



Cycling Rulebook



Starts on April 1, 2026

Fines to Be Introduced!

(Blue Ticket Penalties*)

*Traffic Violation Penalty Notice System



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
2. At crossings, make sure to obey the traffic lights, come to a complete stop, and check it is safe
3. Use a light when cycling at night time
4. No drunk cycling
5. Wear a helmet



In Japan,
cyclists travel
on the left
Check it is safe
by looking right
first



Kanagawa Prefecture's PR mascot:
Kanagawa Kintaro

Kanagawa Prefecture Bicycle Ordinance:
Make sure to enroll in bicycle liability insurance or similar coverage!

**Kanagawa Prefectural Government
& Kanagawa Prefecture Police Force**

In Kanagawa Prefecture, due to factors such as the increase in the number and severity of traffic accidents involving pedestrians caused by cyclists and cases of large damage pay-outs to victims of cycling accidents all over Japan, to realize a community where pedestrians, cyclists, and automobile drivers can travel safely and live with peace of mind, Kanagawa Prefecture is taking the following efforts to quickly provide relief to victims, reduce the financial burden on perpetrators, and ensure safe cycling: (1) Making it an obligation to have bicycle liability insurance, (2) carrying out initiatives to ensure safe cycling, and (3) establishing/enforcing an ordinance centered on the implementation of traffic safety education (came into effect in April 2019).

For details

[Kanagawa Bicycle Ordinance](#)

1. Cyclists must have bicycle liability insurance

Case study of large damage pay-outs for bicycle accidents

About ¥95 million

An elementary school student crashed head into a female pedestrian while cycling home. The woman lost consciousness as a result of a skull fracture, etc., and the elementary school student's mother, who was liable as the child's guardian, was ordered to pay damages.

Q1

Who must have bicycle liability insurance?

In addition to adult cyclists, those who must also have bicycle liability insurance are guardians in the case of child cyclists, and business operators and bicycle rental business operators in the case of commercial-use bicycles.

Q2

What is obligatory bicycle liability insurance?

In the Kanagawa Bicycle Ordinance, bicycle liability insurance is defined as "Insurance or mutual aid that can compensate for damage in the event that you inflict fatal or bodily harm on someone else due to an accident caused by the use of a bicycle." It is not insurance to cover your own life or health. E.g. Cycling insurance, automobile insurance and fire insurance policy, PTA insurance and group insurance in each line of work, TS Mark insurance, etc.

■ Types of bicycle insurance, etc.

Covers Type	Other People		Yourself
	Life and health	Property (objects)	Life and health
Personal liability insurance	○	○	✗
Accident insurance	✗	✗	○

There are various types of insurance. You may even have insurance without realizing it. Check ASAP with the "Sheet to Check If You Have Bicycle Liability Insurance" on the back cover!



Q3

Where can I get bicycle liability insurance?

For personal liability insurance and mutual aid, inquire at an insurance agency, and for TS Mark insurance, inquire at a bicycle safety maintenance shop.

*TS Mark insurance

Insurance granted to bicycles that are confirmed to be safe by a bicycle safety maintenance mechanic after being subject to a paid inspection or maintenance.

Q4

Do cyclists traveling from outside Kanagawa Prefecture also need to have insurance? What about rental bicycles?

The Kanagawa Bicycle Ordinance applies to all cyclists when cycling in Kanagawa Prefecture. You need to have insurance. The same goes for rental bicycles.

2. Efforts to ensure safe cycling

(1) Install reflectors on your bicycle



(2) Take crime-prevention measures such as using a lock



(3) Inspect and maintain



3. Implementation of traffic safety education

- Encouraging all cyclists to wear a helmet and other protective gear
- Traffic safety education at schools and in the home



Cycling while distracted is dangerous and prohibited!

Do not use your smartphone or cell phone



Do not wear earphones



Do not cycle while holding an umbrella



Topic !

Are you aware? Not knowing is no excuse!
Check the new bicycle rules 

◆ Prohibition of cycling while distracted

[Violators: imprisonment for up to 6 months or a fine of up to ¥100,000]

[If violation causes danger to traffic: imprisonment for up to 1 year or a fine of up to ¥300,000]

Cyclists are prohibited from holding a smartphone and making calls or staring at the screen while cycling (this also includes cases where the smartphone is fixed in a smartphone mount).



◆ Prohibition of cycling under the influence of alcohol

[Violator and person who provides the bicycle: imprisonment for up to 3 years or a fine of up to ¥500,000]

[Alcohol provider and passengers: imprisonment for up to 2 years or a fine of up to ¥300,000]

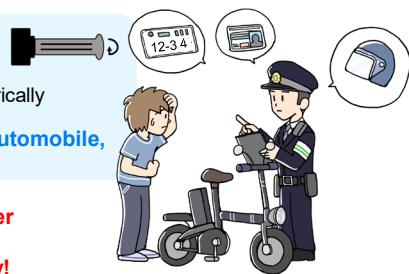
Drunk cyclists, those who provide the bicycle, passengers, and the alcohol provider shall all be hit with strict penalties.



◆ Electric bikes with pedals are categorized as ordinary motorized bicycles

- Vehicles equipped with pedals and a motor
- Vehicles that can be driven with only the motor by operating the throttle
- Vehicles that exceed the assist ratio standard of electrically assisted bicycles

→ It is an ordinary motorized bicycle or an automobile, not a bicycle!



Even when the bike is operated by human power (pedaling) alone, the traffic rules for ordinary motorized bicycles and automobiles shall apply!

Topic !

Fines to Be Introduced! (Blue Ticket Penalties)
Introduction of Traffic Violation
Penalty Notice System



From April 1, 2026

A system under which certain relatively minor violations committed by persons aged 16 or older are exempt from criminal penalties^{*1} if a fine is paid. Fines must be paid within seven days from the day after the notice is issued. If the fine is not paid, the incident will be treated as a criminal case, and depending on the circumstances, criminal penalties such as imprisonment^{*2} or fines resulting in a criminal record may be imposed. Not knowing is no excuse!

*1 Criminal penalties: A penalty that imposes imprisonment or a fine for committing a traffic violation, and results in a criminal record.

*2 Imprisonment: Under the new system, which integrates the punishments "imprisonment with labor" and "imprisonment without labor," offenders will be confined in a prison, where they will receive guidance and programs aimed at their rehabilitation and reform.

◎ Examples of Violations and Fines

Topics !



*Violations and fines are subject to change.

Violations	Fine
Holding or using a cell phone	¥12,000
Entering a closed level crossing	¥7,000
Violations such as ignoring traffic lights, cycling on improper traffic section (against traffic, etc.), failing to proceed safely through intersections, obstructing pedestrians at crossings, and failing to ride safely	¥6,000
Violations such as cycling in prohibited areas, obstructing vehicles on priority roads, failing to stop at designated stop signs, riding without lights, using a bicycle with defective brakes, and violating public safety commission rules	¥5,000
Violations such as failing to ride slowly on sidewalks, improper use of roadside lanes, cycling side by side in prohibited areas, making improper turns at intersections, carrying loads or passengers beyond the legal limit, and improper use of the bicycle bell or horn	¥3,000



If a cyclist commits 2 or more dangerous acts within 3 years, they shall be deemed a dangerous cyclist and be required to take the Cyclist Training Course!



◎ Fine Payment Procedures (After Receiving a Blue Ticket...)

*Payment: A fine to be paid to the state.

Received a blue ticket

Pay the fine at a post office or bank **within 7 days** from the day after the notice is issued

If you forget to pay before the deadline

Go to the specified place at the specified date and time and be served a notice*

*Notice: a notification document

Pay the specified fine at a post office or bank **within 10 days** from the day after the notice is issued

If you forget to pay the fine by the deadline and cannot attend on the appearance date

A notice will be sent to you

Pay the specified fine and postage fee at a post office or bank within the notice period

If you still fail to make the payment

You will be sent to a public prosecutors office or court to undergo legal proceedings

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: imprisonment for up to 3 months or a fine of up to ¥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.



Cyclists and pedestrians and so forth only

- (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: imprisonment for up to 3 months or a fine of up to ¥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

[Penalty: imprisonment for up to 3 months or a fine of up to ¥50,000]



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

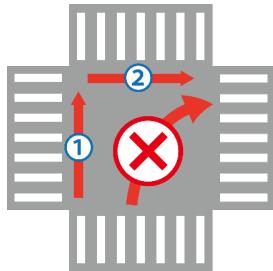


Signal lights to be obeyed by cyclists

- **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: imprisonment for up to 3 months or a fine of up to ¥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: fine up to ¥50,000]

5. Wear a helmet

As over half of fatal bicycle accidents are caused by head injuries, all cyclists are required to wear a helmet.



4. No drunk cycling

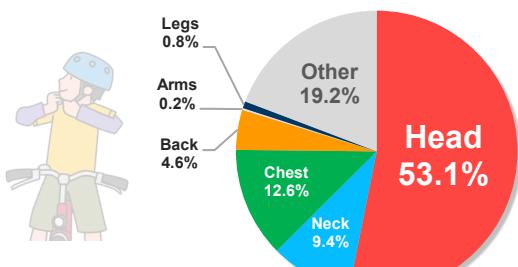
(Offenders)

Cycling under the influence of alcohol: imprisonment for up to 3 years or a fine of up to ¥500,000

Cycling while intoxicated: imprisonment for up to 5 years or a fine of up to ¥1 million

This applies to all cyclists!

The main body regions subject to fatal injuries in cyclists killed in accidents
(Total from 2020 to 2024) As per the National Police Agency



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



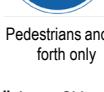
Roads where cyclists can only cycle in the direction of the arrow



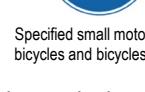
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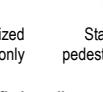
Motor vehicles only



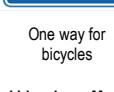
Pedestrians and so forth only



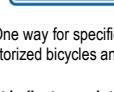
Specified small motorized bicycles and bicycles only



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



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

Lane in which standard bicycles must cycle in



Traffic lanes exclusive to standard bicycles



Prohibits standard bicycles from entering the intersection

Specified Small Motorized Bicycles

(also known as electric scooters, etc.)

Electric scooters (specified small motorized bicycles) are a new category of vehicle. If an electric scooter does not comply with the criteria, it will be deemed a motorcycle or the like and the rules of specified small motorized bicycles will not apply. The road rules for electric scooters are similar to that of a standard bicycle, but there are differences, so make sure to check the rules first before properly riding an electric scooter.

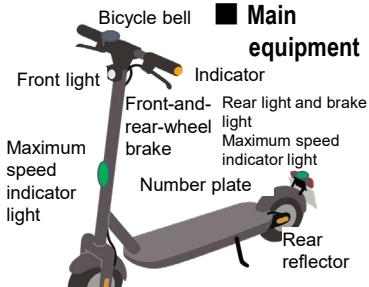
■ Main traffic rules

1. The locations in which you can travel differ according to the driving mode. On sidewalks, you must give way to pedestrians. Vehicles that do not meet the exceptional specified small motorized bicycle criteria are not allowed to travel on sidewalks.

	Road mode	Sidewalk mode
Road	○	---
Sidewalk	×	○*
Roadside lanes	×	○*
Bicycle paths or traffic lanes exclusive to standard bicycles	○	---

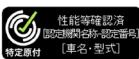
*Excluding cases where standard bicycles are not allowed

- At intersections with traffic lights, perform a hook turn. In principle, the lights that you must obey are the traffic lights. → 
- Always follow the stop sign and check it is safe all around you. → 
- Try to wear a helmet in the unlikely event that an accident occurs. → 
- Individuals who violate the Road Traffic Law are required to pay violation fines, and those who repeatedly commit dangerous acts are ordered to take the Specified Small Motorized Bicycle Driver Course.



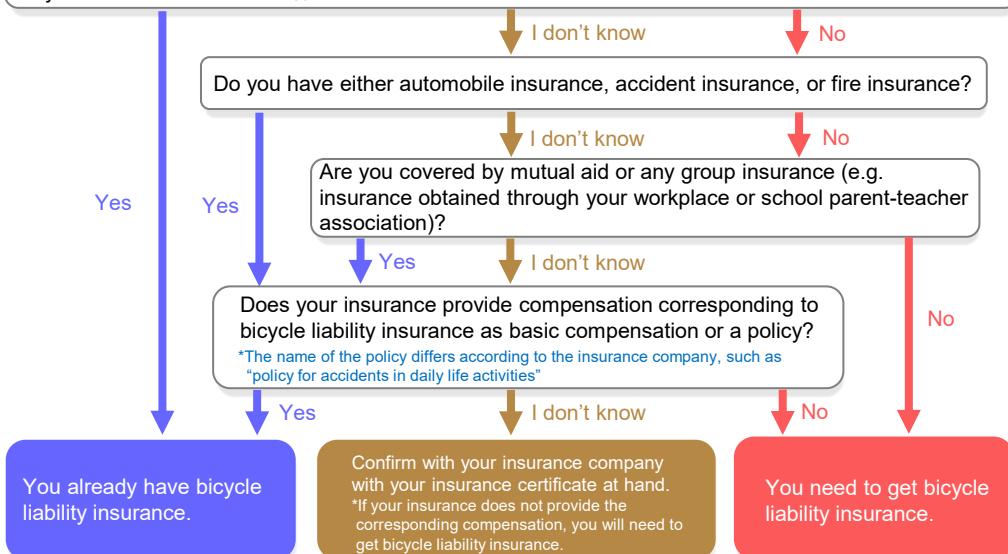
	Specified small motorized bicycles (road mode)	Exceptional specified small motorized bicycles (sidewalk mode)
Size	60 cm or less (width) × 190 cm or less (length)	
Rated output	0.60 kW or less	
Maximum speed	20 km/h or less (lights green)	6 km/h or less (flashes green)
Number plate	Required	
Mandatory vehicle liability insurance	Required	
Driving license	Not required (individuals younger than 16 years old are not allowed to drive)	
Helmet	Best-effort obligation	

Performance confirmation sticker

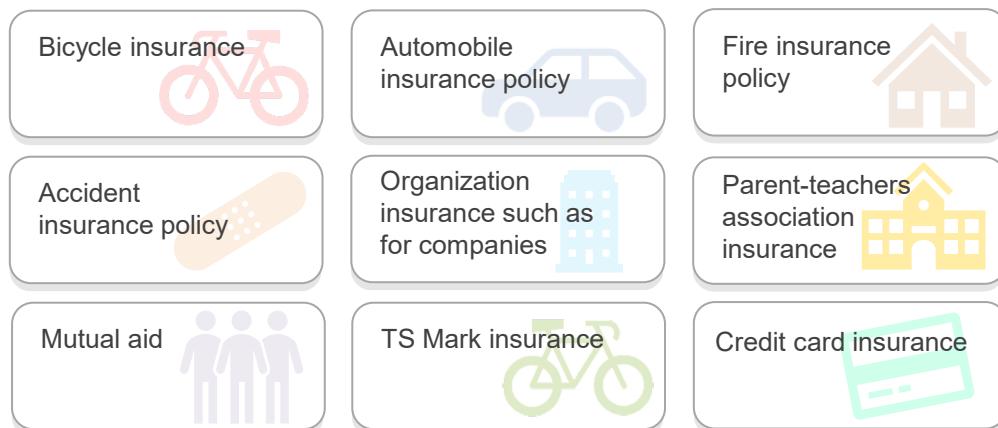


Sheet to Check If You Have Bicycle Liability Insurance

Are you covered by an insurance policy (bicycle liability insurance, etc.) that can compensate for damage in the event that you inflict fatal or bodily harm on someone else in an accident when riding a bicycle? *TS Mark insurance also applies



■ Types of liability insurance for daily life activities



■ Types of commercial liability insurance (for business operators)

- **Premises liability insurance:** insurance for accidents during business activities
- **TS Mark insurance:** insurance covering the body of the bicycle



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