



# SAFETY FOR PLAYING IN THE STREET

## → WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCOOTERS, BIKES & OTHER PLAY EQUIPMENT

### What do Virginia laws or codes say?

Basketball hoops, street hockey goals, and game equipment such as roller skates, skateboards, and other toys are [not permitted on roadways](#). Violations of these laws may result in criminal prosecution of any person who plays in or obstructs the roadway.

### Important traffic safety information

Be aware of the dangers associated with playing in the street. In 2025, Henrico County reported:

- 23 crashes involving pedal-cyclists with three fatalities.
- 94 crashes involving pedestrians with 11 fatalities.

Using bike helmets is the single most effective measure anyone can take to reduce head injuries and fatalities resulting from bicycle crashes.

### Motorized scooters, gopeds & mopeds

Motorized scooters, gopeds and mopeds are classified in the same category according to Virginia State Code. Therefore, they are allowed on the public roadway, and the following laws apply for operators:

- Be 16 years of age or older.
- Not ride on a sidewalk.
- Wear a helmet that is approved by the Dept. of Transportation.
- Wear either eye protection or have a windshield that is approved by the state superintendent (VA State Police Chief.)
- Have a white light mounted to the front.
- Have a red light or red reflector mounted to the rear visible in clear weather from a distance of not less than 500 feet when operated after sunset.
- Not operate a moped, goped, or motorized scooter while intoxicated.
- Have properly functioning brakes when operated on the highways.
- Obey road signs and traffic lights and follow the rules of the road.

## E-bicycles & E-motorcycles

### E-BICYCLE

Per the Code of Virginia ([§46.2-100](#)), an e-bicycle is defined as an “Electric power-assisted bicycle” which travels on no more than three wheels and is equipped with (i) pedals that allow propulsion by human power, (ii) a seat for the use of the rider, and (iii) an electric motor with an input of **no more than 750 watts**.

An e-bicycle may be operated on sidewalks and roadways and does not require a license or registration.

### E-MOTORCYCLE

A “motorcycle” means every motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels and is capable of **traveling at speeds in the excess of 35 miles per hour**.

These vehicles are considered motorcycles regardless of whether it is gas-powered or electric-powered.

Many of the electric-powered motorcycles can reach top speeds in the excess of **65 miles per hour**. As a result, operation of these vehicles requires the following:

- Drivers license
- Class M endorsement
- Registration/Inspection
- Insurance
- Helmet

A motorcycle must be operated on a roadway; they are not allowed on sidewalks. **Please note, a dirt bike, regardless of gas-powered or electric-powered, is considered a motorcycle when operated on a roadway. [Learn more here.](#)**



### Play it safe!

- Parents should educate their children about recreational safety and correct any hazardous behavior.
- Youths should play in designated playgrounds, parks, or private yards.
- When using recreational equipment, read and follow manufacturer’s recommendations for use.
- Do not disable safety features. Lights, reflectors and other safety features are there to protect the user.
- Use equipment that is age appropriate and “fits” the operator.
- Use protective gear - always!

Protective helmets, eyeswear, knee and elbow pads, and gloves are often recommended when using recreational equipment that has wheels.

### Streets and roadways are not playgrounds!

Playing the street is illegal! If you play in the street you could be fined. If recreational equipment owned by you is placed on or near the street and a person is injured in connection with this equipment, you could be held civilly liable!

*(Information updated March 2026)*