

Let's follow the Five Rules for Safe Cycling!

When riding on sidewalks, pedestrians have the right of way.

Let's ride on the side of the sidewalk closest to the road. If it's crowded, let's get off the bicycle and walk it.



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 you see this sign on the sidewalk.



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. (Researched by the National Police Agency from 2020 to 2024)

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