



Where to Ride

Idaho requires that a bicyclist, traveling at a speed less than the speed of traffic, must ride as close as practicable to the right-hand edge of the roadway except under any of the following circumstances:

- When overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction
- When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway
- When reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions including those caused by substandard width lanes that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge
- When a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes, in which case a bicyclist may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway as practicable

Source: Idaho Code Ann. §49-717

Sidewalk Riding

Idaho allows bicycles to operate on sidewalks subject to the following rules:

- A person operating a bicycle upon and along a sidewalk, or across a highway upon and along a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian, and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian or another bicyclist
- A person shall not operate a bicycle along and upon a sidewalk or across a highway upon and along a crosswalk, where the use of bicycles is prohibited by official traffic control devices

Source: Idaho Code Ann. §49-721

Mandatory Use of Separated Facilities

Idaho does not require that bicyclists use any lane or path other than a normal vehicular traffic lane.

"Idaho Stop" and Vehicle Detection Errors

Idaho has modified its laws to accommodate bicyclists approaching stop signs and red lights as follows:

- A bicyclist approaching a stop sign must slow down and, if required for safety, stop before entering the intersection

- After slowing or stopping, the bicyclist shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another highway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard
- A bicyclist may, after slowing to a reasonable speed and yielding the right-of-way if required, cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping
- A bicyclist approaching a steady red traffic control light shall stop before entering the intersection and shall yield to all other traffic
- Once the person has yielded, he may proceed through the steady red light with caution
- However, a person making a right-hand turn must only slow to a reasonable speed and yield the right-of-way if required before cautiously making such a turn
- A left-hand turn onto a one-way highway may be made on a red light after stopping and yielding to other traffic

Source: Idaho Code Ann. §49-720

Treatment as a Vehicle

In Idaho bicycles are vehicles according to the statute that defines vehicles and a person riding a bicycle has all of the rights and duties of the driver of a vehicle as provided in Chapters 49-6 and 49-8 of the Idaho Statutes, except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application.

Source: Idaho Code Ann. §§49-114; 49-123; 49-714

Source of Laws

The laws regulating the operation of bicycles in the state of Idaho are generally found in Title 49, Chapter 7 of the Idaho Code (Idaho Code Ann.), available here:

<http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/TOC/IDStatutesTOC.htm>

Follow the Law

Your safety and image of bicyclists depend on you. You have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers. Obey traffic signals and stop signs. Ride with traffic; use the rightmost lane headed in the direction you are going.

Be Predictable

Make your intentions clear to everyone on the road. Ride in a straight line and don't swerve between parked cars. Signal turns, and check behind you well before turning or changing lanes.

Be Conspicuous

Ride where people can see you and wear bright clothing. Use a front white light, red rear light and reflectors when visibility is poor. Make eye contact with others and don't ride on sidewalks.

Must have a white light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the rear (for riding at night). The light is primarily so people can see you coming from the side, where their headlights do not shine on your reflectors.