

# EZ RIDER SAFETY

**Please Read Carefully!**

***ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET!***

**Helmets save lives.**

Check helmet manufacturer instructions for proper helmet size and fit.



## ***ABOUT THESE MANUALS***

It is important for you to understand your new bicycle or tricycle. By reading this manual before you go out on your first ride, you'll know how to get better performance, comfort, and enjoyment from your new bicycle or tricycle. It is also important

## ***GENERAL WARNING***

Cycling can be a hazardous activity even under the best of circumstances. Proper maintenance of your bicycle or tricycle is your responsibility as it helps reduce the risk of injury. This manual contains many "Warnings" and "Cautions" concerning the consequences of failure to maintain or inspect your bicycle or tricycle. Many of the warnings and cautions say "you may lose control and fall." Because any fall can result in serious injury or even death, we do not repeat the warning of possible injury or death whenever the risk of falling is mentioned.

## ***A SPECIAL NOTE FOR PARENTS***

It is a tragic fact that most bicycle or tricycle accidents involve children. As a parent or guardian, you bear the responsibility for the activities and safety of your minor child. Among these responsibilities are to make sure that the bicycle or tricycle which your child is riding is properly fitted to the child; that it is in good repair and safe operating condition; that you and your child have learned, understand and obey not only the applicable local motor vehicle, bicycle or tricycle, and traffic laws, but also the common sense rules of safe and responsible bicycling. As a parent, you should read this manual before letting your child ride the bicycle or tricycle. Please make sure that your child always wears an approved bicycle or tricycle helmet when riding. We recommend that you not allow children and unlicensed drivers operate the EZ Rider.

## ***HELMETS, PROTECTIVE GEAR & CLOTHING***

### **A WORD TO PARENTS REGARDING CHILDREN AND HELMETS:**

**Many states have passed helmet laws regarding children. Make sure you know your states helmet laws. It is your job to enforce these rules with your children. Even if your state does not have a children's helmet law, it is recommended that everyone wear a helmet when cycling. When riding with a child carrier seat or trailer, children must wear a helmet.**

We strongly advise that a properly fitting ASTM or SNELL approved, bicycle or tricycle safety helmet be worn at all times when riding your bicycle or tricycle. In addition, if you are carrying a passenger in a child safety seat, they must also be wearing a helmet. The correct helmet should be fitted and worn in the manner described by the helmet manufacturer.

Many states require specific safety devices in addition to a helmet. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the laws of the state where you are operating and riding and comply with all such laws, including properly equipping yourself and your cycle as the law and common sense requires. Reflectors are important safety devices that are designed as an integral part of your bicycle or tricycle. Federal law requires all bicycle or bicycle or tricycles in excess of 16 inches to be equipped with front and rear wheel and pedal reflectors. Such reflectors are designed to pick up and reflect street and car lights in a way to help you be seen and identified as a moving bicyclist. Check reflectors and their brackets routinely to make sure they are straight, clean and unbroken so that they function properly.

We recommend that you not ride your bicycle or tricycle at night. If you choose to ride at night, we strongly suggest you equipment your bicycle or tricycle with industry standard bicycle or tricycle safety lights on the front and rear of your bicycle or tricycle. Also wear bright reflective clothing so that you are easily seen in dark conditions.

### ***Choosing Riding Clothing and Protective Gear***

When choosing to ride a bicycle or bicycle or tricycle, the riders should always consider the clothing they will wear. Any loose clothing parts or strings can get caught in a bicycle or bicycle or tricycles moving parts and cause an accident. Be sure there are no loose cords, strings, oversized cuffs or pant legs. Loose pants should be tied or tucked into a sock. A leg band is often used to keep pants from getting caught in the chain of the bicycle or bicycle or tricycle. Be sure shoelaces are tied tightly, and do not hang out.

Dress for the weather keeping in mind that when cycling, the wind can be colder than just walking or standing. Reflective clothing is always recommended for cycling. Avoid wearing all black, or dark clothes. A brightly colored jacket or shirt is a great way to help motorists and others see you.

Choosing to wear protective gear is the riders or parents responsibility and is highly recommended. Protective gear is available to cover knees and elbows, backs and shoulders and more.

**Use of protective gear can greatly reduce injuries while riding. If protective gear is worn, be sure that it does not interfere with steering, braking and pedaling. Know your own abilities, and do not ride beyond them.**



## ***RIDING SAFETY***

### **General Rules**



- When riding obey the same road laws as all other road vehicles, including giving way to pedestrians, and stopping at red lights and stop signs. For further information, contact the Road Traffic Authority in your State.
- Ride predictably and in a straight line. Never ride against traffic.
- Use correct hand signals to indicate turning or stopping.
- Ride defensively. To other road users, you may be hard to see.
- Concentrate on the path ahead. Avoid pot holes, gravel, wet road markings, oil, curbs, speed bumps, drain grates and other obstacles.
- Cross train tracks at a 90 degree angle or walk your bicycle or bicycle or tricycle across.
- Expect the unexpected such as opening car doors or cars backing out of concealed driveways.
- Be extra careful at intersections and when preparing to pass other vehicles.
- Familiarize yourself with all the bicycle or bicycle or tricycle's features. Practice gear shifts, braking, and the use of toe clips and straps, if installed.
- If you are wearing loose pants, use leg clips or elastic bands to prevent them from being caught in the chain.
- Wear proper riding attire and avoid open toe shoes.
- Don't carry packages or passengers that will interfere with your visibility or control of the bicycle or tricycle.
- Don't use items that may restrict your hearing.
- Do not lock up the brakes. When braking, always apply the rear brake first, then the front. The front brake is more powerful and if it is not correctly applied, you may lose control and fall.
- Maintain a comfortable stopping distance from all other riders, vehicles and objects.
- Safe braking distances and forces are subject to the prevailing weather conditions.



### Hand Operated Brakes

Hand operated brakes have a separate hand lever to operate front and rear brakes.

Front hand brake levers are located on the left side of the handlebar, and rear hand brake levers are located on the right side of the handlebar. Hand operated brakes may be used alone or on some models in conjunction with foot operated brakes. It is OK to operate one brake at a time, or all together, depending on your style, comfort, and riding conditions, however, be careful to pay close attention to front brakes locking up;

**If the front brake is applied too quickly or too hard, the front wheel can stop turning resulting in a front pitch over or cause the bicycle or tricycle to lose steering function leading to a crash.**

To best avoid this, apply the front and rear brakes simultaneously, while shifting your body weight back slightly to compensate for braking force. As terrain changes, the rider must practice and learn how each bicycle or tricycle will respond in a new terrain or weather change. The same bicycle or tricycle will react differently if it is wet, or if there is gravel on the road etc. Always test the brakes and be sure you feel comfortable with the reaction. If the riding conditions are too steep (off road for example) and you are unsure, dismount the bicycle or tricycle and walk past the questionable terrain before riding again. Remember that as you apply the brakes your weight will want to shift forward, and the wheels will want to stop. See Assembly and Maintenance for further information on brake adjustment.

## ***EZ Rider Safety Checklist:***

- ◆ Always think safety first!
- ◆ Operate the EZ Rider at a safe speed with the driver being mindful of road hazards, other cyclist and approaching automobiles.
- ◆ Comply with all bicycle safety standards for operations in your city and state.
- ◆ We recommend a licensed driver always be in control of the steering wheel and brake handle.
- ◆ We recommend all riders wear a helmet, especially children.
- ◆ Obey all traffic laws!
- ◆ Be visible; wear brightly colored clothing and a helmet!
- ◆ Be predictable and be alert! Expect the unexpected and ride defensively!
- ◆ Use good, safe equipment! Always check your tire pressure, brake operation and chains before going out on your EZ Rider.
- ◆ Use your EZ Rider only as recommended! Do not make quick turns, travel at unsafe speeds or collide with other objects.
- ◆ Adjust riding to traffic and weather conditions! Do not stunt drive! Do not ride on fewer wheels than are on the cycle.
- ◆ Be especially cautious with downhill braking. With very steep downgrades, it may be impossible to stop your EZ Rider in a necessary distance although the braking system meets the highest standards.
- ◆ To avoid possible injury, dismount and walk your EZ Rider (use the brakes) to the bottom of the grade, if you do not feel secure enough, especially on wet, muddy or gravel roads.
- ◆ Keep feet, legs, arms and hands away from moving wheels, cranks and chains.
- ◆ Use common sense.
- ◆ Avoid heavy motor traffic.
- ◆ Do not weave in and out of moving or stationary automobiles.
- ◆ Please visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/bikepubs.html> for additional safety tips on how to operate bicycles and tricycles in a safe manner