



Florham Park Police and Office of Emergency Management

Florham Park community members:

Good Evening Residents,

Please read this post in its entirety as it contains information related to the safety of our community's children.

Initially I would like to congratulate all of those who have completed the 2024-2025 school year and will be moving on to new grade levels, new school buildings and some who will be moving up to High School. As summer breaks begin for our children a renewed focus on pedestrian safety begins for the Police Department. Our Helmet Reward Program, designed to educate and reward our children for the utilization of required head protection, will begin tomorrow. We ask the parents of our community to impart upon your children the importance of wearing their required head protection for their safety, not for the reward they receive.



More importantly I want to address the increase in utilization of E-bikes within the community as well as their misuse. In our continuing effort to increase pedestrian and juvenile safety throughout the Borough, we need to remind the public of the rules and laws regarding e-bikes, motorized scooters, and similar devices. Last October, we shared a story of a juvenile nearly run over by a vehicle in the center of town, and many of us have surely seen too many near-misses to be comfortable with. We, the police, have educated juveniles as we see violations, but we need the help of parents to talk to them first, so their first time learning about the rules and how to be safe, is not coming from us when we “stop” them. Parents need to understand that juveniles can receive summonses and in many cases, parents can be held liable, even criminally, especially if a child gets hurt or killed.

The information below is a lot (and it's actually reduced from what is available!), but users and owners should know what they own and are expected to know the rules themselves. Remember, all vehicles operated on public roadways need to follow the traffic laws – something often overlooked by bike users. This includes not riding in the middle of a road, stopping at Stop signs, following speed limits, and yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.

E-bikes are classified as either Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 depending on whether they are pedal-assist or throttle-powered and based on their maximum assisted speed. Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are considered low-speed electric bicycles and are primarily regulated like traditional bicycles. Class 3 e-bikes are more strictly regulated, and they require a license and registration to operate.

Low-speed electric scooters may be ridden on public streets, bike lanes, and paved bikeways (local laws may restrict).

Pocket bikes, dirt bikes, and other types of motorized bicycles are not permitted on public roads at any time.



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Definitions

The law defines a “**low-speed electric bicycle**” as a two or three-wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

The law further defines a “**Class 1 low-speed electric bicycle**” as an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and a “**Class 2 low-speed electric bicycle**” as an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle.

Class 3 electric bicycles are defined as “**motorized bicycles**,” which refers to a pedal bicycle having a helper motor where either the maximum piston displacement is less than 50 cc. or the motor is rated at no more than 1.5 brake horsepower, or is powered by an electric motor and the bicycle is capable of a maximum speed of no more than 25 miles per hour on a flat surface, or a pedal bicycle having an electric motor that is capable of propelling the bicycle in excess of 20 miles per hour with a maximum motor-powered speed of no more than 28 miles per hour on a flat surface.

The law also defines a “**low-speed electric scooter**” as “a scooter with a floorboard that can be stood upon by the operator, with handlebars, and an electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion at a maximum speed of less than 19 miles per hour.”

“**Motorized scooter**” is a miniature motor vehicle and includes pocket bikes, super pocket bikes, scooters, mini-scooters, sport scooters, mini choppers, mini motorcycles, motorized skateboards and other vehicles with motors not manufactured in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and which have no permanent Federal Safety Certification stickers affixed to the vehicle by the original manufacturer. **Motorized skateboards** are defined as skateboards that are propelled otherwise than by muscular power and are regulated the same as motorized scooters.

***All vehicles categorized as Motorized Scooters are illegal to operate on our roadways.**

The Rules for Operation of bicycles, E-Bikes, and Low Speed Electric Scooters are detailed below. Please know that in our effort to promote communal safety for all of our residents, we will be enforcing these rules. Parents may be telephonically contacted or even asked to respond to the scene of children improperly operating their devices, failing to obey the traffic laws, or failure to wear required head protection.

Rules for Operation

Pure pedal bicycle – helmet required for under 17, allowed on public roads, must follow rules of the road and all traffic signals (lights, stops, arrows, etc.)

Class 1 e-bikes – provide electric assistance only while pedaling and max speed of 20 mph – allowed on public roads and must follow rules of the road, no license or registration needed, helmets for under 17

Class 2 e-bikes – can provide electric propulsion without having to be actively pedaling, max speed of 20 mph, allowed on public roads without registration or license, helmets needed under 17

Class 3 motorized bikes – must be 15 years old to operate; license, registration, and helmet required for all ages

Low-speed scooter – helmets required for under 17, users of these devices have the same rights and responsibilities as operators of other motor vehicles



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Motorized Scooter – not allowed on public roads (except for those with mobility-limited disabilities) so no license or registration needed, only allowed on private property with owner's permission, must be 12 years old to operate, helmets for everyone under 17

Removing speed-limiters is illegal in New Jersey (tampering) and subjects e-bikes to different requirements based on their max MPH. It is also unsafe as the machines are designed to safely handle their maximum speeds, reduces braking ability, and voids warranties. There will be zero-tolerance for machines operating faster than legally permitted as it exponentially increasing the risk of crash and injury, or violating local speed limits.

For a full comprehensive guide, please follow the link below, which was updated in May of 2025.

https://njbikeped.org/wp-content/uploads/New-Jersey-Micromobility-Guide_2025.pdf

Additionally, common bicycle laws can be found here:

<https://www.nj.gov/transportation/commuter/bike/regulations.shtm>