

Cycling rules to change

2026 will see some reforms in the Road Traffic Law, with changes regarding cycling rules coming into effect from April. Previously, these offences were subject to a verbal warning, but they will now receive a “blue ticket” carrying a fine. “Blue tickets” will be issued to anyone over sixteen who commits the offence. If they pay the fine within the designated time frame, the process ends there, but forgetting to pay will cause it to be escalated to criminal proceedings.

So, what kinds of offence will be subject to this procedure?

- Ignoring traffic signals
- Use of mobile phone while riding
- Incorrect traffic lane (e.g. riding on the right side, riding on the sidewalk)
- Infractions against Public Safety Commission compliance guidelines (e.g. opening an umbrella)

The above covers the primary offences, but please check the Miyazaki Prefectural Police Department website for the rest. Fines will differ depending on the circumstances and severity of the offence, but most will fall in the 5000 to 12000 yen range. In addition, as before, the offence of cycling while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol is subject to a “red ticket” as well as criminal penalties.

While the total number of road accidents is on a downward trend, the number of cycling accidents has remained stable, while those involving a cyclist and a pedestrian are on the rise.

The “blue ticket” system has been put in place with the aim of lowering the number of victims and prevent cycling-related accidents.



Before the April reforms come into effect, refresh yourself on the practices and rules of cycling, to make sure you're riding safely!

※The original Japanese version of this article will be uploaded onto the website of the Miyazaki International Foundation soon.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding this column, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation (MIF):

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Also, if you ever have any questions or concerns about daily life in Miyazaki, please feel free to get in touch with the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents:

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