

Road rules applying to bicycle lanes etc

Retrieved July 2010

(http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/tocview/index.w3p:cond=:doc_id=%2B142%2B2009%2BAT%40EN%2B20100413000000;histon=:prompt=:rec=-1;term)

NB There are other rules which apply to bicycles – everyone should know the Road Rules inside out! This is just a selection.

60A. Proceeding through a bicycle storage area before a red traffic light or arrow

(1) If there is a bicycle storage area before traffic lights that are showing a red traffic light, a driver of a motor vehicle must not allow any part of the vehicle to enter the bicycle storage area.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: Bicycle storage area, red traffic light and motor vehicle are defined in the dictionary.

(2) If there is a bicycle storage area before traffic arrows that are showing a red traffic arrow, and a driver of a motor vehicle is turning in the direction indicated by the arrow, the driver must not allow any part of the vehicle to enter the bicycle storage area.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

153. Bicycle lanes

(1) A driver (except the rider of a bicycle) must not drive in a bicycle lane, unless the driver is permitted to drive in the bicycle lane under this rule or rule 158.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

Note 1: Bicycle is defined in the dictionary.

Note 2: Rule 158 provides additional exceptions applying to this rule, and also provides a defence to the prosecution of a driver for an offence against this rule.

(2) If stopping or parking is permitted at a place in a bicycle lane under another law of this jurisdiction, a driver may drive for up to 50 metres in the bicycle lane to stop or park at that place.

Note: [Part 12](#) deals with parking and restricted stopping areas.

(3) A driver may drive for up to 50 metres in a bicycle lane if –

(a) the driver is driving a public bus, public minibus, or taxi, and is dropping off or picking up, passengers; and

(b) there is not another law of this jurisdiction prohibiting the driver from driving in the bicycle lane.

Note: Public bus, public minibus and taxi are defined in the dictionary.

(4) A *bicycle lane* is a marked lane, or the part of a marked lane –

(a) beginning at a *bicycle lane sign* applying to the lane; and

(b) ending at the nearest of the following:

(i) an *end bicycle lane sign* applying to the lane;

(ii) an intersection (unless the lane is at the unbroken side of the continuing road at a T-intersection or continued across the intersection by broken lines);

(iii) if the road ends at a dead end – the end of the road.

Note: Continuing road, intersection, marked lane and T-intersection are defined in the dictionary.

158. Exceptions to driving in special purpose lanes, &c.

(1) The driver of any vehicle may drive for up to the permitted distance in a bicycle lane, bus lane, tram lane, transit lane or truck lane if it is necessary for the driver to drive in the lane –

(a) to enter or leave the road; or

(b) to enter a part of the road of one kind from a part of the road of another kind (for example, moving to or from a service road, the shoulder of the road or an emergency stopping lane); or

(c) to overtake a vehicle that is turning right, or making a U-turn from the centre of the road, and is giving a right change of direction signal; or

(d) to enter a marked lane, or part of the road where there is room for a line of traffic (other than motor bikes, bicycles, motorised wheelchairs or animals), from the side of the road.

Note 1: Permitted distance is defined in subrule (4).

Note 2: Bicycle lane is defined in rule 153, bus lane is defined in rule 154, emergency stopping lane is defined in rule 95, centre of the road, marked lane, overtake, right change of direction signal, service road and U-turn are defined in the dictionary, shoulder is defined in rule 12, tram lane is defined in rule 155, transit lane is defined in rule 156, and truck lane is defined in rule 157.

Note 3: A driver must keep clear of a tram travelling in a tram lane – see rule 76.

(2) The driver of any vehicle may drive in a bicycle lane, bus lane, tram lane, transit lane or truck lane if –

(a) it is necessary for the driver to drive in the lane to avoid an obstruction; or

(b) information on or with a traffic sign applying to the lane indicates that the driver may drive in the lane; or

(c) the driver is permitted to drive in the lane under another law of this jurisdiction.

Note 1: Obstruction, traffic sign and with are defined in the dictionary.

Note 2: See clause 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 for jurisdictional qualifications.

(3) It is a defence to the prosecution of a driver for an offence against a provision of this Division for driving in a bicycle lane, bus lane, tram lane, transit lane or truck lane if –

(a) it is necessary for the driver to drive in the lane to stop at a place in the lane; and

(b) the driver is permitted to stop at that place under the *Road Rules* or another law of this jurisdiction, or it is a defence under rule 165 for the driver to stop at that place; and

(c) if the lane is a bicycle lane – the driver drives in the lane for no more than the permitted distance.

Note: Rule 165 provides a defence to the prosecution of a driver for an offence against a provision of [Part 12](#) (Restrictions on stopping and parking). The defence is available, for example, if the driver needs to stop to deal with a medical or other emergency.

(4) In this rule –

"permitted distance" means –

(a) for a bicycle lane or tram lane – 50 metres; or

(b) for any other lane – 100 metres.

174. Stopping at or near bicycle crossing lights (except at an intersection)

(1) This rule applies to a place on a road –

(a) with bicycle crossing lights facing bicycle riders crossing the road; and

(b) with traffic lights facing traffic travelling on the road; and

(c) that is not at an intersection.

Note: *Bicycle crossing lights*, *intersection* and *traffic lights* are defined in the dictionary.

(2) A driver must not stop within 10 metres before the traffic lights nearest to the driver at the place, and 3 metres after the traffic lights, unless the driver stops at a place on a length of road, or in an area, to which a parking control sign applies and the driver is permitted to stop at that place under the *Road Rules*.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note 1: *Parking control sign* is defined in the dictionary.

Note 2: A driver stops within a particular distance from traffic lights if the driver stops so any part of the driver's vehicle is within that distance – see rule 350(2).

(3) For this rule, distances are measured –

(a) in the direction in which the driver is driving; and

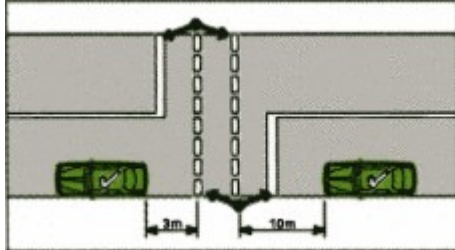
(b) as shown in the example.

(4) In this rule –

"road" does not include a road-related area, but includes any shoulder of the road.

Note: Road-related area is defined in rule 13, and shoulder is defined in rule 12.

Example



Measurement of distance – bicycle crossing lights

151. Riding a motor bike or bicycle alongside more than one other rider

(1) The rider of a motor bike or bicycle must not ride on a road that is not a multi-lane road alongside **more than one** other rider, unless [subrule \(3\)](#) applies to the rider.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: Bicycle, motor bike and multi-lane road are defined in the dictionary, and rider is defined in [rule 17](#).

(2) The rider of a motor bike or bicycle must not ride in a marked lane alongside more than one other rider in the marked lane, unless [subrule \(3\)](#) applies to the rider.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: Marked lane is defined in the dictionary.

(3) The rider of a motor bike or bicycle may ride alongside more than one other rider if the rider is –

(a) overtaking the other riders; or

(b) permitted to do so under another law of this jurisdiction.

Note: Overtake is defined in the dictionary.

(4) If the rider of a motor bike or bicycle is riding on a road that is not a multi-lane road alongside another rider, or in a marked lane alongside another rider in the marked lane, the rider must ride not over 1.5 metres from the other rider.

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

(5) In this rule –

"road" does not include a road-related area, but includes a bicycle path, shared path and any shoulder of the road.

Note: Bicycle path is defined in rule 239, road-related area is defined in rule 13, shared path is defined in rule 242, and shoulder is defined in rule 12.

(2) A driver must not stop in a bicycle lane unless –

(a) the driver –

(i) is driving a public bus, public minibus or taxi, and is dropping off or picking up, passengers; and

(ii) is permitted to drive in the lane under the *Road Rules* or another law of this jurisdiction; or

(b) the driver is permitted to stop or park in the bicycle lane under another law of this jurisdiction.

239. Pedestrians on a bicycle path or separated footpath

(1) A pedestrian must not be on a bicycle path, or a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles, unless the pedestrian –

(a) is crossing the bicycle path or separated footpath by the shortest safe route; and

(b) does not stay on the bicycle path or separated footpath for longer than necessary to cross the bicycle path or separated footpath safely.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note 1: Bicycle is defined in the dictionary, and bicycle path and separated footpath are defined in subrule (4).

Note 2: Rule 336 deals with how parts of a separated footpath are designated for bicycle riders and pedestrians.

(2) However, a pedestrian may be on a bicycle path, or a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles, if –

(a) the pedestrian is –

(i) in or pushing a wheelchair; or

(ii) on rollerblades, rollerskates or a similar wheeled recreational device; and

(b) there is no traffic control device, or information on or with a traffic control device, applying to the bicycle path or separated footpath that indicates that the pedestrian is not permitted to be on the bicycle path or the part of the separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles.

243. Travelling on rollerblades, &c., on a bicycle path or separated footpath

(1) A person travelling on rollerblades, rollerskates, or a similar wheeled recreational device, must not be on a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of pedestrians unless the person –

(a) is crossing the separated footpath by the shortest safe route; and

(b) does not stay on the separated footpath for longer than necessary to cross the separated footpath safely.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: Separated footpath is defined in rule 239.

(2) A person travelling on rollerblades, rollerskates, or a similar wheeled recreational device, on a bicycle path, or a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles, must keep out of the path of any bicycle.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: Bicycle is defined in the dictionary, and bicycle path is defined in rule 239.

PART 15 - Additional rules for bicycle riders

Note 1 This Part contains rules that apply only to bicycle riders. Most rules in the *Road Rules* apply to bicycle riders in the same way as they apply to drivers – see rule 19. There are some other rules that are for bicycle riders only, or that have exceptions for bicycle riders. These include:

(a) optional hook turn by bicycle riders – rule 35

(b) bicycle riders making a hook turn contrary to a *no hook turn by bicycles sign* – rule 36

(c) bicycle riders excepted from giving stop signals – rule 52

(d) exception for bicycle riders riding in emergency stopping lanes – rule 95

(e) bicycle riders entering and leaving roundabouts – rules 111 and 119

(f) bicycle riders overtaking on the left – rule 141

(g) riding alongside other riders – rule 151

(h) bicycle lanes – rule 153

(i) parking at a bicycle rail or in a bicycle rack – rule 166

(j) stopping on footpaths – rule 197

(k) stopping on a road with a *bicycle parking sign* – rule 201

Note 2 Bicycle is defined in the dictionary.

245. Riding a bicycle

The rider of a bicycle must –

(a) sit astride the rider's seat facing forwards (except if the bicycle is not built to be ridden astride); and

(b) ride with at least one hand on the handlebars; and

(c) if the bicycle is equipped with a seat – not ride the bicycle seated in any other position on the bicycle.

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

246. Carrying people on a bicycle

(1) The rider of a bicycle must not carry more persons on the bicycle than the bicycle is designed to carry.

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Example A single-seat bicycle with a child's seat attached is designed to carry 2 people, one on the bicycle seat and one on the attached child's seat.

(2) A passenger on a bicycle that is moving, or is stationary but not parked, must sit in the seat designed for the passenger.

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

(3) The rider of a bicycle must not ride with a passenger unless the passenger complies with [subrule \(2\)](#).

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

247. Riding in a bicycle lane on a road

(1) The rider of a bicycle riding on a length of road with a bicycle lane designed for bicycles travelling in the same direction as the rider must ride in the bicycle lane unless it is impracticable to do so.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note: Rule 153 defines a bicycle lane and deals with the use of bicycle lanes by other vehicles.

(2) In this rule –

"road" does not include a road-related area.

Note: Road-related area includes the shoulder of a road – see rule 13.

247A. Entering a bicycle storage area

(1) A rider of a bicycle approaching a bicycle storage area at an intersection that has traffic lights or traffic arrows showing a red traffic light or red arrow must not enter the bicycle storage area other than from a bicycle lane, unless the rider is not required to ride in the bicycle lane under the *Road Rules*.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note 1: Bicycle storage area is defined in the dictionary.

Note 2: See clause 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 for jurisdictional qualifications.

(2) [Subrule \(1\)](#) does not apply if –

(a) the bicycle storage area cannot, under another law of this jurisdiction, be entered from a bicycle lane; and

(b) the rider enters the area in accordance with another law of this jurisdiction.

247B. Giving way while entering or in a bicycle storage area

(1) A rider of a bicycle must when entering a bicycle storage area, give way to –

(a) any vehicle that is in the area; and

(b) if the area is before any green or yellow traffic lights, any motor vehicle that is entering or about to enter the area, unless the motor vehicle is turning in a direction that is subject to a red traffic arrow; and

(c) if the area forms part of a lane to which traffic arrows apply, any motor vehicle that is entering or about to enter the area at a time when those arrows are green or yellow.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: Bicycle storage area is defined in the dictionary.

(2) A rider of a bicycle that is in a bicycle storage area that extends across more than one lane of a multi-lane road must, if the area is before any green or yellow traffic lights, give way to a motor vehicle that is in any lane other than the lane that

the bicycle is directly in front of, unless the motor vehicle is turning in a direction that is subject to a red traffic arrow.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

248. No riding across a road on a crossing

(1) The rider of a bicycle must not ride across a road, or part of a road, on a children's crossing or pedestrian crossing.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note: Children's crossing is defined in rule 80, and pedestrian crossing is defined in rule 81.

(2) The rider of a bicycle must not ride across a road, or part of a road, on a marked foot crossing, unless there are bicycle crossing lights at the crossing showing a green bicycle crossing light.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note: Marked foot crossing is defined in the dictionary.

249. Riding on a separated footpath

The rider of a bicycle must not ride on a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of pedestrians.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note 1: Separated footpath is defined in rule 239, and pedestrian is defined in rule 18.

Note 2: Rule 336 deals with how parts of a separated footpath are designated for bicycle riders and pedestrians.

250. Riding on a footpath or shared path

(1) The rider of a bicycle who is 12 years old or older must not ride on a footpath if another law of this jurisdiction prohibits the rider from riding on the footpath.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Example of another law of this jurisdiction

Another law of this jurisdiction may provide that a commercial courier must not ride a bicycle on any footpath or any footpath in a particular area, or that an adult must not ride a bicycle on a footpath unless the adult is accompanying a child under 12 years who is also riding on the footpath.

Note: Footpath is defined in the dictionary.

(2) The rider of a bicycle riding on a footpath or shared path must –

(a) keep to the left of the footpath or shared path unless it is impracticable to do so;
and

(b) give way to any pedestrian on the footpath or shared path.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note 1: Pedestrian is defined in rule 18, and shared path is defined in rule 242.

Note 2: For subrule (2), give way means the rider must slow down and, if necessary, stop to avoid a collision – see the definition in the dictionary.

(3) In this rule –

"footpath" does not include a separated footpath.

Note: Separated footpath is defined in rule 239.

251. Riding to the left of oncoming bicycle riders on a path

The rider of a bicycle riding on a bicycle path, footpath, separated footpath or shared path must keep to the left of any oncoming bicycle rider on the path.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note: Bicycle path and separated footpath are defined in rule 239, footpath is defined in the dictionary, and shared path is defined in rule 242.

252. No bicycles signs and markings

(1) The rider of a bicycle must not ride on a length of road or footpath to which a *no bicycles sign*, or a *no bicycles road marking*, applies.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note: Footpath, length of road and no bicycles road marking are defined in the dictionary.

(2) A *no bicycles sign*, or a *no bicycles road marking*, applies to a length of road or footpath beginning at the sign or marking and ending at the nearest of the following:

- (a) a *bicycle path sign* or bicycle path road marking;
- (b) a *bicycle lane sign*;
- (c) a *separated footpath sign* or separated footpath road marking;
- (d) a *shared path sign*;
- (e) an *end no bicycles sign*;
- (f) the next intersection.

Note: Intersection is defined in the dictionary, and bicycle path road marking and separated footpath road marking are defined in rule 239.



No bicycles sign



Bicycle path sign



Bicycle lane sign



Separated footpath sign



Shared path sign



End no bicycles sign

Note 1 for diagrams: There are a number of other permitted versions of the *bicycle path sign* and *bicycle lane sign*, and another permitted version of the *no bicycles sign*, *separated footpath sign* and *shared path sign* – see the diagrams in Schedule 3.

Note 2 for diagrams: A *separated footpath sign* may have the pedestrian symbol and the bicycle symbol reversed – see rule 316(4).

253. Bicycle riders not to cause a traffic hazard

The rider of a bicycle must not cause a traffic hazard by moving into the path of a driver or pedestrian.

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

254. Bicycles being towed, &c.

(1) A person must not ride on a bicycle that is being towed by another vehicle.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: *Vehicle* is defined in rule 15.

(2) The rider of a bicycle must not hold onto another vehicle while the vehicle is moving.

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

255. Riding too close to the rear of a motor vehicle

The rider of a bicycle must not ride within 2 metres of the rear of a moving motor vehicle continuously for more than 200 metres.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: *Motor vehicle* is defined in the dictionary.

256. Bicycle helmets

(1) The rider of a bicycle must wear an approved bicycle helmet securely fitted and fastened on the rider's head, unless the rider is exempt from wearing a bicycle helmet under another law of this jurisdiction.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note: *Approved bicycle helmet* is defined in the dictionary.

(2) A passenger on a bicycle that is moving, or is stationary but not parked, must wear an approved bicycle helmet securely fitted and fastened on the passenger's head, unless the passenger is –

- (a) a paying passenger on a three or four-wheeled bicycle; or
- (b) exempt from wearing a bicycle helmet under another law of this jurisdiction.

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

(3) The rider of a bicycle must not ride with a passenger on the bicycle unless the passenger complies with [subrule \(2\)](#).

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

257. Riding with a person on a bicycle trailer

(1) The rider of a bicycle must not tow a bicycle trailer with a person in or on the bicycle trailer, unless –

- (a) the rider is 16 years old, or older; and
- (b) the person in or on the bicycle trailer is under 10 years old, or as otherwise provided under another law of this jurisdiction; and
- (c) the bicycle trailer can safely carry the person; and
- (d) the person in or on the bicycle trailer is wearing an approved bicycle helmet securely fitted and fastened on the person's head, unless the person is exempt from wearing a bicycle helmet under another law of this jurisdiction.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: *Approved bicycle helmet* is defined in the dictionary.

(2) In this rule –

"bicycle trailer" means a vehicle that is built to be towed, or is towed, by a bicycle.

Note: *Vehicle* is defined in rule 15.

258. Equipment on a bicycle

A person must not ride a bicycle that does not have –

- (a) at least one effective brake; and
- (b) a bell, horn, or similar warning device, in working order.

Penalty:

Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

259. Riding at night

The rider of a bicycle must not ride at night, or in hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility, unless the bicycle, or the rider, displays –

- (a) a flashing or steady white light that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the front of the bicycle; and
- (b) a flashing or steady red light that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the rear of the bicycle; and
- (c) a red reflector that is clearly visible for at least 50 metres from the rear of the bicycle when light is projected onto it by a vehicle's headlight on low-beam.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: Low-beam and night are defined in the dictionary.

260. Stopping for a red bicycle crossing light

(1) The rider of a bicycle approaching or at bicycle crossing lights showing a red bicycle crossing light must stop before reaching the bicycle crossing lights.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note 1: Bicycle crossing lights is defined in the dictionary.

Note 2: Red bicycle crossing light includes a flashing red bicycle crossing light – see the definition in the dictionary.

(2) The rider must not proceed until –

- (a) the bicycle crossing lights change to green; or
- (b) there is no red bicycle crossing light showing.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

Note: Green bicycle crossing light is defined in the dictionary.

Example



Red bicycle crossing light



Green bicycle crossing light

261. Stopping for a yellow bicycle crossing light

(1) The rider of a bicycle approaching bicycle crossing lights showing a yellow bicycle crossing light must comply with this rule.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note 1: Bicycle crossing lights is defined in the dictionary.

Note 2: Yellow bicycle crossing light includes a flashing yellow bicycle crossing light – see the definition in the dictionary.

(2) If the rider can stop safely before reaching the bicycle crossing lights, the bicycle rider must stop before reaching the lights.

(3) If the rider stops before reaching the bicycle crossing lights, and the lights change to red, the bicycle rider must not proceed until –

(a) the bicycle crossing lights change to green; or

(b) there is no red or yellow bicycle crossing light showing.

Note: Green bicycle crossing light and red bicycle crossing light are defined in the dictionary.



Yellow bicycle crossing light

262. Proceeding when bicycle crossing lights change to yellow or red

(1) The rider of a bicycle who is crossing at an intersection, or another place on a road, with bicycle crossing lights and traffic lights must comply with this rule.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

Note: Bicycle crossing lights, intersection and traffic lights are defined in the dictionary.

(2) If the bicycle crossing lights change from green to yellow, flashing yellow, red or flashing red while the rider is crossing the road, the rider must not stay on the road for longer than necessary to cross safely to the nearer (in the direction of travel of the rider) of the following:

(a) a dividing strip, safety zone, or traffic island, forming part of the area set aside or used by riders of bicycles to cross the road at the intersection or place (the *safety area*);

(b) the nearest side of the road.

Note: Dividing strip and traffic island are defined in the dictionary, and safety zone is defined in rule 162.

(3) If, under [subrule \(2\)](#), the rider crosses to the safety area, the rider must remain in the safety area until the bicycle crossing lights change to green.

(4) However, if the rider cannot operate the bicycle crossing lights from the safety area, the rider may cross to the far side of the road when –

(a) the traffic lights change to green or flashing yellow, or there is no red traffic light showing; and

(b) it is safe to do so.

Note: Red traffic light is defined in the dictionary.

(5) In this rule –

"road" does not include a road-related area, but includes any shoulder of the road.

Note: Road-related area is defined in rule 13 and shoulder is defined in rule 12.