

## **Chapter 203, Article IV: Bicycles**

### **Sec. 203-30. Applicability of traffic laws.**

- (a) Every person riding a bicycle upon a street shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle pursuant to Title 14 of the Connecticut General Statutes, except those provisions, which by their nature, are not applicable. Every person riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to a pedestrian.
- (b) A violation of any provision of Chapter 203, Article IV, by an operator of a bicycle shall be ticketed using the same procedure as is used for motor vehicle infractions, except that any violation committed while operating a bicycle shall not affect the status of the violator's motor vehicle operator's license. When a citation is issued to a bicycle operator, the fact that the violation involves a bicycle shall be clearly indicated on the citation.
- (c) Whenever there is a violation of traffic law by a bicycle operator or a violation by a motorist that endangers a bicycle operator, the court may permit demonstration of successful completion of a court-approved cycling knowledge course or test in lieu of or in addition to a fine or other penalty.

### **Sec. 203-31. Operation on roadways.**

- (a) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall ride not more than two abreast in a single lane, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- (b) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, and with the flow of traffic, obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
- (c) This section does not require a person operating a bicycle to ride at the edge of the roadway when it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so. Conditions that may require riding away from the edge of the roadway include when necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, surface hazards, or if it is otherwise unsafe or impracticable to do so, including if the lane is too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.
- (d) When a bicycle is operated on the roadway, the operator shall give hand signals to other vehicle operators in the vicinity before turning or changing lanes. Such signals shall conform with the motor vehicle laws of Connecticut. The signal shall be made not less than one time but is not required to be continuous. A bicycle operator is not required to make a signal if the bicycle is in a designated turn lane, and a signal shall not be given when the operator's hands are needed for the safe operation of the bicycle.

**Sec. 203-32. Reckless or uncontrolled operation.**

No person shall operate a bicycle:

- (a) Without due regard for the safety and rights of pedestrians and drivers and occupants of all other vehicles, and so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person while in the lawful use of the streets or sidewalks or any other public or private property.
- (b) Without exercising reasonable and ordinary control over such bicycle.
- (c) By trick riding or in a weaving or zigzag course, unless such irregular course is necessary for safe operation in compliance with the law.

**Sec. 203-33. Compliance with traffic signal control devices required.**

- (a) Any person operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of official traffic signals, signs and other control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.
- (b) Whenever authorized signs are erected that no right or left turns or U-turns are permitted, no person operating a bicycle shall disobey the direction of any such sign, except where such person dismounts from the bicycle to make any such turn, in which event such person shall then obey the regulations applicable to pedestrians.

**Sec. 203-34. Emerging from alley or driveway.**

The operator of a bicycle emerging from an alley, driveway or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across any alley or driveway, yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on such sidewalk area and upon entering the street shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on said street.

**Sec. 203-35. Parking.**

- (a) No person shall park a bicycle upon a sidewalk in such a manner so as to unduly interfere with pedestrian traffic, or upon a roadway so as to unduly interfere with vehicular traffic.
- (b) Bicycles shall be parked in such a manner as not to interfere with building entrances.

**Sec. 203-36. Impounding.**

Whenever any person operates a bicycle or motorized bicycle in violation of any section of this Code, the bicycle may be seized by any member of the Police Department and impounded. A bicycle or motorized bicycle so impounded shall be surrendered to the owner, or if the owner is a minor, to the parents or guardians of such minor. A full explanation of the reason for the impounding shall be made to the owner, parent or guardian. A complete record of each such impounding shall be kept in the office of the Chief of Police.