
NC BLET Motor Vehicle Laws Study Guide

1. Key Motor Vehicle Offenses and Points

- **Passing a Stopped School Bus:** Results in **5 points** on the driver's license.
 - **Most Serious Speed-Related Offense: Fleeing to elude law enforcement.**
 - **Speeding Over 55 MPH: 3 points** on the license.
 - **Accumulated Points:**
 - **12 points in three years** may lead to license revocation.
 - **7 points** may result in mandatory attendance at a driver improvement clinic.
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2. Driver Licensing Basics

- **License Validity for Out-of-State Drivers:** Drivers with a valid out-of-state license can operate in NC for **up to 60 days**.
 - **Classes of Driver's Licenses:**
 - **Class A:** Combination vehicles over 26,001 pounds with trailers over 10,001 pounds.
 - **Class B:** Single vehicles over 26,001 pounds with trailers under 10,001 pounds.
 - **Class C:** Smaller vehicles, including standard passenger cars.
 - **Special Requirements:**
 - **M Endorsement:** Required for operating motorcycles.
 - **Limited Learner's Permit:** Supervised driving, 5 AM to 9 PM only, no mobile phone use.
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3. Registration and Financial Responsibility

- **Registration:**
 - Renewals are **staggered monthly** and valid **for one year plus a 15-day grace period**.
 - **Temporary Plates:** Valid for **30 days** and must be destroyed after obtaining permanent plates.
 - **Financial Responsibility:**
 - Vehicle owners must maintain a certificate of insurance from an NC-licensed insurer to register a vehicle.
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4. Public Vehicular Area (PVA)

- **Definition:** Any area open to public vehicular traffic, including parking lots and driveways.
 - **Traffic Control:**
 - **Stop and Yield Signs:** Generally not enforceable within PVAs unless specific conditions apply.
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5. Right of Way and Yield Requirements

- **Traffic Circle:** Drivers must yield to vehicles already within the circle.
 - **Pedestrian Yielding:**
 - Pedestrians crossing outside marked or unmarked crosswalks must yield to vehicles.
 - **Emergency Vehicles:** Drivers must yield if an emergency vehicle displays a blue light and siren.
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6. Cell Phone and Mobile Device Restrictions

- **Under 18:** No cell phone use while driving.
 - **Texting and Driving:** Prohibited on public streets, highways, and PVAs.
 - **Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV):** Mobile phone use is allowed only with hands-free devices.
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7. Driving While Impaired (DWI) Laws

- **Implied Consent:**
 - Refusal to submit to a chemical analysis results in an immediate **30-day suspension** and an **additional one-year suspension** upon conviction.
 - **Habitual Impaired Driving:** Defined as three or more impaired driving offenses within a ten-year period.
 - **Preliminary Roadside Testing:**
 - May be required if there are reasonable grounds to believe a driver has consumed alcohol and has either committed a violation, been involved in a collision, or shown articulable cause.
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8. Chemical Testing Procedures

- **Blood Tests:** A search warrant is typically required.
- **Breath Tests:** Conducted at detention facilities using an Intoxilyzer.
- **Pre-Arrest Testing:** Drivers may request a pre-arrest breath test, though this is not always guaranteed.

9. Traffic Stops and Checking Stations

- **Checking Stations:** Must comply with Chapter 20 requirements, including:
 - Written policies, supervisor approval, and a pre-approved stopping method.
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10. Vehicle and Equipment Regulations

- **Headlights:** Must be on from sunset to sunrise or when visibility is less than 400 feet.
- **Child Restraints:** Required for children under 8 years old and under 80 pounds.
- **Special Identification Cards:** NC residents may obtain these, but they do not authorize vehicle operation.