

S5 Eric Ho

A debate speech for 'Cyclists should not be allowed on Hong Kong's roads.'

Good morning, Madam Chairperson and fellow debaters, I would like to thank the opposing team for their interesting speech. It was an interesting opinion, but I'm afraid, not accurate, and I shall now present to you reasons why I am for 'Cyclists should not be allowed on Hong Kong's roads'. There are three reasons to support my argument.

Firstly, compare with other sports, the risk of cycling is greater, every year many people are injured because of cycling, so cyclists should not be allowed on the roads with other traffic vehicles. According to data from 2007 to 2017, cyclists involved in road accidents has an increase of more than 20%, from 1,666 cases in 2007 to 2,061 cases in 2017, it can be seen that the number of injured cases has an upward trend, reflecting the danger of cycling.

Secondly, the driver does not have enough skills to deal with emergencies on the roads which is often the cause of accidents. Because the speed of a bicycle is slower than that of a car, it's hard for a car driver to see someone riding a bicycle on the roads. On a busy road, a cyclist is easily hit by other cars, which causes an accident. Thus, road is not a suitable place for cycling. If you cycle, you should do it on the cycling track.

Thirdly, many people are under-equipped when cycling on the road, they only wear helmets, but no other protective equipment, such as knee pads and ridge pads. When injured, there is no equipment to protect other body parts other than the head. An injury on the road is more serious than an injury on the cycling track, because the road is hard. Besides, there are a lot of sand and gravels on the roads, so I don't recommend cycling on the roads.

In conclusion, bicycle accidents often happen, people who ride bicycles have limited skills, and they are not equipped with enough equipment. All these make cycling on the roads dangerous. These are the three reasons why I am for 'Cyclists should not be allowed on Hong Kong's roads'.

Thank you.