

New and amended Queensland road rules – effective from 12 October 2009

Please note: the child restraint legislation is effective from 11 March 2010.

Rule	Previous rule	Changes	Penalty prior 12 Oct 2009	Penalty from 12 Oct 2009	Section of Qld road rules
Child restraints					
Wearing of seatbelts by persons under 16 years Please note: the child restraint legislation comes into effect on 11 March 2010 .	Previously: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a passenger under one year of age must be restrained in an approved child restraint and a passenger between one and 16 years of age must be restrained in an approved child restraint or a properly fastened and adjusted seatbelt. 	While all passengers up to the age of 16 must be appropriately restrained, there are now very specific requirements for children up to seven years of age. The type of restraint required will depend on the age of the child. Further: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a passenger under the age of four cannot occupy the front row of seats if there are two or more rows of seats and a passenger aged four to seven years of age can only occupy the front row of seats (where there are two or more rows of seats) if all the other seats are occupied by passengers under the age of seven. Further details can be found at www.transport.qld.gov.au/childrestraints	\$300 fine and three demerit points	No change	266
Seatbelts					
Wearing of seatbelts by passengers 16 years or over	Previously, a passenger aged 16 years or older was solely responsible for wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt.	The driver of the vehicle is now also responsible for ensuring that all passengers regardless of age are wearing a properly fastened and adjusted seatbelt.	\$300 fine and three demerit points	\$300 fine and three demerit points	265(3)

Rule	Previous rule	Changes	Penalty prior 12 Oct 2009	Penalty from 12 Oct 2009	Section of Qld road rules
Seatbelts - continued					
Exemptions from wearing seatbelts	A person may be exempt from wearing a seatbelt if the person is carrying a certificate signed by a medical practitioner stating that the person should not wear a seatbelt for medical reasons.	The medical certificate must have an end date of less than 12 months.	If the requirements for the exemptions are not satisfied, the penalties for failure to wear a seatbelt apply.	No change	267
Fog lights					
Using fog lights	Previously the rule referred to rear fog lights only.	A driver must now only operate front or rear fog lights if driving in fog or other hazardous weather conditions. It is now an offence to use front fog lights in clear weather conditions.	\$40 fine	No change	217
Centre dividing line					
Keeping to the left of the centre of the road or the dividing line	Previously, the rules did not explicitly prohibit a driver from performing a U-turn if there was a continuous dividing line or a continuous dividing line to the left of a broken continuous dividing line.	The new rule makes it clear that a person cannot cross either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a single continuous dividing line • or a single continuous dividing lane to the left of a broken dividing line to perform a U-turn.	N/A	\$180 fine and three demerit points \$80 fine for non-motorised vehicle	132

Rule	Previous rule	Changes	Penalty prior 12 Oct 2009	Penalty from 12 Oct 2009	Section of Qld road rules
Centre dividing line - continued					
Starting a left turn from a multi lane road	The rule provides that a driver turning left at an intersection from a multi lane road must approach and enter the intersection from the left lane (with certain exceptions).	A new sub-section has been included to make it clear that, where a slip lane is available at the intersection, a driver turning left must enter and approach the intersection from within the slip lane unless there is an obstruction. An obstruction does not include banked up traffic.	N/A	\$60 fine and two demerit points	28
Driving on or across a continuous white edge line	The section details when a person may drive over a continuous white edge line.	A new sub-section has been included which limits travel over a continuous white edge line to 100 metres (m) where a driver is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • turning at an intersection • entering or leaving the road • entering a part of the road of one kind from another kind (moving to or from a service road, shoulder of the road or emergency stopping lane) or • stopping at the side of the road. 	\$80 fine	No change	150
Painted islands					
Keeping off a painted island	The rule provides an exception to driving on or over a single continuous line along the side of or surrounding a painted island for up to 50 m to enter or leave the road or to enter a turning lane that begins immediately after the painted island.	A new sub-section has been included making it clear that the exception does not apply to a painted island: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that separates vehicles travelling in the same direction or • that separates one part of a road from another in order to create a slip lane. 	\$180 fine and three demerit points	No change	138

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Bicycles and bicycle storage areas					
Proceeding through a bicycle storage area before a red traffic light or arrow and other various provisions	New provisions have been included to allow for a bicycle storage area. Essentially, the provisions allow a cyclist to travel beyond the first stop line at a signalised intersection in order to stop at the second stop line.	A vehicle must not enter a bicycle storage area located before traffic lights.	N/A	\$300 fine and three demerit points	27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 56(3), 57(4), 60A, 92(3), 138
Entering a bicycle storage area	As per section 60A above	A person riding a bicycle must enter a bicycle storage area at an intersection with a red traffic light or arrow from a bicycle lane.	N/A	\$60 fine	247A
Giving way while entering or in a bicycle storage area	As per section 60A above	A rider of a bicycle must, when entering a bicycle storage area, give way to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any vehicle that is in the area if the area is before any green or yellow traffic lights, the rider must give way to any motor vehicle, unless the motor vehicle is waiting for a red traffic arrow and if the area is part of a lane to which traffic arrows apply, any vehicle entering or about to enter the area while the arrows are green or yellow. 	N/A	\$100 fine	247B

Rule	Previous rule	Changes	Penalty prior 12 Oct 2009	Penalty from 12 Oct 2009	Section of Qld road rules
Bicycles and bicycle storage areas - continued					
Carrying people on a bicycle	This section provides that a person must not carry more persons on a bicycle than it is designed to carry.	New sub-sections have been included which provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that a passenger on a bicycle (that is moving or stationary, but not parked), must sit in a seat designated for the passenger and the rider of the bicycle must not ride with a passenger unless the passenger is seated in the designated seat. 	\$40	No change	246
Bicycle helmets	The section requires both the rider or a bicycle and any passenger to wear an approved bicycle helmet securely fitted and fastened, unless certain exceptions apply.	The new sub-sections place the responsibility for the passenger wearing an approved helmet on both the rider and the passenger.	\$100 fine	No change	256
Wheeled recreational devices (WRDs)					
Wheeled recreational devices and toys not to be used on certain roads	Previously, section 240 detailed a number of restrictions on the use of a wheeled recreational device or toy. These restrictions still apply, however have been expanded upon.	A wheeled recreational device or toy cannot be used on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a road with a dividing line or median strip or a road where the speed limit is greater than 50 kilometres per hour or a one way road with more than 1 marked lane or on a road at night. 	\$40 fine	No change	240

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Wheeled recreational devices (WRDs) - continued					
Motorised wheeled recreational devices	<p>Currently, section 240A allows a 200 watt motor to be attached to a wheeled recreational device.</p> <p>This means that a person could attach a motor of up to 200 Watts to a skateboard, inline skates or rollerskates.</p> <p>The person must however, be 16 years of age or more to ride the device.</p>	<p>Section 240A is being repealed and replaced with a definition of motorised scooter.</p> <p>This will mean that the only wheeled recreational device which can legally have a motor attached will be a foot scooter.</p> <p>The age limit of 16 years or older will be removed, however further restrictions have been added to address safety concerns, including the requirement that the scooter must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have an <i>electric</i> motor attached which is no greater than 200 watts • have the capacity to travel at speeds no greater than 10 km/h and • a person must wear an approved bicycle helmet when riding a motorised scooter. <p>All of the restrictions which apply to persons using wheeled recreational devices will apply in to motorised foot scooters as well.</p>	<p>\$40 if not used in accordance with rules for wheeled recreational devices</p> <p>\$40 fine for not wearing a helmet</p>	Penalty repealed	240A repealed. Provision now captured in 240

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Carrying an animal					
Driver to have proper control of a vehicle etc	This rule provides that a person must not drive a vehicle unless the driver has proper control of the vehicle and a clear view of the road and traffic ahead, behind and to each side of the driver.	New sub-sections have been included which provide, in addition to having proper control and a clear view, that a person must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> drive a vehicle if a person or animal is in the driver's lap or the rider of a motorbike must not ride with an animal on the petrol tank of the motorbike. 	\$233 fine	No change	297
Safety ramps and arrester beds					
Safety ramp and arrester bed signs	This is a new section.	The new section provides that a driver must not drive on a safety ramp or arrester bed unless it is necessary to do so in the interests of safety. Safety ramps and arrester beds will be identifiable by a 'safety ramp' or 'arrester bed' sign.	N/A	\$140 fine and three demerit points \$60 fine for non-motorised vehicles	101A
Securing a motor vehicle					
Making a motor vehicle secure	This rule details the requirement to secure a vehicle before leaving it, specifying what is required to make the vehicle secure.	The section now includes a requirement to secure the windows. A window will be considered secure even if it is open by up to five centimetres.	\$40 fine	No change	213

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Turn lines					
Making a left or right turn as indicated by a turn line	These rules provide that a person turning left or right at an intersection must comply with any <i>road markings</i> indicating how the turn is to be made.	<p>The section no longer refers to <i>road markings</i> and refers to <i>turn lines</i> instead.</p> <p>Also, a number of exemptions have been included as to when a vehicle is exempt from complying with the turn lines. The exemptions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when driving a vehicle that is 7.5 m long or longer • if a vehicle displays a do not overtake turning vehicle sign • if it is not practical for the driver to turn left as indicated by a turn line • if the driver can safely turn left without complying with the turn lines. 	\$80 fine and three demerit points	No change	29 and 33
Keeping left					
Keeping to the left on a multi lane road	<p>There is a general requirement to keep to the left on multi lane roads where the speed limit is more than 80 km/h (i.e. 90 km/h or more).</p> <p>There are a number of exemptions to this requirement.</p>	<p>Two additional exemptions have been included, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the right lane is a special purpose lane, and a driver is in the applicable special purpose vehicle • where there are only two marked lanes and the left lane is a slow vehicle turn out lane. 	\$60 fine and two demerit points	No change	130

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Giving way when moving within a lane					
Giving way when moving within a single marked lane	This is a new section.	If a driver moves to the left or right within a marked lane, the driver must give way to any vehicle that is in the same lane. For example, where a motorbike is travelling in a marked lane, it must give way to a motorbike or other vehicle that may be alongside it before diverging to the left or right.	N/A	\$300 fine and 3 demerit points \$100 fine for non-motorised vehicles	148A
Parking signs for people with disabilities					
No parking signs	A driver must not stop on a length of road which has a no parking sign, unless the driver is dropping off or picking up passengers or goods and completes the dropping off or picking up within the required time.	Previously, if a no parking sign did not indicate a timeframe on it, a person driving a vehicle displaying a current disability parking permit was allowed to stop for up to two minutes. This has been extended to five minutes.	\$40 fine	No change	168
Permissive parking signs					
Parking outside the times indicated	This amendment relates to the times when a vehicle must park in accordance with a permissive parking sign.	An amendment has been made to make it clear that, if a sign does not indicate a period (i.e. the sign has a "P" symbol only with no timeframe specified) the permissive parking sign applies 24 hours a day, seven days a week.	\$40 fine	No change	205 & 205A
Using radar detectors					
Using radar detectors and similar devices	The existing rule provides that a person must not drive a vehicle which has in or on it a radar detector, used to detect speed measuring devices.	The rule now provides that the vehicle or <i>a trailer being towed by the vehicle</i> must not have a radar detector in or on it.	\$300 fine	No change	225

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Parking					
Parallel parking in a road related area	This is a new section.	The rule makes it clear that a vehicle parking in a road related area such as the shoulder of a road, must park facing the same direction as traffic in the adjacent lane or line of traffic.	N/A	\$40 fine	208A
Pedestrians					
Pedestrians travelling along a road (except on a wheeled recreational device or toy)	The existing rules contain requirements for pedestrians travelling along a road (where a footpath or nature strip is not available).	An additional requirement has been included, specifying that a pedestrian travelling along a road must face traffic moving in the opposite direction, unless it is impractical to do so.	N/A	\$40 fine	238(2)
Passengers in sidecars					
Passenger must be seated safely in a sidecar	N/A	It is now an offence to travel with a passenger in a sidecar unless the passenger is seated safely.	N/A	\$133 fine	271(5B)&(5C)
Breakdown vehicles					
Exemptions for breakdown vehicles	N/A	Breakdown vehicles are exempt from certain rules such as those dealing with keeping off dividing strips and painted islands, provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are engaged in repairing a disable vehicle • the driver is unable to comply with the relevant rule • the breakdown vehicle is displaying a flashing light and • the driver is acting safely. 	If the vehicle does not satisfy the requirements, the exemptions do not apply and the driver is not exempt from any rules.	N/A	313B