



## Peninsula Velo Cycling Club

### Riding Etiquette and Expectations on the Road

#### Objectives:

1. Improve safety for cyclists on the road.
2. Improve our relations with car drivers, motorcyclists, pedestrians, equestrians and other cyclists.
3. Improve the reputation and brand of Peninsula Velo (PV).

#### Rules of the Road:

Much of the tension between cyclists and drivers arises from the perception that cyclists think they don't have to follow the same rules as drivers. Although at times it may seem that there *\*should\** be different rules for cyclists, there currently aren't, and if we want to reduce the angst and potential incidents with cars, we need to obey the laws. Please refer to the end of this document for specific laws that apply to bicycles in California (via SVBC website).

1. Obey all laws that apply to a vehicle on the road – if you don't know the laws, take the time to look them up. This includes:
  - a. Come to a complete stop at all stop signs.
  - b. Stop at all red lights.
  - c. Stay as far to the right of the road as possible.
  - d. Yield to other vehicles when indicated.
  - e. Signal when turning.
2. Use lights on your bike if you are going to be out after sun down. Use one on the front and one on the back of your bike.
3. When coming to a stop light, line up behind the car in front of you if there is no bike lane (especially when making a left turn).
4. Do not pass cars on descents illegally or in a reckless manner.
5. Provide friendly reminders to other cyclists who you encounter breaking the rules of the road.
6. Remember, cyclists who are following the laws are often victims of collisions involving cars.
  - a. Ride defensively all the time.
  - b. Always be aware of your surroundings and give yourself an "out" in case of emergency.
  - c. Anticipate problems by being super observant of driver behavior.
  - d. Ride in a deliberate and predictable manner.

#### Being Considerate to Motor Vehicle Drivers:

In addition to simply obeying the laws, there are things you can do consistently to reduce driver/rider tension and increase communication to improve safety and overall relations.

1. Make eye contact with and communicate with drivers about your intended direction.
2. Gesture kindly to drivers when they wave you on or when they are considerate to you.



3. Stay as far right on the road as you safely can, especially when you know that a car is coming up behind you – let other cyclists know that there is a car approaching.
4. Even if a driver does something that you do not appreciate, **avoid the urge to retaliate** in any way. If they do something that you feel needs to be reported, take down their license plate number and a description of the car/driver and call it in to the authorities.
5. When in a group, if you have been gapped off the group, don't roll through the stop sign to catch up to the group. Come to a stop, then proceed.

### **Being Considerate to Pedestrians and Equestrians:**

Horses and pedestrians are very sensitive beings. They both spook very easy and get very upset when they are spooked. Both groups feel that cyclists are often guilty of startling them unnecessarily. We need to take extra care when riding near horses and pedestrians – not just when we see them, but also when we are in their backyard. If you are riding in an area frequented by these folks, sit up and take a drink from your bottle, enjoy the scenery and be on the lookout for walkers and horses.

1. When in an area that is frequented by people on foot or horse, raise your awareness to your surroundings.
2. When confronting a pedestrian or equestrian:
  - a. Give them ample space.
  - b. Reduce your speed.
  - c. Make every effort not to startle them.
3. Make your best effort at being friendly – a wave or friendly “hello” goes a long way to boosting the reputation of cyclists and of PV.
4. If someone does get upset with you for any reason, even if it doesn't seem like it's your fault, just say “sorry” and keep riding.

\*\*Per the California Driver Handbook:

### **ANIMAL DRAWN VEHICLES**

Horse-drawn vehicles and cyclists of horses or other animals are entitled to share the road with you. **It is a traffic offense to scare horses or stampede livestock.** Slow down or stop, if necessary, or when requested to do so by the cyclists or herders.

### **Being Considerate to Other Cyclists:**

This seems like it should be a no-brainer. Whether we race, ride to get to work or just for fun, we're all on the same team. Remember what it was like when you were starting out on a bike and a little intimidated. Give those folks a little extra space and a helping hand. Look out for your brothers and sisters when riding in a pack.

1. When in a group, be sure to alert slower cyclists when the group is approaching from behind and give them plenty of space when passing.
2. When in a group, point to and/or call out road hazards to cyclists following you.
3. Signal when turning, slowing and stopping.



4. When you have a mechanical during a group ride, put your hand up and carefully move to the edge of the road allowing other cyclists to get around you safely.
5. Stop and offer to help someone who has had an accident or a mechanical problem.
6. If someone is riding in an erratic manner in a group, give them constructive tips on how to improve their group skills. Don't yell at them.
7. As much as possible, be friendly and social to other cyclists on the road.

### **Best Practices – Club Rides:**

Club rides are great. They are social, dynamic and at times fast as hell (but for the record, they are not races!). In order for the ride to go well though, we all have to finish without touching the pavement and aggravating our neighbors. Beyond all else, safety comes first. When things get sketch, sit up and if need be, let the crazies go ahead. Don't take risks that put you at odds with making it home in one piece.

1. When stopping at stop signs, **wait for the entire group to get back on before charging ahead.** This prevents people from running the stop signs and taking crazy risks to get across an intersection to keep up with the group. A prime example of this is at Whiskey Hill/Sand Hill intersection on Tuesday nights.
2. When going through quiet neighborhoods with many pedestrians/equestrians, sit up and cruise. A prime example of this is Tripp Road. Another example is people meeting to start rides at 92/Canada on the weekend.
3. Speak up when cyclists are behaving inappropriately and give constructive corrective feedback.
4. If you are tired and not feeling able to pull through, stay at the back and let the last rider in the paceline know that you are not pulling through.
5. Be communicative about potential road hazards.
6. Communicate clearly to cyclists behind when stopping, slowing or turning.
7. Let slower cyclists ahead know the group is approaching and give them plenty of space as you pass.
8. No negative riding. Do not go to the front of the pack and slow the pace.
9. When cyclists are making U-turns to join the ride (eg. On Canada Road), double check for them that there are no cars coming behind them.

### **California bicycle laws**

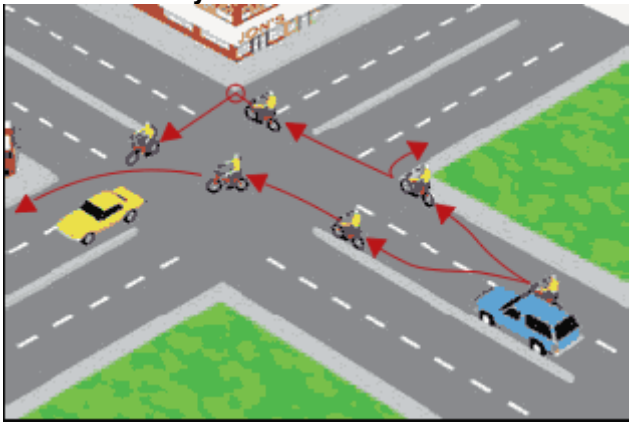
Bicycles ....

- Must obey all traffic signals and stop signs.
- Are lawfully permitted to ride on certain sections of roadway in rural areas where there is no alternate route.
- Must ride in the same direction as other traffic, not against it.
- Shall ride as near to the right curb or edge of the roadway as practical– not on the sidewalk.
- Are legally allowed to ride in the center of the lane when moving at the same speed as other traffic.
- May move left to pass a parked or moving vehicle, bicycle, animal, avoid debris, or other hazards.

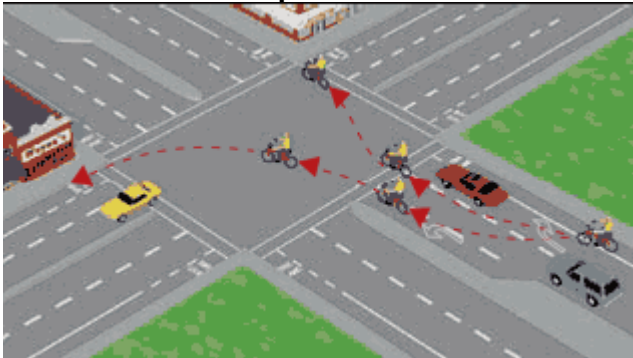


- May choose to ride near the left curb or edge of a one-way street.
- Should ride single file on a busy or narrow street.
- Must make left and right turns in the same way that drivers do, using the same turn lanes. If the bicyclist is traveling straight ahead, he or she should use a through traffic lane rather than ride next to the curb and block traffic making right turns.
- Must signal all their intentions to motorists and bicyclists near them.
- Must wear a helmet if under the age of 18.
- Should carry identification.
- Shall not operate a bicycle on a roadway during darkness unless the bicycle is equipped with:
  - A brake which will enable the operator to make one braked wheel stop on dry, level, clean pavement.

### Turns for bicyclists



### Intersections with special lanes



During darkness bicyclists **must** have the following equipment:

- A front lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of 300 feet.
- A rear red reflector visible from a distance of 500 feet.
- A white or yellow reflector on each pedal or on the bicyclist's shoes or ankles visible from a distance of 200 feet.