



BIKE RIGHTS

A GUIDE TO SAFE CYCLING

WHAT IF...

YOU ARE IN AN ACCIDENT WITH A CAR

- * Call 911 immediately from the location of the collision
- * 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
- * Fill out a joint accident report
- * Consult a doctor right away. Be sure to list any symptoms 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. Compensation will begin on the 8th day after the accident.
2. Damages to clothing (including helmets) for up to \$400 total 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. That can be done at a later date once you have properly prepared your defence.

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

Minimum Fine (listed in the Legal Obligations section of this handout) + **Total Amount of the Ticket**
 Costs (about \$13) + **=**
 Contribution (about \$14)



NEED HELP?

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

T. 514 848-7474 ext. 7375
E. legalclinic@csu.qc.ca
W. legalclinic.csu.qc.ca

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

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



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La Voie Libre  Right to Move

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.

* **Signalling 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 Quebec Highway Safety Code and may result in a fine and/or legal repercussions.

1. Cyclists must stop at a red light before pedestrian crossing or stop line, or if none, at the near side of the roadway they are about to cross or enter. *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine + 3 demerit points*
2. Where a pedestrian enters a pedestrian crosswalk, the cyclist must stop to allow the pedestrian to cross the roadway. *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine*
3. Cyclists must make an obligatory stop at a stop sign. *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine + 3 demerit points*
4. Cyclists must yield to the right of way to pedestrians & other cyclists when turning in an intersection. *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine + 3 demerit points*
5. Cyclists must ride with the flow of traffic and on the far right-hand side of the roadway (except if the passage is blocked or turning left.) *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine*
6. Cyclists must not ride with an iPod, MP3 player, headphones or earphones. *Penalty: 30-60\$ fine*

7. Cyclists must not ride on the sidewalk (except when necessary or when directed so by a sign.) *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine*
8. Cyclists must not ride between two lanes of moving vehicles. *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine*
9. Cyclists must ride in a single file when traveling in groups of two or more (in no case may a group be larger than 15 cyclists.) *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine*
10. Cyclists must comply with any and all road signals. *Penalty: 15-30\$ fine, *for a list of road signals please visit www.spvm.qc.ca*
11. Cyclists must have at least (1) one white reflector at the front; (2) one red reflector at the rear; (3) one amber reflector on each pedal; (4) one reflector attached to the spokes of the front wheel; (5) one reflector attached to the spokes of the back wheel. Any equipment or object placed on a bicycle that blocks a prescribed reflector must be provided with a reflector that complies with the first paragraph. *Penalty: \$15-30 fine*
12. Cyclists must have a light at night (at least one white headlight in front, and a red one in back.) *Penalty: \$15-30*

13. Cyclists must ensure that their bicycle is equipped with at least one functional rear wheel brake system. The brake system must be 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. *Penalty: \$15-30. *the requirement applies especially to fixed-gear bicycles.*

WHAT ARE DEMERIT POINTS?

The Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) uses a demerit Point System that takes into account the relative severity of each violation of the Quebec Highway Safety Code. Once you have reached or exceeded your points due to one or more convictions, it will result in a penalty for the license holder. Demerit points remain on a driving record for two years following the date of conviction or payment of fine.

CYCLISTS WITH NO DRIVER'S LICENSE

In the event where a cyclist is ticketed and does not possess a driver's license, said cyclist would still receive demerit points. A file will be made at SAAQ, and if the cyclist is to obtain a license within the two years that the demerit points remain on file, the demerit points will then be imposed.