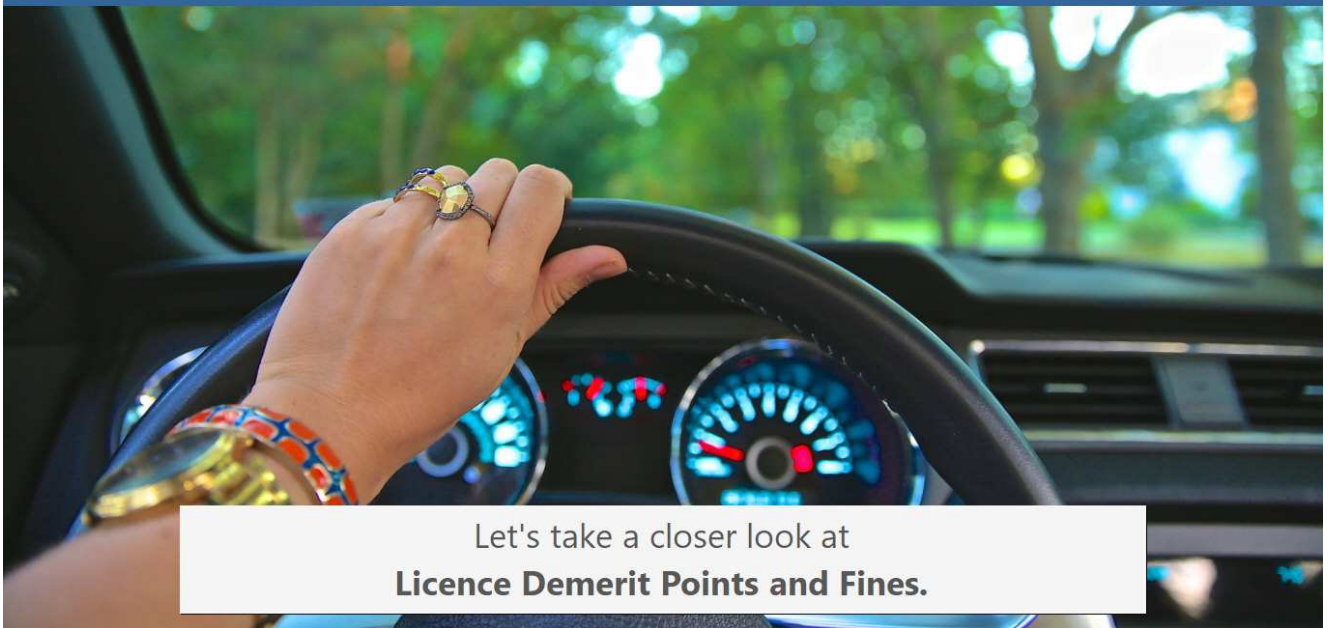


Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Welcome to this **Perfect Driver** course. Throughout this course, we are going to look at the law, skills, techniques, and ideas to help you become a better, and safer driver.

In this lesson, we'll look at **Licence Demerit Points and Fines**.

Licence Demerit Points and Fines



Let's take a closer look at
Licence Demerit Points and Fines.

Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Your Licence

Whether or not you keep your licence depends largely on the amount of demerit points you accumulate.

Each time you commit a traffic offence - whether it be speeding, going through a stop sign, not indicating - whatever - you accumulate demerit points. The amount of demerits each offence attracts depends on the seriousness of that offence.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Demerits

If you hold an open driver's license, you can accumulate 12 demerit points before you lose your license. If you hold a provisional license, you can only accumulate 4 demerit points. Some licenses may only allow you to accumulate 2 demerit points.

Each time you accumulate demerit points - say, 4 points for a speeding offence, you get those points removed after a 3 year period.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Fines

Regardless of demerit points, each traffic offence will also attract a fine. These can be quite large amounts - in the thousands for some offences. The size of the fine generally reflects the seriousness of the offence, and can vary from state to state.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Losing Your Licence

Before we look at demerits, let's have a look at some circumstances where you can lose your licence on the spot - regardless of how many demerit points you have accumulated.

You can lose your license on the spot for the following offences:

- Excessive speeding
- Driving while affected by drugs or alcohol
- Negligent driving or a dangerous driving offence
- Non-payment of fines
- A criminal offence involving the driving or use of a motor vehicle.

For such offences, you will face fines, and possible court action to determine if and for how long your license is suspended for. You may even risk jail terms.

Licence Demerit Points and Fines

List of Offences

The list of offences, fines and demerit points for traffic offences is long, and varies slightly from state to state in Australia.

Depending on the state you drive in, you may receive a warning letter when you reach a certain level of demerit points. In QLD, you'll get a warning letter when you have attracted 7 demerit points.

When you reach 12 or more demerit points, your license may be suspended for a period of three months or more. In some states, when you reach 12 points, you can elect whether to accept a license suspension for a set period of months, or accept a provisional license that allows you to keep driving, but you must follow more stringent driving rules.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

An Example

Let us assume you have an open license, and have not accumulated any demerit points.

- On 1st January, 2018, you are detected speeding, at between 15 and 30 km/h over the posted speed limit. Let's say this attracts **4 demerit points**.
- On 1st November, 2018, you are detected speeding, at less than 15 km/h over the posted speed limit. Let's say this attracts **3 demerit points**. You now have 7 demerit points accumulated.
- On 1st June, 2019, you are charged with going through a stop sign without coming to a complete stop. Let's say this attracts **4 demerit points**. But this is on a double demerits weekend, so it now attracts **8 demerit points**.

This means you have accumulated **15 demerit points** in **less than three years**. You can expect to lose your license for at least three months, unless you are willing to accept a provisional license for 12 months. This may be decided by the courts, or the state motoring department.

*There are more than 3,700
mobile speed camera sites
located throughout
Queensland alone.*

CONTINUE

Double Demerits

Most states have periods, generally over holiday weekends, where 'double demerit' points are in effect - the amount of demerit points a traffic offence attracts is **doubled**.

You could lose 8 to 12 points for a single serious traffic offence - quite possibly lose your license in one hit.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Traffic Tickets

If you are pulled over by police for a traffic offense, they will issue you with a **ticket** that represents either an on the spot fine (which is not precisely on the spot - rather, you have 30 days to pay), or a summons for a court appearance, if the police issuing the ticket determines it is warranted. This ticket will explain the offense, the date, and other related details.

If a speed camera, red light camera, or some other automated device determines you have broken the law, you'll receive the ticket in the mail.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Checking Your Demerits

When you are charged with a traffic offence, the *ticket* you receive details how many demerit points have been attracted. If not, you can check the **Department of Main Roads and Transport** (or equivalent) website in your state.

If you'd like to see how many demerit points you have accumulated, see the **Department of Main Roads and Transport** (or equivalent) website in your state. You'll be able to create an account and check your driving history.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Paying Your Fine

If you have been fined for a traffic offence, you'll have 30 days to pay the fine, either in person at a **Department of Main Roads and Transport** (or equivalent) office, or online.

For some more serious offences, you may have to appear in court for a judge to determine the appropriate penalty.

If a levied fine is not paid, it will at some point be passed on to a **State Debt Recovery Office**, where you will face extra costs, and your licence may be suspended for non-payment of fines.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Hooning Offences

Hooning is the common word used for anti-social behaviour conducted in a motor vehicle, such as excessive speeding, street racing, burnouts and playing loud music. It includes a range of traffic offences; dangerous driving, careless driving, driving without reasonable consideration for other people, driving in a way that makes unnecessary noise or smoke, and racing or conducting speed trials on a public road.

In addition, for specific offences classed as hooning—anti-social behaviour in a motor vehicle—police now have the power to **impound, immobilise and confiscate the vehicle you were driving** when you committed the offence - regardless of who owns that vehicle.



From 2010-2015, more than 33,000 vehicles – or 20 a day – were impounded by South Australian police alone for 'hooning' offences.

CONTINUE

Cancellation of License or Registration

If any traffic or parking fines are not paid after a certain period of time, most states have a system whereby your license, and/or car registration may be suspended until payment is made, or an arrangement reached.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Challenging an Offence

If you feel like you have been unfairly charged with a traffic offence, you will be able to challenge that offence in court. It is then up to a judge to determine whether the offence was committed, and the appropriate penalty.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

How You Get Caught

Police on general patrol can pull you over and issue a fine or suspension based on what they have observed.

They also have the right to breath test you for drugs and alcohol traces at any time.

Police also set up random breath testing sites anywhere at any time, and randomly select drivers to be tested.

We discuss this more in the **Your Rights** lesson.



Licence Demerit Points and Fines

SUMMARY

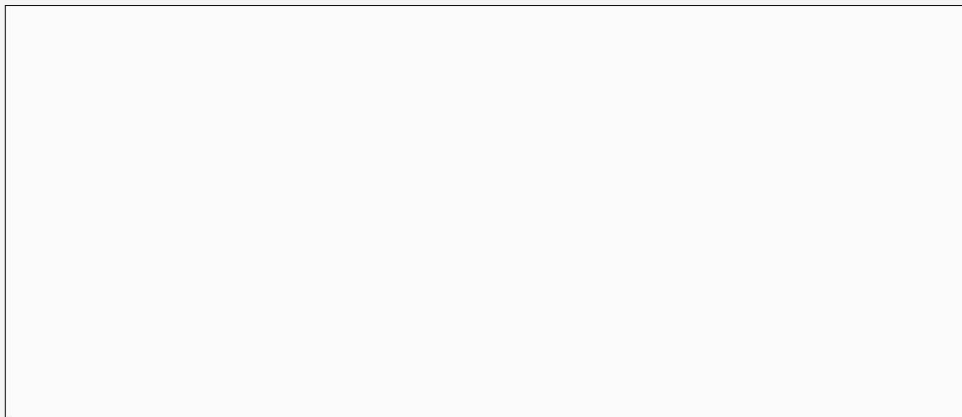
In this lesson, **Licence Demerit Points and Fines**, we discussed:

- The demerits points system.
- Ways in which your license can be suspended.
- How you can get caught.
- What your responsibilities are.
- Paying fines.
- Challenging fines.

FINISH LESSON

Licence Demerit Points and Fines

Signature. It is very important that you use the mouse, or touch, to *sign* the form below. This helps us record your progress accurately.



SUBMIT SIGNATURE

CLEAR SIGNATURE

Licence Demerit Points and Fines

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