



# RULES OF THE ROAD

## LANE POSITIONING

### Laws

- Most bicycle laws use the same language regarding where cyclists should drive
- Directions to ride “as far to the right as practicable” appears in most laws
- No clear definition of practicable has been identified, but it is **not** as far right as possible

### Safety

- Do not ride in the gutter or where you often find poor road conditions and constant hazards
- Give yourself ample room to your right to maneuver in an emergency
- Ride in the right third of the lane if there is not sufficient room for lane sharing

### Traffic rules

- Slower moving vehicles travel to the right of faster moving ones
- Motorists are looking for other vehicles in or near the travel lanes, not against curbs
- Follow the same rules as motorists including yielding right-of-way and signaling

### Hazards

- If a lane narrows ahead or is blocked by another vehicle, establish your position in traffic early
- Avoid riding where glass and other trash accumulates on the right side of roadways
- Grates and gutterpans should be avoided by positioning yourself away from them

### Ride on the right

- Ride in the same direction as traffic; stay far enough away from curb to avoid hazards
- Ride in the right third of the right-most lane that goes in the direction you are going
- Control the lane if traveling the same speed as traffic or in a narrow lane

### Visibility

- Always ride in or near a travel lane; stay visible by riding where drivers are looking
- Wear bright clothing at night as well as during the day
- Do not pass on the right; motorists are not looking for other vehicles there

### Parked cars

- Ride in a straight line, not in and out of parked cars on the side of the road
- Beware of cars merging into the roadway from a parallel parking position
- Always ride far enough away (3 feet) from parked cars to avoid hitting a door opened in front of you

### Control the lane

- If there is insufficient road width for cyclists and cars
- If traveling the same speed as other traffic or if hazards narrow the usable width
- Before intersections and turns to assert your position on the roadway

For more  
cycling tips, visit  
[bikeleague.org](http://bikeleague.org)

