



Blind spots

Cyclists are relatively exposed to risk on the road and are often seriously injured or killed in accidents. Be aware of potential risks and take mistakes that may be made by other road users into account. Accidents often happen between cyclists and vehicles turning right when the driver fails to see or cannot see the cyclist. Be careful that you are not in the driver's blind spot. Always make eye contact with the driver of a vehicle turning to make sure that you have been seen!

Bicycle helmets

In Germany cyclists are not generally required to wear a bicycle helmet but it is advisable to do so. If an accident does occur, wearing a bicycle helmet can minimize the risk of serious head injuries. Even apparently minor brain injuries can cause suffering from the long-term effects years later. This is especially true for children or young people, who are exceedingly vulnerable in traffic.



On the road with children

Make sure your children are secured and safe in a child seat or child trailer with a helmet and safety belt because both could save lives in an emergency. You should also be aware that the weight of the child can lengthen your stopping distance and affect how you cycle. Make sure that the child's feet are strapped to the foot rests. Try equipment out before you buy it and get advice from a specialized shop.

Visibility on the road

Cyclists and pedestrians are easily overlooked, especially in the winter months, at dusk and in the dark when visibility is poor. Reflective high-visibility vests or materials on clothing can make cyclists more visible. Spoke reflectors can also be used. According to their manufacturers they make a bicycle visible for a distance of up to 160m.

For further information in German please go to:
www.ifk-potsdam.de



Brandenburg police on the internet:

www.polizei.brandenburg.de

Police in your area:



Traffic Safety Network Brandenburg:

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Advice and Information on

Cycling

Important rules, instructions and current information for cyclists

Important rules for cyclists

Cyclists are not allowed to:

- cycle without holding the handle bars,
- hold on to a moving vehicle,
- cycle side by side if they are obstructing traffic,
- use a mobile phone while cycling,
- listen to music with headphones because they cannot hear warning signals from other road users,
- use the pavement (with the exception of children up to the age of 8, who must use the pavement, and children up to the age of 10, who may use the pavement),

Cyclists are allowed to cycle with a dog on a lead.

Incidentally: If you are using a scooter, sledge, inline skates, non-motorized scooter or wheelchair, you are classified as a pedestrian!



Protected cycle paths

Protected paths for cyclists are marked by broken lines on the road and often also with a pictogram of a bicycle. Other vehicles are not allowed to park on them but can drive across the lines when necessary.



Cycling lanes

Cycling lanes are separated from driving lanes by continuous lines on the road and are often marked with a pictogram of a bicycle. They are also indicated by the traffic sign "Radfahrer" which means cyclists are obliged to use them. Other vehicles are not allowed to drive, park or stop on cycling lanes.

Don't be afraid to use the road!

Protected paths and cycle lanes are designed to give cyclists a protected area on the road where they are visible for other road users and conflicts with pedestrians can be avoided.

Cyclists are entitled to go right up to the advanced stop line at junctions, passing waiting vehicles and reducing the "blind spot" zone for turning traffic.

Important traffic signs for cyclists



cyclists



shared and



segregated

paths for cyclists and pedestrians. These signs mean it is compulsory for cyclists to use the designated cycle path and not permitted to use the road!



A bicycle is a "vehicle". Right-of-way signs and regulatory signs also apply to cyclists.



Cyclists are permitted to cycle in the wrong direction down a one-way street if additional signs allow this.



Other vehicles are not permitted to use cycle paths unless this is indicated by an additional sign. The maximum speed limit for all vehicles is 30 km an hour. Cycling side by side is permitted.



This sign indicates an area reserved for pedestrians only. You must dismount and push your bicycle in this area unless additional signs indicate otherwise.

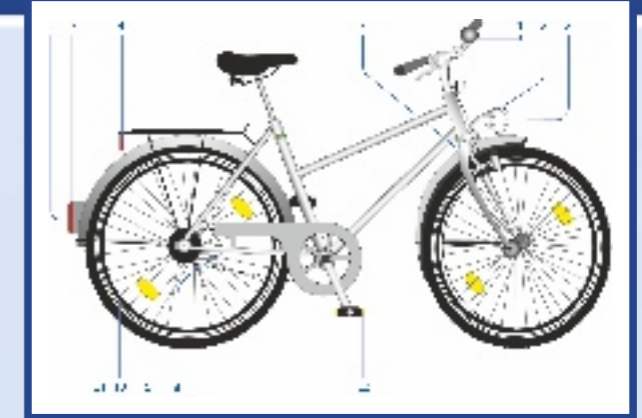
Table of fines for cyclists (extract)

Offence	Fine imposed in Euros (as of 05/2014)			
		causing obstruction	causing danger	accident
Not keeping to the cycling lane	15	20	25	30
Cycling in the wrong direction on a cycle path	20	25	30	35
Cycling in a pedestrian zone where cycling is not permitted or on the pavement	15	20	25	30
Not using a cycle lane designated by signs	20	25	30	35
Cycling side by side and causing obstruction to others		20	25	30
Cycling without lights	20		25	35
Not giving clear hand signals in good time when turning	10	10	30	35
Racing bicycle weighing up to 11 kg without mountable lights	20			
Riding on the luggage rack	5			
Hearing impaired by use of headphones	10			
Holding on to a car	5			
Cycling the wrong way down a one-way street	20	25	30	35
Holding or using a mobile phone	25			
Unroadworthy bicycle	min. 10			
Cycling without holding the handle bars	5			
Cycling through a red light	60		100	120
Disregarding a light that has been red for longer than one second	100		160	180

Offences involving red traffic lights are recorded and incur a penalty point in the Register of Driver Fitness.

Cycling under the influence of alcohol (as of 05/2014)

Cyclists with a blood alcohol content of 0.03% or above, who show signs of unsteady cycling or are involved in an accident may face a driving disqualification, and/or a fine or prison sentence and an entry in the Register of Driver Fitness. If the cyclist's blood alcohol content is found to be 0.16% or above, they will be immediately disqualified from driving, will be required to undergo a medical-psychological examination, and incur a fine or prison sentence and an entry in the Register of Driver Fitness.



Mandatory equipment in accordance with German traffic regulations

1. a bell
2. a front light*
3. a white front reflector (may be integrated into the front light)
4. a red wide-angle rear reflector
5. a red rear light*
6. a red rear reflector (may be integrated into the rear light)
7. front wheel brake (working independently from the rear wheel brake)
8. rear wheel brake (working independently from the front wheel brake)
9. two spoke reflectors positioned at 180° apart on each wheel or
10. continuous reflective white stripes on the tires or
11. on the wheel spokes
12. two yellow reflectors on each pedal

* The bicycle should be equipped with a dynamo or a rechargeable power source.