

## CHAPTER 76

### BICYCLE, SKATEBOARD AND IN-LINE SKATES REGULATIONS

76.01	Scope of Regulations		76.13	Improper Riding
76.02	Definitions		76.14	Parking
76.03	Traffic Code Applies		76.15	Equipment Requirements
76.04	Double Riding Restricted		76.16	Sirens and Whistles Prohibited
76.05	Two Abreast Limit		76.17	Alteration of Serial Frame Number
76.06	Bicycle Paths		76.18	License Required
76.07	Speed		76.19	Application for License
76.08	Emerging From Alley or Driveway		76.20	Duration and Renewal of License
76.09	Carrying Articles		76.21	Registration of Ownership
76.10	Control with Hands on Handlebars		76.22	Transfer of Ownership
76.11	Riding on Sidewalks		76.23	Penalties for Violations
76.12	Towing			

**76.01 SCOPE OF REGULATIONS.** These regulations shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any street or upon any public path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, subject to those exceptions stated herein.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.02 DEFINITIONS.** For use in this chapter the following terms are defined:

1. **“Bicycle”** means either of the following:
  - a) A device having up to four wheels and having at least one saddle or seat for the use of a rider which is propelled by human power.
  - b) A device having up to four wheels with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of one horsepower or less.
2. **“Skateboard”** a short board that is on wheels and that a person stands on to coast or move along a surface.
3. **“In-Line Skates”** also known as rollerblades, a shoe with wheels set in a straight line on the bottom that is used for skating.
4. **“Multi-Use Trail”** means a way or place, the use of which is controlled by the city as an owner of real property, by resolution by the city council, and no multi-use trail shall be considered as a street or highway.

**76.03 TRAFFIC CODE APPLIES.** Every person riding a bicycle or using a skateboard or in-line skates upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the laws of the State declaring rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by the traffic code of the City applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Whenever such person dismounts from a bicycle or stops using the skateboard or in-line skates, the person shall be subject to all regulations applicable to pedestrians.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.234)*

**76.04 DOUBLE RIDING RESTRICTED.** A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.234 [3 and 4])*

**76.05 TWO ABREAST LIMIT.** Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. All bicycles ridden on the roadway shall be kept to the right and shall be operated as near as practicable to the right-hand edge of the roadway.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.06 BICYCLE PATHS.** Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.07 SPEED.** No person shall operate a bicycle, skateboard or in-line skates at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.08 EMERGING FROM ALLEY OR DRIVEWAY.** The operator of a bicycle, skateboard or in-line skates emerging from an alley, driveway or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway, yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on said sidewalk or sidewalk area, and upon entering the roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on said roadway.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.09 CARRYING ARTICLES.** No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the rider from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.10 CONTROL WITH HANDS ON HANDLEBARS.** The operator of a bicycle upon a street, sidewalk, highway, park road or multi-use trail shall keep the bicycle under control at all times and at all times during operation shall have one or both hands upon the handlebars and the feet engaged with the braking device if the braking device is designed to be actuated by the feet.

**76.11 RIDING ON SIDEWALKS.** The following shall apply to riding bicycles, skateboards or in-line skates on sidewalks:

1. Business District. No person shall ride a bicycle, skateboard or in-line skates upon a sidewalk within the Business District, as defined in Section 60.02(1) of this Code of Ordinances.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

2. Other Locations. When signs are erected on any sidewalk or roadway prohibiting the riding of bicycles, skateboards or in-line skates thereon by any person, no person shall disobey the signs.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

3. Yield Right-of-way. Whenever any person is riding a bicycle, skateboard or in-line skates upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.12 TOWING.** It is unlawful for any person riding a bicycle, skateboard or in-line skates to be towed or to tow any other vehicle upon the streets of the City.

**76.13 IMPROPER RIDING.** No person shall ride a bicycle, skateboard or in-line skates in an irregular or reckless manner such as zigzagging, stunting, speeding or otherwise so as to disregard the safety of persons or property.

No person riding upon any bicycle on a street, sidewalk, highway, park road or multi-use trail shall attach the bicycle or himself or herself to any moving vehicle by tow rope, hand grip or otherwise.

No person riding a bicycle shall follow closer than 500 feet of an emergency vehicle as defined by Iowa Code section 321.1 which has emergency lights and/or siren activated, and shall not stop, park, or leave a bicycle within 500 feet of an emergency vehicle stopped in response to an emergency.

**76.14 PARKING.** No person shall park a bicycle upon a street other than upon the roadway against the curb or upon the sidewalk in a rack to support the bicycle or against a building or at the curb, in such a manner as to afford the least obstruction to pedestrian traffic.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.15 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.** Every person riding a bicycle shall be responsible for providing and using equipment as provided herein:

1. Lamps Required. Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least three hundred (300) feet to the front and with a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of three hundred (300) feet to the rear except that a red reflector on the rear, of a type which shall be visible from all distances from fifty (50) feet to three hundred (300) feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle, may be used in lieu of a rear light.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.397)*

Equivalent equipment such as headlamps and red light attachments to the arm or leg may be used in lieu of a lamp on the front and a red light on the rear of the bicycle.

A peace officer riding a police bicycle is not required to use either front or rear lamps if duty so requires.

2. Brakes Required. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make a complete stop within a safe distance.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.16 SIRENS AND WHISTLES PROHIBITED.** A bicycle shall not be equipped with and a person shall not use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle. This section shall not apply to bicycles ridden by peace officers in the line of duty.

**76.17 ALTERATION OF SERIAL FRAME NUMBER.** It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully or maliciously remove, destroy, mutilate or alter the manufacturer's serial frame number of any bicycle.

**76.18 LICENSE REQUIRED.** No person shall ride or propel a bicycle on any street, sidewalk or upon any public path set apart for the use of bicycles unless such bicycle is licensed by the City and there is affixed to said bicycle such tag, sticker, plate or other device as may be issued by the City as evidence of license.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.236 [10])*

**76.19 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE.** Application for a bicycle license shall be made to the Police Department on forms and in a manner prescribed by that department. There shall be a fee for licensing or registration of bicycles. Such fee shall be set by resolution of the Council from time to time as deemed necessary.

**76.20 DURATION AND RENEWAL OF LICENSE.** The bicycle license shall expire on July 31 five (5) years after the year of issuance or renewal. There shall be a sixty (60) day grace period for the renewal of expired bicycle licenses, said grace period to be the sixty (60) days between July 31 and September 30 of the year in which a bicycle license expires.

**76.21 REGISTRATION OF OWNERSHIP.** All applications for a bicycle license shall be made in the name of the owner of the bicycle to be licensed, and the Police Department shall require reasonable proof of ownership by the applicant. The Police Department shall cause to be kept a record of the serial number of each license issued, the date it was issued, the name and address of the owner of the bicycle licensed, the manufacturer serial number on the frame of the bicycle licensed, and any other pertinent information deemed appropriate by the Police Department.

**76.22 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.** Whenever there shall be a change in the ownership of a bicycle for which ownership has been registered pursuant to this chapter, the new owner shall, within ten (10) days of transfer, show proof of ownership to the Police Department so that the official registration may be changed accordingly.

**76.23 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.** Any person violating the provisions of this chapter may be subject to impounding of that person's bicycle, skateboard or in-line skates by the Police Department, an administrative processing fee, and any applicable fines that pertain to this chapter. The length of impoundment shall be not less than five (5) days for the first offense, ten (10) days for a second offense, and thirty (30) days for each additional offense thereafter. Fines and fees shall be set by resolution of the Council from time to time as deemed necessary.