

SALINAS BIKE PARTY RULES

Salinas Bike Party is a courteous social bike run. If a mass, then our goal is to be a Courteous Mass. Following these rules will help make Salinas Bike Party safe and positive for riders, motorists, pedestrians, and the whole community. Here's a summary. Details are provided below.

1. Follow California Bike Laws.
2. Stop at Red Lights.
3. Stay in the Proper Lane. *Don't ride against traffic. Don't ride on sidewalks.*
4. Ride Straight, Ride Predictably.
5. Be Visible.
6. Roll Past Conflict.
7. Leave No One Behind.
8. Leave Nothing Behind.
9. Ride Sober.
10. Communicate with Fellow Riders—Help Enforce Party Rules.

You are responsible for your own behavior. All participants ride at their own risk.

1. Follow California Bike Laws

Following CA bike laws is about more than avoiding a ticket. It's about preventing the City getting complaints from residents. It's about avoiding giving anyone a reason to shut the party down.

Give special attention to following laws about equipment requirements (such as helmets for minors, brakes, reflectors, and front light) and laws about biking intoxicated, leaving one ear bud out, proper lane usage, and stopping at red lights.

Want more bike lanes in Salinas? Following bike laws also makes SBP a better representative for the entire bike community—so when infrastructure decisions come up, decision-makers feel good about bicyclists!

2. Stop at Red Lights

The number one complaint against any Bike Party is that some riders run red lights. Salinas Bike Party is a Courteous Mass. We want motorists to respect our right to share the road, so we show respect for motorists and the law. With a large group, stopping at red lights makes a strong visible statement that bikes and cars *can* share the road safely.

Besides, stopping gives more time to party! This is a slow-moving ride, not a race. Don't rush to beat a yellow that other riders can't make it through. Instead, stop and make a friend. Say hello to your neighbors, sing in the street.

See how beautiful stopping can be?

Of course, if ever a police officer blocks an intersection and waves us through a red light, follow their directions.

3. Stay in the Proper Lane

Stay alert to guidance from our Organized Guiders/OGs! If they are communicating, listen, and pass the information back to riders who may not hear the OGs.

When possible, SBP routes are on 4- to 6-lane streets. This allows SBP to use one entire lane while also allowing for cars to pass us.

We use *one* lane only. We do *not* stretch across two or more lanes and tie up traffic.

Most often, the proper lane to ride in is the *right*-hand lane. Our decisions are based on laws about operation on roadways. <http://dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/d11/vc21202.htm>

On a 6-lane street, unless turning, we use the *center* lane. This avoids blocking cars that need to turn right or left.

Empty parking spots? It's tempting to swerve into them briefly to get out of heavy traffic. That may seem like a good idea, but it's *not*. You become invisible to drivers. Stay in the travel lane!

Remember too that CA laws for bicyclists are *not* the same as for pedestrians. Bicyclists are *never* to ride against oncoming traffic. Instead, bike the same direction as cars.

And do *not* ride on the sidewalk. In most cases, it is more dangerous than the street!

4. Ride Straight, Ride Predictably

For the safety of others, ride straight and predictably. Don't make sudden stops. Don't weave or make sudden turns—that's part of why *brakes* are so important on group rides.

If you need to get out of the group, call out to announce it, hand signal, and move out slowly. Unless the situation requires otherwise, move to the right.

5. Be Visible

Along with riding predictably, being seen is one of the best ways to stay safe. Beyond the reflectors and light required by law, consider decorating your bike or yourself with other high-visibility items. Bright clothing helps too—you can't go wrong with white.

6. Roll Past Conflict

If you see an angry motorist or pedestrian, roll on by. Don't engage in shouting matches or with violent people. Just enjoy your ride. If a fellow cyclist stops or otherwise reacts, remind them to "Roll past conflict."

7. Ride Sober

It is illegal to drink and ride a bicycle. The law applies just like a DUI. In addition, many riders who drink cause bicycle accidents. They harm fellow riders and themselves. Not all parties need alcohol to be fun! Ride sober.

Even if you're 21 and confident you can have one drink without being under the influence, that's not cool at SBP meetup areas. In Salinas, it is illegal to drink on public property.

8. Leave No One Behind

Prepare your bike before SBP. Pump tires, and make sure brakes work.

Bring your own patch kit and spare inner tube. Be sure you or friends have basic tools for emergency maintenance.

If you didn't come with family or friends, exchange cell phone numbers with a few new people.

If someone has a flat tire or other problem, the group doesn't stop. But we *don't* want a stranded rider left alone! If someone is in trouble, a couple nearby riders who see him/her are to *stop* and see how they can help. Part of the purpose of SBP is making friends, and helping someone is a great way to do that.

9. Leave Nothing Behind

It's not acceptable—to City of Salinas or SBP—to have a trail of trash following our rides. Pack your trash, or throw it away at a rest stop. Remind fellow riders it is *not* okay to litter.

At our meeting place, if you see litter, consider picking it up so we leave the place better than we found it.

10. Communicate with Fellow Riders—Help Enforce Party Rules

The handful of volunteers who organize the rides cannot be the only ones who enforce the rules. We need *everyone* to speak up. No one wants to be an authority figure when they're having a good time! But the way to keep this ride going and safe is for everyone to share responsibility for following—and communicating—SBP Bike Party Rules.

Be vocal. “Stay to the right” is often enough to remind a rider they're slipping. If you see a knucklehead littering, simply boo. We call it community watch. It's the bike community self-monitoring, and when everyone participates, it works.

Of course, communicate any road dangers too, such as “pothole,” “glass,” or “door” (car door opening into lane).

Thanks to San Jose Bike Party and Midnight Ridazz of LA for providing inspiration for Salinas Bike Party, and for the SBP rules adapted from their websites.