

State Vehicle Code: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title9/ar21/>

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## Rating of Indiana Bicycle Traffic Laws

Indiana Bicycle Traffic Laws earn a **TENTATIVE** rating of D (55 points)

Note: A bicycle IS (NOT) defined as a vehicle in Indiana.

A: 91 points or above	(89-90 is A-, over 99 is A+)
B: 79 to 86 points	(87-88 is B+, 77-78 is B-)
C: 66 to 74 points	(75-76 is C+, 64-65 is C-)
D: 52 to 61 points	(62-63 is D+, 50-51 is D-)
F: 40 to 49 points	(48-49 is F+, below 40 points is F-)

Traffic Law Defects	
	Mandates riding wrong way (Automatic failing score) [-100]
	Mandates riding on sidewalk (creates failing score) [-80]
	Prohibits bicycles from all main streets (a “stealth” sidewalk law) [-80]
	Lower deduction if prohibition applies only where speed limit is above 50 mph [-30]
	Lower deduction if engineering study, alternate route & signs reqd. [-30]
	Mandates riding on sidewalk only for under age 16 [-30]
	Mandates riding on sidepath, shoulder or bike lane [-40]
	Lower deduction if applies only where sidepath is “usable” and signed [-25]
	Restriction only for under age 16 [-25]
	Lower deduction if includes UVC “far right” type exceptions [-20]
	Lower deduction if also includes CA “right turn authorized” exceptions [-15]
<b>-30</b>	Unlimited local “regulation of the operation of bicycles” (non-uniform laws) [-30]
	Lower deduction if allows only local sidepath ordinance. [-20]
	Allows local bicycle ban only on major highway [-15]
	Local authorities may mandate registration (rather than voluntary program) [-1]
	IC 9-21-1-3 Powers of local authorities; effective date of ordinances
	Sec. 3. (a) A local authority, with respect to private roads and highways under the authority's jurisdiction, in accordance with section 2 of this chapter, and within the reasonable exercise of the police power, may do the following:
	(9) Regulate the operation of bicycles and require the registration and licensing of bicycles, including the requirement of a registration fee.
	“Shall ride within 3 feet of right edge of road” (or similar unsafe rule) [-25]
	“Shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb”, with no exceptions [-20]
	Lower deduction if includes all UVC exceptions [-10]
	Mandatory helmet law that includes adult cyclists [-20]
	Lower deduction if applies only to children under 12 [-15]
	Lower still if also includes strong “contributory negligence” exclusion [-5]
	Prohibits normal vehicular left turn [-10]
	“Shall ride single file” (no exceptions) [-10]

	Lower deduction depending on exceptions	[ -5]
	<b>Motor</b> vehicle restrictions that should not apply to bicycles: (following too closely, racing, etc.)	[up to -5]
<b>-3</b>	Irresponsible brake requirements (skid braked wheel) IC 9-21-11-10 Brakes [-3] Sec. 10. A bicycle must be equipped with a brake that will enable the person who operates the bicycle to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.	[ -3]
<b>-1</b>	“Nuisance” safety equipment required (bell, front, wheel & pedal reflectors, etc) IC 9-21-11-8 Bell or other audible signaling devices; sirens; whistles Sec. 8. A person may not ride a bicycle unless the bicycle is equipped with a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet. A bicycle may not be equipped with and a person may not use upon a bicycle a siren or whistle.	[ -2]
<b>-2</b>	Right-arm right turn signal not authorized	[ -2]
<b>-2</b>	Unreasonable turn signal requirement (continuous, or even if not safe)	[ -2]
	Authorizes bicycle-specific traffic control devices	[ -2]
<b>-1</b>	Lacks provision allowing bicycle access to freeway shoulders	[ -1]
<b>-1</b>	Slow vehicle “as close as practicable to the right-hand curb”	[ -1]
<b>-1</b>	Missing language “intent is to facilitate overtaking” in slow veh. rule	[ -1]
<b>-1</b>	Other excessive or unnecessary regulation Sect. 3 (1) below could be interpreted to prohibit standing to pedal. IC 9-21-11-3 Operation; seats; passengers Sec. 3. (a) A person propelling a bicycle may not: (1) ride <b>other than upon</b> the permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle; or (2) carry any other person upon the bicycle who is not seated upon a firmly attached and <b>regular seat</b> on the bicycle. <b>(b) A person may not ride upon a bicycle unless seated under this section.</b> IC 9-21-11-7 Packages, bundles, or other articles preventing proper use of handlebars Sec. 7. A person who rides a bicycle may not carry a package, a bundle, or an article that prevents the person from keeping <b>both</b> hands upon the handlebars.	
<b>-3</b>	<b>Minor Defects (scored as a group, Y=Yes)</b>	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks provision allowing preparing for left turn early	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks exception to no-passing zone rule for passing of slow vehicles	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks language prohibiting “points” for bicycle violations	
<b>Y</b>	“Give way to the right on audible signal”	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks cycling skills course for violators	
	Police authorized to inspect bicycles	

<b>Y</b>	Lacks child seat or trailer language or allow child in backpack	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks language authorizing additional lights or reflectors	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks language saying riding two abreast does not impede traffic if no conflicting traffic	
	Poor definition of bicycle (not recognizing recumbents or trikes) <b>IC 9-13-2-14</b> <b>Bicycle</b> Sec. 14. "Bicycle" means any foot-propelled vehicle, irrespective of the number of wheels in contact with the ground.	
<b>Positive Factors (points added)</b>		
<b>??</b>	Have issued a good state "Bicycle Drivers' Manual" and/or --- Drivers Handbook has vehicular cycling info.	[up to +15]
<b>N</b>	Permits <u>and</u> requires motorists to merge into a bike lane before turning.	[+2]
<b>N</b>	Expressly permits but does not require cycling on the shoulder.	[+2]
<b>N</b>	Local authorities may reduce the fine for bicycling offenses	[+2]
<b>N</b>	Share the road license plate (or similar) with proceeds to benefit cycling	[+2]
<b>N</b>	Language to discourage unsafe sidewalk riding	[+2]
	Other positive factors	[?]

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