

Cycling and the Law



Laws that govern cycling in Gander are effectively contained in the Newfoundland and Labrador Highway Traffic Act (HTA), Provincial Regulations and Town of Gander By-Laws.

Drivers and cyclists generally have similar rights and duties under the NL HTA. Thus HTA laws relating to traffic officers, signs, signals, yielding, etc., generally apply to both drivers and cyclists. The HTA states that a person riding a bicycle upon a highway has the same rights and duties as a driver.

Of particular importance:

The Provincial Bicycle Helmet Law states that no person of any age shall ride a bicycle unless that person is wearing a bicycle helmet; and no parent or guardian shall knowingly permit a child under twelve to ride without a bicycle helmet.

A cyclist shall not ride on a sidewalk.

When riding between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise you are required to have a front white light, and a rear red light or rear red reflector on your bike.

Your bicycle is required to have at least one brake that stops the bicycle.

Cyclists have the responsibility to be identifiable. It is a finable offence for failing to remain at the scene of an accident or to identify oneself and give your address to a police officer. You may be subject to arrest.

Some key cyclist-related sections of the HTA are:

Section	Offence	Fine Range (\$)
106(24)	Failing to stop at a stop sign	100-400
106(38)	Failure to obey a no entry sign	100-400
106(40)	Failure to obey signs reading "No Left Turn", "No Right Turn", "No Turns", or "No Right Turn on Yellow or Amber Light"	100-400
106(42)	Proceeding wrong way on one-way highway	100-400
112	Failing to signal change of direction, etc.	100-400
121	Failing to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicle	300-900
125(1)	Failing to yield right-of-way to pedestrian on crosswalk	100-400
127(a)	Failing to exercise due care to avoid colliding with pedestrian	100-400
129(2)(a)	Riding bicycle on sidewalk	25-180
129(2)(b)	Failing to ride as near as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of roadway	25-180
129(2)(c)	Riding bicycle abreast of another bicycle rider	25-180
129(2)(d)	Riding bicycle without at least one hand on handle-bars	25-180
129(2)(e)	Riding bicycle and not astride regular seat	25-180
129(2)(f)	Carrying more persons on bicycle than designed for	25-180
129(2)(g)	Carrying object which may interfere with operation or control of bicycle	25-180
129(2)(h)	Driving bicycle on highway where signs prohibit use of bicycles	25-180
130	Person attaching on to vehicle on highway	25-180
136	Failing to obey yield sign at intersection	100-400
162	Failing to obey directions of a traffic officer	500-1200
169(6)(a)	Bicycle operator failing to remain at accident scene	100-400
169(6)(b)	Bicycle operator failing to render assistance	100-400
169(6)(c)	Bicycle operator failing to give name and address	100-400
169(7)	Bicycle operator failing to make written report	100-400
