



SBMA BICYCLE LAWS

Bicycle Traffic Rules and Regulations

I. INTRODUCTION

Bicycle can be legally defined as a vehicle propelled exclusively by human power through a belt, chain or gears and having one or more wheels. Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities to the roadways, and must obey the same traffic laws as operators of other vehicles. Bicycles improve mobility and air quality, reduces traffic congestions and parking demand, saves energy, and promotes healthy living through enjoyable exercise.

Subic Bay Freeport, being one of the country's favorite tourists destinations had pioneered the use and designation of bicycle lane and was imitated by other localities and government agencies like the MMDA and Olongapo City. The activation of the Law Enforcement Department's Bike Cops was the SBMA's response to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's austerity measure. These highly trained bicycle and mounted policemen are being used primarily for traffic enforcement, beats, community policing, and tourist attraction and in some cases considered more effective and efficient because of their unique mobility and flexibility.

II. RULES OF THE ROAD

Bicycle Use – Every person riding a bicycle upon a street or highway has all the rights and shall be subjected to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, including the provisions of law dealing with driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs, except those provisions, which by their very nature have no application.

The following traffic rules and regulations on bicycles are recommended to be implemented within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone:

II-A Equipment Requirements

1. No person shall operate a bicycle unless it is equipped with brakes, which will enable the operator to make one braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.
2. No person shall operate on the highway any bicycle equipped with handlebars so raised that the operator must elevate their hands above the level of their shoulders in order to grasp the normal steering grip area.

3. No person shall operate upon any highway a bicycle, which is of such a size as to prevent the operator from safely stopping the bicycle, supporting it in an upright position with at least one foot on the ground, and restraining it in a safe manner.
4. Every bicycle operated upon any highway during darkness shall be equipped with the following:
 - a. A lamp emitting a white light, which illuminates the highway and is visible from a distance of 300 feet to the front and sides of the bicycle.
 - b. A red reflector or a flashing red light and visible from 500 feet to the rear of the bicycle.
 - c. A white or yellow reflector mounted on each pedal visible within 200 feet to the front and rear of bicycle and a white or red reflector on each side to the rear of the center of the bicycle, except bicycles which are equipped with reflectorized tires on the front and the rear need not be equipped with side reflectors.
 - d. A lamp or lamp combination, emitting a white light, attached to the operator and visible from a distance of 300 feet in front attached to the bike.

II-B Cycling Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

It is unlawful to ride a bicycle upon a street or highway while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or drug or the combination of alcohol and a drug, punishable by a fine based on approved SBMA Board resolutions. A person arrested may request a chemical test. Person apprehended for DUI/DWI – their driving privileges might be suspended or revoked for a period set forth by SBMA.

II-C Duty of Bicycle Operator: Operation on Roadway

1. Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction at such time shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway and/or the designated bike lane except under any of the following situations:
 - a. When overtaking and passing another bicycle or motor vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
 - b. When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.
 - c. When reasonably necessary to avoid conditions (including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or substandard width lanes that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge.) **(A sub-standard lane is a lane that is too narrow for bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side with the lane.)**
2. Any person operating a bicycle on a one-way street or highway with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway as practicable.

II-D Obedience to Traffic-Control Devices

1. 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 except where a traffic signal is activated only by motor vehicles (sensor-activated), a bicyclist who is faced with a red traffic signal may, after waiting a reasonable time to determine the signal will not change to green, may proceed after yielding the right-of-way to all traffic lawfully proceeding through the intersection.
2. Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating that no right or left turn is permitted, no person shall disobey the direction of any such sign, except where such person dismounts from bicycle to make any such turn, in which event such person shall then obey the regulations applicable to pedestrians.

II-E Riding More than Two Abreast

Person operating bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast. Person riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, or laned roadway, shall ride with the single lane.

II-F Riding on Sidewalks

1. No person shall operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district.
2. Whenever a person is operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrians.
3. Persons operating bicycles across a roadway or driveway and along a crosswalk from a sidewalk or path have all the duties applicable to pedestrians under the same circumstances. Such persons similarly have the rights of pedestrians, but only if the bicyclist was entitled to use the sidewalk or path, and the approach and entry into roadway or driveway are made at a speed no greater than an ordinary walk so that drivers may anticipate the necessity to yield when required.

II-G Hitching Rides

No person operating a bicycle on a highway shall allow anyone to ride as a passenger other than a separate attached seat. If passenger is allowed, the seat shall adequately retain the passenger in place and protect him/her from the bicycle moving parts.

II-H Carrying Articles

No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.

II-I Permitted Movements from Bicycle Lanes

1) Whenever a bicycle lane has been established on a roadway, any person operating a bicycle upon the roadway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction shall ride in the bicycle lane, except under the following situations.

a. When overtaking or passing another bicycle, vehicle, or pedestrian within the lane or about to enter the lane if such overtaking and passing cannot be done safely within the lane.

b. When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.

c. When necessary to leave ~~the lane~~ the lane to avoid debris or other hazardous conditions.

2) No operator of a bicycle shall leave a bicycle lane until it can be done safely and then only after giving an appropriate hand signal in the event that any vehicle might be affected by the movement.

II-J Parking

1. A bicycle may park on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic control device.
2. A bicycle parked on a sidewalk shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrians or other traffic.
3. A bicycle may be parked on a roadway at any angle to the curb or edge of the roadway at any location where parking is allowed.
4. A bicycle maybe parked on a roadway abreast another bicycle near the side of the roadway at any location where parking is allowed.
5. A person shall not park a bicycle on a roadway in such manner as to obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.
6. Any person may park near and secure a bicycle to any publicly owned pole or post, if no bicycle rack is available, for a period of not more than twelve (12) hours or determined by the SBMA unless an official control device or any applicable law or resolution prohibits the parking or securing of bicycles at that location.

II-K Obstruction of Bikeways

No person shall place or park a bicycle or vehicles so as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of any bicyclist on a bikeway or bicycle path or trail unless the placement or parking is necessary for safe operation or otherwise in compliance with law.

II-L Wearing of Helmets

All bicyclists and its passengers are required to wear appropriate safety helmets while riding on bicycles inside the Freeport Zone.

II-M Bicycles on Roadway

A bicycle operated on a roadway or highway shoulder shall be operated in the same direction, as vehicles are required to drive upon the roadway.

II-N Bicycling on a Freeway

- 1) The SBMA must prohibit or restrict the use of freeways or any portion thereof by bicycles.
- 2) Such prohibitory regulations shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected upon the freeway and the approaches thereto.

II-O Hand Signal

All required signals given by hand and shall be given in the following manner:

1. Left turn-hand and arm extended horizontally beyond the side of the bicycle.
2. Right Turn-hand and arm extended upward beyond the side of the bicycle or right hand and arm extended horizontally to the right side of the bicycle.
3. Stop or sudden decrease of speed signal-left hand and arm extended downward beyond the side of the bicycle.

II-P Headset and Earplugs

No person operating any vehicle, including a bicycle shall wear any headset covering, or any earplugs in, both ears. There are exceptions for persons operating authorized emergency vehicles, special construction or maintenance equipment and refuse collection equipment, and for any person wearing personal hearing protectors designed to attenuate injurious noise levels and which do not inhibit the wearers' ability to hear a siren or horn from an emergency vehicle or horn from another motor vehicle, and for any person using a prosthetic device which aids the hard of hearing.

II-Q Throwing Substance On Highways Or Adjoining Areas

No Person in any vehicle shall throw or discharge from or upon any road, highway or adjoining area, public or private, any lighted or non-lighted cigarette, cigar, match or any flaming or glowing substance.

No person shall throw or deposit upon a highway any bottle, can garbage, glass, wire, nails, paper, or any substance likely to injure or cause damage to the traffic using the highway.

III. LICENSING / REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The main purpose of bicycle registration are deterring bicycle theft, improving recovery of stolen or missing bicycles, aiding in the apprehension and conviction of bicycle thieves. Registration may also have incidental purposes such as identifying the violator in cases of traffic apprehension and victims in an accident. The MVRO of SBMA will issue numbered registration stickers to SBMA/FSC/Locators' employees and or individuals with regular transaction with the SBMA, locators and establishments within the Freeport Zone. Passing through and other visitors of the Freeport are not compulsory required to register, however, they are governed by the bicycle traffic rules and regulations.

IV. FINES AND PENALTIES

Fines and penalties on apprehended bicyclist violators will be based on existing penalties applicable to motor vehicle violators approved by the SBMA Board including that of Driving Under the Influence and Driving While Impaired (DUI/DWI).

V. IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the rules, regulations and penalties will be implemented after thirty (30) days of public information within SBFZ sentries, through flyers and broadcast media.

Annex A: TEXT FOR FLYERS

Annex "A"

TEXT FOR FLYERS:

The Bicycle Traffic Rules and Regulations will be implemented by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority effective _____ 2006.

You are enjoined to observe safety precautions to ensure responsible biking within the Freeport Zone. Please register your bicycle at Motor Vehicle Registration Office (MVRO), Bldg. 157 beside National Bookstore.

DO's and DON'T's of BICYCLING in SUBIC BAY FREEPORT

- ✓ Wear a bicycle helmet for your own safety. It is a must in Subic!
- ✓ Ride with the traffic flow.
- ✓ Ride in a straight line.
- ✓ Ride in the same direction as the flow of traffic. Keep right where practicable to allow other vehicle to pass.
- ✓ Ride to the right if you are moving slower than other traffic, unless you are turning left, passing another bicycle or vehicle, or avoiding hazards.
- ✓ Use a light, reflectors and reflective clothing during darkness.
- ✓ Wear bright clothing during daytime.
- ✓ Keep a safe distance from parked cars.
- ✓ Use proper hand signals when turning, stopping or changing lanes.
- ✓ Use extra caution when it is raining, and allow extra space to stop.
- ✓ Walk your bike when using a crosswalk or approaching a sentry.
- ✓ Do not wear headphones while riding bicycle.
- ✓ Keep your bike properly maintained.
- ✓ Do not drink and ride. Campaign against drunk driving is strictly implemented in Subic.
- ✓ Ride defensively.
- ✓ Use hand signal.
- ✓ Be alert for road hazards.
- ✓ Watch for cars at cross streets and driveways.
- ✓ Obey all traffic policeman and traffic signals.
- ✓ Use lights and light signals during nighttime.
- ✓ Be aware of parked cars and watch for car doors that may open.
- ✓ Pedestrians have always the right of way.

SAFETY TIPS FOR BICYCLIST

- ✓ Make sure that bicycle is properly sized and adjusted.
- ✓ Use a white headlamp and red reflector for night riding.
- ✓ Carry basic tool kit. Tire patch and tire pump for unexpected roadside repairs.
- ✓ Always drive defensively.