

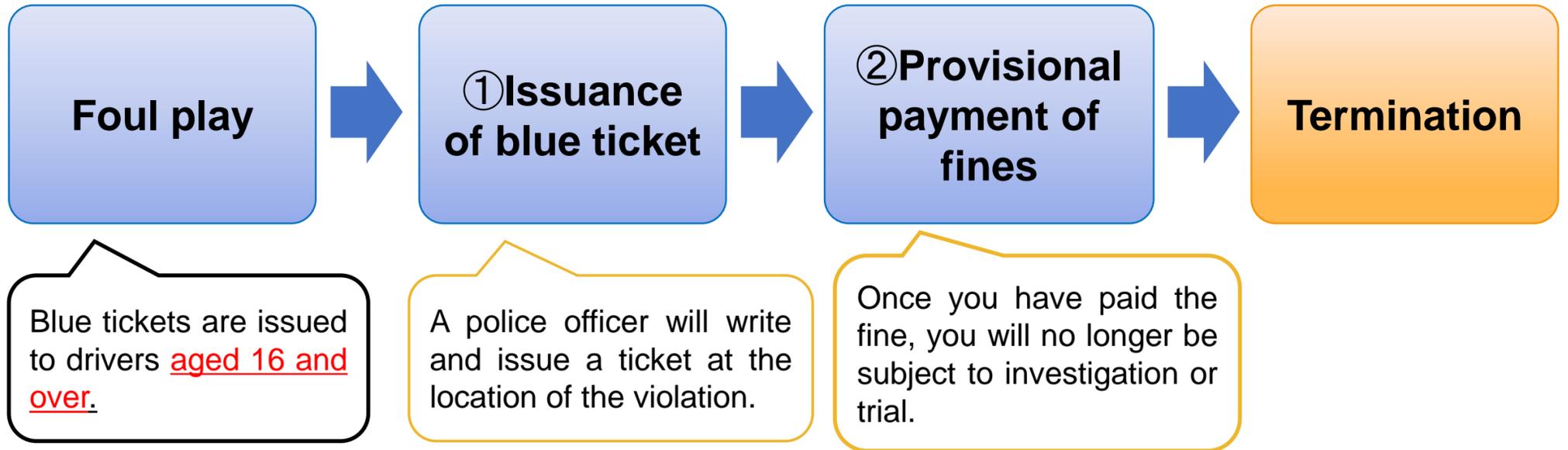


Notice from Nagahama Kinomoto Police Station

英語版: 令和7年10月

Bicycle Traffic Violation Notification System
Starting April 1, 2026, "Blue Tickets" will also be applicable to bicycles!

What happens if I violate the rules?



For violations by persons under the age of 16, we will continue to **issue warnings and guidance in the form of warning tickets and bicycle safety instruction cards**.

※ Serious and dangerous traffic violations such as drunk driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, and obstructive driving will result in criminal proceedings such as issuing a red ticket.

What happens if I repeat the violation?

If a person aged 14 or over is repeatedly arrested for certain traffic violations or causes a traffic accident two or more times within three years, the Prefectural Public Safety Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Public Safety Commission") will order the person to **take a "Bicycle Driver's Course."**

【Eligible Persons】

- Anyone aged 14 or older
- Anyone who has been arrested for a dangerous traffic violation two or more times within the past three years.

※ Those who have caused a traffic accident due to a dangerous traffic violation may also be included in the list of those arrested.



【Attendance Instructions】
Course Length: 3 hours
Course Fee: 6,000 yen

Attend →

Risk Improvement

Not attend →

Failure to comply with the order to take the course will result in a fine of 50,000 yen.

※ Course fees are subject to change due to changes in regulations.

【Targeted dangerous traffic violations (16 items)】

Ignoring traffic signals, violating no-entry rules, violating vehicle obligations on pedestrian roads, violating traffic division rules, obstructing pedestrians while using the shoulder, entering a blocked railroad crossing, violating the obligation to promote safety at intersections, obstructing vehicles with priority at intersections, violation of duty to proceed safely at intersections, etc., failing to stop temporarily at designated locations, violation of the obligation to proceed safely at roundabouts, etc., riding a bicycle with a faulty brake, driving under the influence of alcohol, violating the obligation to drive safely, using a mobile phone, obstructive driving

For more information, check here 



Basic Traffic Rules for Bicycles

1 Rules for riding a bicycle on the road

A. Principles for Riding on the Road

Bicycles are classified as “light vehicles” and are a type of “vehicle” like automobiles. On roads where there is a distinction between the sidewalk or shoulder* and the roadway, bicycles must, as a general rule, ride on the roadway. (Article 17, Paragraph 1 of the Law)

* A roadside strip is an area marked off by a white line near the edge of a road without a sidewalk for pedestrians to use.



Roadside Strip

B. Principle of Driving on the Left Side

Bicycles must generally ride on the left side of the road. (Article 17, Paragraph 4, Article 18, Paragraph 1 of the Road Traffic Act)

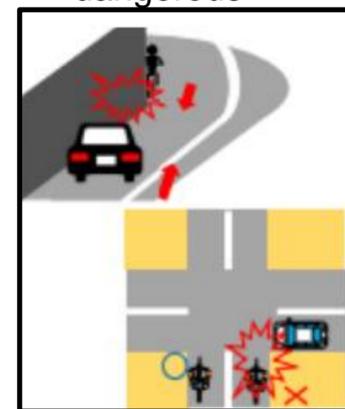
Why is reverse driving dangerous?

Reverse driving (riding on the right side of the road) is extremely dangerous:

- When there are obstacles such as parked vehicles or on curves with poor visibility, oncoming vehicles may not be able to see the bicycle and may collide head-on.
- When a bicycle is riding on the right side of the road, if a bicycle suddenly appears on the left side of a car at an intersection, the car may not be able to see the bicycle in time and may not have time to brake.

For these reasons, it is extremely dangerous.

Driving on the right side is dangerous

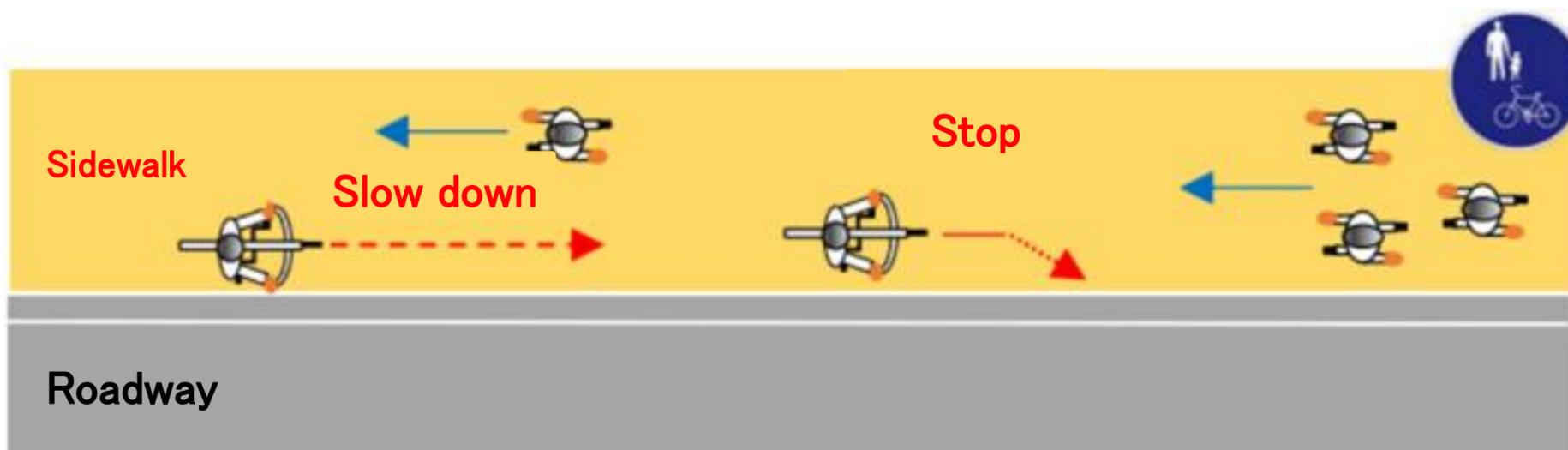


2 Rules for Bicycles on Sidewalks

When riding a standard bicycle on a sidewalk is permitted, you must ride slowly* on the sidewalk from the center of the sidewalk toward the roadway. (Law, Article 63-4, Paragraph 2)

Furthermore, if your bicycle's progress would obstruct the passage of pedestrians, you must stop temporarily.

*Slowing down means proceeding at a speed that allows you to stop immediately.



3 Traffic Light Rules

Bicycles must obey vehicle signals when riding on the roadway and pedestrian signals when riding at crosswalks (Article 7).

Furthermore, when a vehicle signal is yellow, bicycles must not proceed beyond the stop sign unless it is not possible to stop safely.

However, if a pedestrian signal is marked "For pedestrians and bicycles only," bicycles must obey the pedestrian signal even when riding on the roadway.



Vehicle traffic light



Pedestrian traffic light



Pedestrian / bicycle traffic light

Basic Traffic Rules for Bicycles

4 Stop Rules

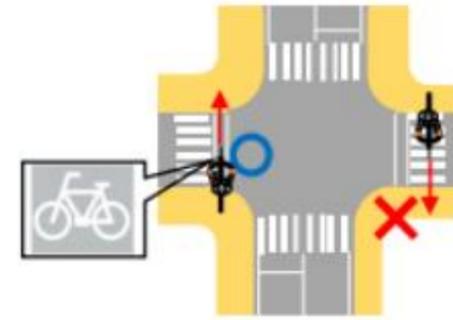
At intersections with stop signs, you must stop immediately before a stop line if one is present, or immediately before the intersection if there is no stop line. (Article 43)



5 Rules for Crossing Roads

A. When a Bicycle Crossing Lane is Provided

If a bicycle crossing lane is nearby when a bicycle is crossing a road, the bicycle must cross the road. (Law, Articles 63-6 and 63-7)



B. Crosswalks

You may cross a crosswalk when crossing a road. However, if there is a risk of obstructing the passage of pedestrians crossing the road, you may not cross while riding a bicycle. (Article 25-2, Paragraph 1 of the Law)

6 Prohibition of Dangerous Acts (Serious Violations Subject to Criminal Proceedings)

A. Prohibition of Drunk Driving

It is prohibited to ride a bicycle while intoxicated, regardless of the alcohol concentration in your body. (Article 65, Paragraph 1 of the Act) If the influence of alcohol is likely to impair your ability to drive normally, you will be convicted of drunk driving and subject to imprisonment for up to five years or a fine of up to 1 million yen. Furthermore, if your blood alcohol concentration is 0.3 mg/ml or higher or your breath alcohol concentration is 0.15 mg/l or higher, you will be convicted of drunk driving and subject to imprisonment for up to three years or a fine of up to 500,000 yen.



B. Prohibition of Cell Phone Use

When riding a bicycle, it is prohibited to talk on a cell phone or smartphone or to stare at the displayed image. (Article 71, Section 5-5 of the Law) If you cause an accident or obstruct pedestrians while using a cell phone or smartphone, thereby creating a traffic hazard, you will be subject to imprisonment of up to one year or a fine of up to 300,000 yen for cell phone use, etc. (traffic hazard).



7 Other traffic light rules that must be observed when riding

A. Rules for crossing railroad tracks

When crossing a railroad track by bicycle, you must stop immediately before the crossing (or immediately before the stop line, if there is one) and ensure that it is safe to do so. (Article 33, Paragraph 1 of the Law)



B. Prohibition of riding while wearing earphones or holding an umbrella

Some bicycle-related rules are individually stipulated by the Public Safety Commission.

Riding while holding an umbrella or wearing earphones that prevent you from hearing surrounding sounds is prohibited in all prefectures. (Law, Article 71, Paragraph 6)



【Foul play and amount of fine】

【Serious violations dealt with through criminal proceedings】

Foul play	Amount of fine
Use of mobile phones, etc. (holding it)	12,000 yen
Entering the railroad crossing	7,000 yen
Ignoring traffic lights	6,000 yen
Violation of traffic classification	6,000 yen
Overtaking violation	
Failure to stop at railroad crossings, etc.	
Obstructing pedestrians crossing the street, etc.	
Violation of safe driving obligation	
Traffic ban violation	
Violation of slow speed on pedestrian roads	5,000 yen
Violation of the obligation to pass pedestrians to the side	
Violation of legal prohibition on crossing, etc.	
Obstruction of priority road vehicles, etc.	
Slow down area violation	
Temporary non-stop service at designated locations, etc.	
Lane violation	
Distance not maintained	
No lane change violation	
Interruption etc.	
Interference with priority vehicles at intersections	
Obstruction of emergency vehicles, etc.	
No lights	
Muddy driving	
Violation of Public Safety Commission guidelines	3,000 yen
Violation of traffic permit conditions	
Violation of the obligation to drive slowly on the sidewalk	
Violation of roadside lane proceeding method	
Translation prohibition violation	
Violation of the right or left turn at an intersection	
Violation of light vehicle loading restrictions	
Violation of the bicycle path	
Violation of horn usage restrictions	

Details of the violation	Penalties
Negligent damage to buildings	Imprisonment for up to six months or a fine of up to 100,000 yen
Drunk driving	Imprisonment for up to 5 years or a fine of up to 1 million yen
Drugged driving	
Obstructive driving (significant traffic danger)	
Drunk driving (0.15 mg or more per liter of exhaled breath)	Imprisonment for up to three years or a fine of up to 500,000 yen
Driving while fatigued, etc.	
Obstructive driving (risk of traffic danger)	
Use of mobile phones, etc. (traffic hazards)	Imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to 300,000 yen
Violation of rescue obligation	Imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to 100,000 yen
Refusal to take a breathalyzer test, etc.	Imprisonment for up to three months or a fine of up to 500,000 yen
Violation of police officer scene instructions	Imprisonment for up to three years or a fine of up to 50,000 yen
Violation of a no-entry restriction by a police officer	
Failure to report an accident	
Violation of an order to take measures against a bicycle with a defective braking device	A fine of up to 50,000 yen
Violation of an order to take a bicycle driver training course	
Violation of bicycle traffic rules	A fine or penalty of up to 20,000 yen

Five Rules for Safe Bicycle Use

- ① As a general rule, keep to the left side of the road. Sidewalks are an exception; pedestrians have the right of way.
- ② Obey traffic lights and stop signs at intersections, and check for safety
- ③ Turn on your headlights at night.
- ④ Do not drink and ride a bicycle.
- ⑤ Wear a helmet.



※There are 113 types of foul play

Nagahama District Traffic Safety Association and Ika Traffic Safety Association