

# The Rules concerning Riding Bicycles on Public Roads have been Revised.

These rules are slated to come into effect on **June 1st, 2008.**

## 1 Rules concerning riding bicycles on sidewalks

- Cases when riding a bicycle on a sidewalk is allowed:
  - ① Within an area with road signs or other signposts indicating permission to do so
  - ② If the rider is under 13 years old
  - ③ In unavoidable circumstances due to roadway or traffic conditions

\* Even in the above cases, a policeman or a traffic warden may restrict bicycle riding on the sidewalk in order to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

- Pedestrians should:  
Avoid walking on "Specified lanes for bicycles" as much as possible



Before the revision

Bicycle riding on sidewalks is permitted within areas with road signs or other signposts indicating permission to do so.

After the revision

Bicycle riding on sidewalks is permitted within areas with road signs or other signposts indicating permission to do so.



If riders are under 13 years old.

In unavoidable circumstances due to roadway or traffic conditions.

## 2 Rules concerning wearing bicycle helmets

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



## 3 Rules concerning Regional Traffic Safety Activities Promotion Members

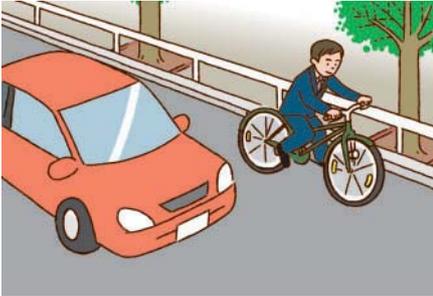
"Activities to promote awareness of good manners for riding on bicycles" were added to the activities of the Regional Traffic Safety Activities Promotion Members (traffic volunteers).

# 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

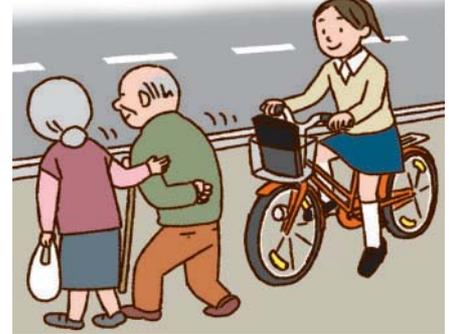


Bicycle riders should keep to the left side of the road.

## 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.

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



### ■ Riding double on a bicycle is prohibited.

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.

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

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



### ■ Bicycle riders should obey the traffic lights.

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.

Bicycle riders should obey stop signs, and slow down before entering a wider road from a narrow road, while checking for safety.

[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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**JITCO**

Japan International Trainee & Skilled Worker Cooperation Organization

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