



BIKE RIGHTS

A GUIDE TO SAFE CYCLING



In collaboration with
La Voie Libre

SAFE CYCLING INCLUDES...

- **Remaining Visible** at all times by equipping your bicycle with reflectors, a red light at the rear, a white headlight at the front and reflective strips.
- **Being Alert** by looking out for dangers on the road and obeying traffic signals. Always yield the right of way to pedestrians and do not ride on the sidewalk.
- **Riding with the Flow of Traffic** by maintaining a straight line while you ride in a predictable manner. Always avoid riding between stationary vehicles and stay on the far right side of the road.
- **Signaling Your Intentions** by checking behind you before changing lanes or turning. Always use hand signals to indicate your intention to turn.
- **Turning Left Safely.** There are two ways to do this: like a vehicle, by staying in the left lane at an intersection, or like a pedestrian by making an L-shaped turn.
- **Establishing Visual Contact** with Approaching Motorists especially when they are turning or leaving driveways.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Failure to comply with any of the following rules constitutes a violation of the law and may result in a **Penalty fine of \$80-\$100 fine** and/or other legal repercussions. Demerit points are no longer used to penalize cyclists who have a driver's license. Art-110. Failing to signal one's intentions before turning. Art.490. For a complete list of infractions see the **Quebec Highway Safety Code**.

WHAT IF...

YOU ARE IN AN ACCIDENT WITH A CAR

- Call 911 immediately and wait for the police at the location of the collision
- When filling out an accident report with the police or a joint report with the driver, be brief and be careful about any information you provide, which can be used against you
- Make copies of the police report for yourself immediately with a cellphone
- Write down everything you can remember about the accident as soon as possible, and take down contact information of witnesses
- Make sure to list all the material and physical damages
- Consult a doctor right away. Be sure to list any symptoms relating to the accident on the medical reportsymptoms relating to the accident on the medical report

To be compensated by the SAAQ for damages, the accident must involve at least one motor vehicle. Even if the accident is your fault, you are still covered by the SAAQ for the following:

1. The SAAQ offers compensation for physical injuries (medication, physiotherapy, etc.) Claims for loss of income due to physical injuries resulting from the accident can be made as well and will begin only on the 8th day after the accident.

1. Riding **on a sidewalk** (except in case of necessity or authorized by a sign or signal). Art-492.1
2. Riding **against the flow of traffic** (except in case of necessity or authorized by a sign or signal). Art-487
3. Riding **between two rows of moving vehicles.** Art-478
4. Failing to **ride in single file.** Art-486
5. Riding with **earphones or headphones** that cover one or both ears. Art-443.2
6. Riding while using a **portable electronic device- whether hand- held or not** - unless it displays information that is relevant to riding a bicycle, in which case it must be mounted on a bracket that is attached to the bicycle. Art-443.1
7. **Drinking alcohol or using cannabis or drugs** while riding. Art-489
8. Failing to **obey a road sign or traffic light.** Art-359 to 371, 488
9. Failing to stop at a **red light or stop sign.** Art-359, 368, 369
10. Failing to **yield the right of way at crosswalks** to pedestrians. Art-410

2. Damages to clothing (including helmets) and prescription medical accessories (eg: glasses, protheses) are covered by the SAAQ as well.

NOTE: The SAAQ does **NOT** cover the damages caused to the bicycle or other items as a result of the accident. Such claims must be made to parties' private insurance. For a collision between cyclists or a cyclist and a pedestrian, it is the Quebec Health Insurance plan that covers the cost of physical injuries.

YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE

- Do not panic and think carefully about your words, body language, movement and emotions
- Do not flee the scene
- Do not touch the police officer as physical contact with an officer could be considered assault
- Keep calm and always be polite and courteous when addressing the police officer
- Take down the contact information of all witnesses possible

YOU ARE CONTESTING AN INFRACTION

If you wish to contest an alleged infraction, you must complete the reply form attached to the ticket that you were issued and mail it to the appropriate Municipal Court within 30 days of the ticket's issuance.

Be sure to check the Not Guilty box, sign, clearly write your first and last name, complete the address fields and contact the Concordia Student Union Legal Information Clinic. It is not necessary to immediately provide any explanations, especially if they can later be used against you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ENTIRE COST OF AN INFRACTION WILL CONSIST OF

- Minimum Fine** (listed in the Legal Obligations section of this handout)
- Costs** (about \$28)
- Contribution** (about 20\$)

Total amount of the Ticket

NEED HELP?

CSU Legal Information Clinic
1455 de Maisonneuve W., Room H-729
Montreal, QC

- 📞 514 848-7474 ext. 7375
- ✉ legalclinic@csu.qc.ca
- 🌐 legalclinic.csu.qc.ca

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, from 1 to 5 PM

Prepared in collaboration with the bike coop Right to Move / La Voie Libre rtm-lvl.org

11. Turning **right at a red light** where prohibited by a sign. Art-359
12. Cyclists must **stop before pedestrian lights at a red light** but may proceed afterwards at a safe, reasonable speed and give pedestrians the priority. Art-359
13. Failing to **yield the right of way at an intersection** to users who have priority. Art-349
14. Cyclists must have **at night** at least one **white headlight in front**, and a **red light in back.** Art-233
15. Cyclists must have at least (1) one **white reflector at the front**; (2) one **red reflector at the rear**; (3) one amber/white **reflector on each pedal**; (4) one reflector attached to the spokes, or reflective strips on the forks, or reflective rims or sidewalls which are **visible on both sides of the front wheel**; (5) one reflector attached to the spokes, or reflective strips on the forks, or reflective rims or sidewalls which are and **visible on both sides of the back wheel.** Any equipment or object placed on a bicycle that **blocks a prescribed reflector** or its substitute must carry a reflector or a reflective strip. Art-232
16. Cyclists must ensure that their bicycle is equipped with at least one **functional rear wheel brake system** which is activated by levers on the handlebars or directly by the pedals. The system must be sufficiently powerful to quickly block the rotation of the wheel on a paved, dry and level roadway

or the **police can order that the bike be taken off the road or confiscated** until the brakes are fixed. Art-247, 249

17. **A trailer towed** by a bike must carry two red reflectors at the rear, as far apart as possible, **or a red reflective strip placed horizontally** across the width of the trailer. Art-232
18. Riding **two on a bicycle without a fixed seat** for that purpose. Art-485