



Town of New Ipswich

Ordinance Regulating E-Bikes, Motorized Scooters and Wheeled Devices on Town Recreational Properties

Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect public safety, prevent damage to Town recreational facilities, and ensure that parks, fields, and public spaces remain safe and accessible for all residents. This ordinance is adopted under the Town's authority pursuant to RSA 41:11-a and RSA 31:39.

Definitions

E-Bike: Any electric-assisted bicycle as defined by RSA 265:144-a.

Motorized Scooter: Any two- or three-wheeled device powered by an electric or gas motor that is not otherwise defined as a motor vehicle under New Hampshire law.

Recreational Property: All Town-owned parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, courts, trails, parking lots, and associated facilities.

Wheeled Device: Any motorized or human-powered device equipped with one or more wheels, including bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, and similar equipment. This definition excludes mobility devices used by individuals with disabilities as protected under state and federal law.

Prohibited Conduct

1. **Operation on Fields and Facilities:** Operating any wheeled device—whether motorized or human-powered—on athletic fields, baseball diamonds (infield and outfield), soccer fields, turf areas, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground surfaces, or other posted restricted areas. Wheeled devices may only be used in parking areas and on designated areas, trails or multiuse paths. ADA-protected mobility devices are exempt.

Drafted on June 8, 2026. Revised and adopted July 20, 2026 at BOS mtg of 7/20/26 @ 5:25pm

2. Property Damage: Performing burnouts, drifting, skidding, or any activity that damages turf, courts, soil, paint, or pavement.

3. Endangering Other Users: Operating any device in a manner that endangers pedestrians, children, vehicles, or other park users, including but not limited to racing or excessive speed.

4. Improper Use in Parking Lots: Operating motorized devices in parking lots, except for safe ingress and egress.

5. Ignoring Posted Restrictions: Removing, bypassing, or disregarding posted signage restricting motorized or wheeled device use.

Permitted Use

Mobility devices used by individuals with disabilities are permitted as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and state law.

E-bikes, motorized scooters and wheeled devices may be used on designated multiuse paths or internal roadways unless otherwise posted.

Authority to Enforce

The New Ipswich Police Department and designated Town officials are authorized to enforce this ordinance under RSA 41:11-a and RSA 31:39.

They may issue warnings or citations, request identification, require individuals to leave Town property, or initiate restitution procedures for any damage caused.

Penalties and Liability

First Offense: Verbal or written warning; removal from the property if necessary.

Second Offense: Fine up to \$100.

Subsequent Offenses: Fine up to \$250 and possible suspension from recreational facility use.

Liability for Damages: Any individual who damages Town property is responsible for repair costs. Parents or legal guardians of minors are jointly and severally liable under RSA 507:8-e.

Posting Requirements

The Town shall post signage at facility entrances and other locations informing the public of prohibited activities and penalties.

Severability

If any section of this ordinance is found invalid, the remaining sections shall remain in full force and effect.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption by the New Ipswich Board of Selectmen.

Town of New Ipswich Selectboard:

Date of Adoption:

7/20/26

6:20 pm



Jason Somero



Joe Somero



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