

Safe Riding Tips

- **Wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet.** Protect your brain, save your life.
- **Adjust your bicycle to fit.** Stand over your bicycle. There should be one to two inches between you and the top tube (bar) if using a road bike and three to four inches if using a mountain bicycle. The seat should be level front to back. The seat height should be adjusted to allow a slight bend at the knee when the leg is fully extended. The handlebar height should be at the same level with the seat.
- **Check your equipment.** Before riding, inflate tires properly and check that your brakes work.
- **See and be seen.** Whether daytime, dawn, dusk, foul weather, or at night, you need to be seen by others. Wearing white has not been shown to make you more visible. Rather, always wear neon, fluorescent, or other bright colors when riding day or night. Also wear something that reflect light, such as reflective tape or markings, or flashing lights. Remember, just because YOU can see a driver doesn't mean the driver can see YOU.
- **Control your bicycle.** Always ride with at least one hand on the handlebars. Carry books and other items in a bicycle carrier or backpack.
- **Watch for and avoid road hazards.** Be on the lookout for hazards such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, puddles, leaves, and dogs. All these hazards can cause a crash. If you are riding with friends and you are in the lead, yell out and point to the hazard to alert the riders behind you.
- **Avoid riding at night.** It is far more dangerous to ride at night than during the day because you are harder for others to see. If you have to ride at night, wear something that makes you more easily seen by others. Make sure you have reflectors on the front and rear of your bicycle, in addition to reflectors on your tires, so others can see you.

Manitowoc Bicycle Regulations



(1). Definitions.

(a) **Bicycle:** means every device propelled by the feet acting upon pedals and having wheels any two of which are not less than 14 inches in diameter.

(b) **Bicycle establishment/bicycle dealer:** means any business operated by any person, partnership, association or corporation wherein new or used bicycles or bicycle parts are purchased, sold, exchanged, bartered, repaired, remodeled, dismantled or junked.

(c) **Bicycle lane:** means that portion of a roadway set aside by the governing body of any city, town, village or county for the exclusive use of bicycles or other modes of travel where permitted under Wis. Stat. § 349.23(2)(a) and so designated by appropriate signs and markings. **Bicycle way** means any path or sidewalk or portion thereof designated for the use of bicycles by the governing body of any city, town, village or county.

(d) **Bike route:** means any bicycle lane, bicycle way or highway which has been duly designated by the governing body of any city, town, village or county and which is identified by appropriate signs and markings.

(e) **Carrier:** means any device attached to the bicycle designed for carrying articles.

(f) **Curb:** means the lateral boundaries of that portion of a street designed for the use of vehicles, whether marked by a curb or not.

(g) **Driver/operator:** means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

(f) **Lamps and Other Equipment on Bicycles:** No person may operate a bicycle upon a highway, bicycle lane or bicycle way during hours of darkness unless such bicycle is equipped with or the operator is wearing a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front of such bicycle and a lamp emitting a red light visible from all distances from 50 to 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. Such bicycle shall also be equipped with a red reflector that has a diameter of at least two inches of surface area on the rear so mounted and maintained as to be visible from all distances from 50 to 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to but not in lieu of the red reflector.
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(32) Disposal of Offenders According to Age.

(a) Any offender under the age of 14 years disregarding the rules and regulations governing the operation of bicycles or vehicles not in conflict with the State laws shall be directed to appear before the Juvenile Traffic Court or Juvenile Court Officer, who upon such appearance shall hear such person's case and dispose of same in such manner as prescribed by the Court. Any person having attained the age of 14 years shall be dealt with in accordance with the ordinance governing vehicles and/or motor vehicles, and shall be disposed of as prescribed by such ordinance.

(b) Bicycle riders 14 years of age and older will be issued a traffic citation if they violate the traffic laws. Fines will be the same as fines for drivers of motor vehicles. The younger bicycle riders under 14 years of age will be issued a bicycle violation ticket if they violate any of the bicycle laws. This ticket must be signed by their parents and returned to the Police Department by the violator.

(33) **Revocation of License.** The Chief of Police or the Chief's designate shall have authority to suspend the registration of and remove the number tags from any bicycle operated contrary to any State law or City ordinances, such suspension and removal to continue for a period not to exceed 30 days. Such suspension and removal shall be in addition to other penalties provided hereunder. Registration cards shall be shown on demand or when ordered to appear for any violation of the bicycle ordinances.

Manitowoc Police Department

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(28) Bicycle Agencies (Dealers) – Bicycle Establishments.

(a) All persons, firms, or corporations engaged in the business of buying secondhand bicycles are hereby required to make a weekly report to the Police Department giving the name and address of the person from whom each bicycle is purchased, the name, color, type, size, and serial number of each bicycle purchased, and the number of the metallic plate found thereon. All persons engaged in the business of selling new or secondhand bicycles are hereby required to make a weekly report to the Police Department, giving a list of all sales made by such dealers, which list shall include the name and address of each buyer, together with a description including frame number and the number of the metallic registration plate attached thereto, if any. A record of these transactions should be maintained for three years.

(b) It shall be the duty of every person, firm, or corporation who sells or transfer ownership of any bicycle to report such sale or transfer by returning to the Police Department the registration card issued to the owner thereof, together with the name and address of the person to whom said bicycle was sold or transferred, and such report shall be made within five days of the date of said sale or transfer. It shall be the duty of the purchaser or transferee of such bicycle to apply for a transfer of registration therefor within five days of said sale or transfer.

(29) Rental Agencies. A rental agency shall not rent or offer any bicycle for rent unless the bicycle is registered and a registration plate is attached thereto as provided herein and such bicycle is equipped with the lamps and other equipment required by the State Vehicle Code.

(30) Effects of Regulations.

(a) It is unlawful for any person to perform any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this section.

(b) The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit any child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this section.

(c) The regulations applicable to bicycles shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any highway or upon any path set aside for the use of bicycles subject to those exceptions stated herein.

(31) Penalties. Every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this section shall forfeit not more than \$20.00 or by removal and detention of the registration plate from such person's bicycle for a period not to exceed 30 days (judge's discretion).

(f) No person may operate a bicycle upon a highway, bicycle lane, or bicycle way unless all braking equipment with which the bicycle was originally provided is in good working order. No person may operate a bicycle equipped with a coaster brake upon a highway, bicycle lane or bicycle way unless such brake will enable the operator to make the rear wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(g) **Mini bike** means a two-wheeled motorized vehicle with less than 20-inch wheels usually designed for trails and off-street use.

(h) **Motor bike** means a vehicle of the bicycle or tricycle type propelled by a motor.

(i) **Motor vehicle** means every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails.

(j) **Owner** means a person, other than a lienholder, having the property in or title to a vehicle. The term includes a person entitled to the use and possession of a vehicle subject to a security interest in another person, but excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

(k) **Pedestrian** means any person afoot.

(l) **Registration tag** means a metal plate or sticker indicating that a bicycle is registered.

(m) **Right-of-way** means the right of one vehicle or pedestrian to proceed in a lawful manner in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian approaching under such circumstances of direction, speed and proximity as to give rise to danger of collision unless one grants precedence to the other.

(n) **Sidewalk** means that portion of a street between the curblines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for use by pedestrians.

(o) **Street/highway** means the entire width between the boundary lines or every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

(p) **Vehicle** means every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(2) Registration Required

(a) No person, who resides within Manitowoc, shall ride or propel a bicycle on any street or upon any public path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles unless such bicycle has been registered and a registration plate and/or sticker is attached thereto, as provided herein.

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(b) At the time of the issuance of any such registration plate or sticker as herein provided, the applicant shall pay a registration fee. Registration tags issued in accordance with this section shall be attached to the bicycle immediately after issuance.

(c) This section shall apply to all residents of Manitowoc, and to such nonresidents, who operate bicycles upon the streets of Manitowoc habitually or frequently. It shall not apply to casual travelers or tourists passing through Manitowoc on their bicycles.

(d) All bicycles must be registered within 10 days of purchase.

(e) No person shall intentionally take or ride a bicycle without the consent of the owner.

(3) Application and Period for Bicycle Registration

(a) Application. Application for a bicycle registration plate and/or sticker shall be made upon a form provided by the Manitowoc Police Department and shall be made to the Manitowoc Fire Department.

(b) Period of Registration. The registrations of all bicycles registered with the City of Manitowoc prior to the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section shall expire at 12:00 a.m. on March 31, 2000, unless otherwise canceled as provided in this section. The bicycles registered after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section shall be effective from April 1, 2000, and shall expire December 31, 2005. Registrations on or after January 1, 2006, shall be effective for six years unless otherwise canceled as provided herein. Regardless of when registrations are obtained during any registration period, they shall expire at 12:00 a.m. on the last day of that registration period. (For example, a registration obtained on January 5, 2002, shall expire at 12:00 a.m. on December 31, 2005.)

(c) Costs. Cost of registration shall be a fee of \$2.00 for each six-year period. A transfer fee of \$1.00 shall be charged for the transfer of registration to another bicycle or for the replacement of a license plate or sticker during a registration period.

(d) Notice: The Manitowoc Police Department shall use its best effort to notify registrants of the expiration of their registrations, by public notice through local media at least 60 days prior to the end of any registration period.

(4) Inspection of Bicycle

The licensing authority, or any officer assigned such responsibility, shall inspect each bicycle before registering the same and shall refuse registration for any bicycle which is determined to be in unsafe mechanical condition.

(21) Speed.

(a) No person shall operate a bicycle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions.

(b) No person shall operate a bicycle in excess of any posted speed limit.

(22) Parking.

(a) No person shall park any bicycle against windows or on the main traveled portion of the sidewalk, nor in such manner as to constitute a hazard to pedestrians, traffic or property.

(b) If there is no bicycle rack or other facilities intended to be used for the parking of bicycles in the vicinity, bicycles may be parked on the sidewalk in an upright position parallel to and within 24 inches of the curb.

(23) Clinging to Vehicles and Towing.

(a) No person driving a bicycle shall attach himself or his bicycle to any vehicle upon a roadway.

(b) No person driving a bicycle shall tow or draw any coaster, wagon, sled, person on roller skates, toy vehicles or other similar vehicle on any street, highway or roadway. Only trailers designed for bicycles may be towed.

(24) Carry Articles. No person driving a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars or obstructs the driver's vision.

(25) Brakes on Bicycles. No person may operate a bicycle upon a highway, bicycle lane or bicycle way unless all braking equipment with which the bicycle was originally provided is in good working order. No person may operate a bicycle equipped with a coaster brake upon a highway, bicycle lane or bicycle way unless such brake will enable the operator to make the rear wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(26) Handle Bars. Every bicycle that is equipped with handle bar grips must have said grips securely glued or cemented to the handle bars. Drop bars must be plugged or grips installed.

(27) Safety Equipment Required. No person may operate a bicycle upon a highway, bicycle lane or bicycle way during hours of darkness unless such bicycle is equipped with or the operator is wearing a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front of such bicycle. Such bicycle shall also be equipped with a red reflector that has a diameter of at least two inches of surface area on the rear so mounted and maintained as to be visible from all distances from 50 to 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to but not in lieu of the red reflector.

(e) No person riding upon any coaster, roller skates, sled, toboggan or toy vehicles shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle upon a roadway or go upon any roadway except while crossing a roadway at a crosswalk.

(16) Riding on Bicycles, Carry Extra Passengers

(a) A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

(b) No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

(c) No bicycle except a tandem shall be used to carry any person except the operator unless equipped with a child's seat in which case the following conditions and regulations must be met. The operator shall be 14 years of age or older.

1. The child's seat shall be fastened securely to the bicycle and shall be located behind the operator's seat, shall be so designed and manufactured for this specific purpose and be equipped with safety belt, arm rest, back rest, foot and spoke protection, and have a firm seat and back and shall be attached to frame at three points with bolts or nuts – two of which are at either side of the wheel axle.

2. Only one child's seat shall be attached to a bicycle.

(17) Improper Riding

(a) No person driving a bicycle upon a public highway or street shall participate in any race, speed or endurance contests.

(b) No person riding or operating a bicycle shall perform or attempt to perform any acrobatics, fancy, or stunt riding upon any public highway, street or sidewalk.

(18) Obedience to Traffic Control Devices

Any person operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of official traffic control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

(19) Stopping, Turning, and Signaling

All bicycle riders must obey Wis. Stat. §§ [346.18](#) and [346.31](#) through [346.35](#) regarding stopping, turning and signaling.

(20) Emerging from an Alley or Driveway

The operator of a bicycle emerging from an alley, driveway, or building shall stop prior to riding on or across a sidewalk or roadway. Such operator shall in all cases yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on said sidewalk and to all vehicles approaching upon said roadway.

(5) Issuance of License - Failure to Obtain License

Upon discovering a bicycle which is not licensed as required hereunder, the Police Department shall first attempt to notify the owner of the bicycle either in person or in writing that the bicycle must be properly licensed immediately. If the bicycle is not properly licensed within five days, a citation shall be issued to the owner. If the owner continues to operate the bicycle without a proper license after a citation has been issued, the Police Department is authorized to impound the unlicensed bicycle.

(a) The licensing authority, upon receiving proper application therefore, is authorized and directed to issue a bicycle registration which will be valid for as long as the applicant owns the bicycle. If ownership of the bicycle is transferred, the license plate or sticker shall remain with the licensee and may be transferred to another bicycle upon a payment of \$1.00.

(b) The licensing authority shall not issue a registration for any bicycle when it knows or has reasonable ground to believe that the applicant is not the owner or entitled to the possession of such bicycle.

(c) The licensing authority shall keep a record of the number of each registration, the date issued, the name and address of the person to whom issued, the number on the frame of the bicycle for which issued, and a record of all bicycle registration fees collected. Registration form and registration plates and/or stickers shall be serially numbered to coincide with each other.

(d) If a bicycle does not have a serial number and if proof of ownership can be proven, the Police Department shall assign one to said bicycle.

(6) Attachment of Registration Plate and Sticker

(a) The licensing authority, upon issuing a bicycle registration, shall also issue a registration plate and/or sticker bearing the registration number assigned to the bicycle, and the name of the City.

(b) Such registration plate shall be firmly attached to the rear license holder or frame of the bicycle for which issued in such position as to be plainly visible from the rear. The registration sticker shall be placed on the seat tube directly below the seat in such manner to be visible from the left-hand side of the bicycle.

(c) No person shall remove a registration plate from a bicycle during the period for which issued except upon a transfer of ownership or in the event the bicycle is dismantled and no longer operated upon any street in Manitowoc.

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(8) Transfer of Ownership

Within 10 days after any registered bicycle has changed ownership or been dismantled and taken out of service or operation, the person in whose name the bicycle has been registered shall report such information to the Police Department. If such person acquires a different bicycle to which such person desires to transfer the registration from a previous bicycle, such person shall make application for the transfer within 10 days after acquisition of the new bicycle.

Where ownership of a bicycle is changed, the new owner shall be required to register the bicycle as provided for hereunder. Where a bicycle is dismantled and taken out of service or operation, the registration shall either be transferred as provided for hereunder or shall be canceled and the registration plate and/or sticker returned to the Police Department.

(9) Lost Registration Plate

In the event that an owner shall lose the registration tag or same should be destroyed or stolen, he shall report same immediately to the Fire Department, which shall then issue to such owner a new registration tag at a cost of \$1.00 to such owner.

(10) Alteration of Registration Plates

It shall be unlawful for any person to alter or counterfeit any registration tag issued in conformity with this section.

(11) Non-Resident

(a) Any nonresident may operate a bicycle which is duly registered in any municipality, and equipped with registration plates, without obtaining a local registration; provided, that such other municipality wherein said bicycle is registered extends the same privilege.

(b) Bicyclists must comply with local traffic ordinances.

(12) (Reserved for future use)

(13) Traffic Ordinances apply to Persons Driving Bicycles

Every person driving a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the laws of this State declaring rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by the traffic ordinances of this City applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as to special regulations in this section and except as to those provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature can have no application.

(14) Riding on Sidewalks

(a) Bicyclists exercising due care may drive and operate their bicycles upon the sidewalk except sidewalks in the central business districts, in outlying business districts, pedestrian paths, public school grounds, or public playgrounds, when such riding shall jeopardize the safety of pedestrians thereon.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person driving a bicycle on the sidewalk to attempt to pass another person or persons going in the same direction on said walk without giving a warning and until it becomes evident that the person so warned is aware of the approach of such person driving said bicycle. Pedestrians shall at all times have the right-of-way upon the sidewalks and, if necessary, the person driving such bicycle shall dismount and vacate the sidewalk to prevent a collision, and any such person driving a bicycle upon the sidewalk must have the bicycle under control at all times.



(15) Riding on Roadways and Bicycle Paths

(a) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction, except on a one-way street whereby the person may ride as near to the right-hand curb or left-hand curb or edge of the roadway as practicable.

(b) Persons driving bicycles upon a roadway shall ride single file if possible.

(c) Whenever a usable bicycle path has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle drivers shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.

(d) The operator of any bicycle overtaking a motor vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass such vehicle at a safe distance nearest the curb to the right or, on a one-way street, the right or left thereof, but no person driving a bicycle shall pass or attempt to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless such passing can be made in safety and at a place on the street other than an intersection without leaving the traveled portion of the road.