Ohio OVI: The Ultimate Study Guide

Alcohol, Drugs & Driving Conditions (Ohio BMV Rules Only)

30 / 40

Ohio's impaired-driving law is built on exact numbers. To pass the 40-question knowledge test, you must answer 30 questions correctly (75%).

Memory Aid Badge

Master the decimals, the days, and the dollars, and you will pass.

OVI is More Than Just Alcohol



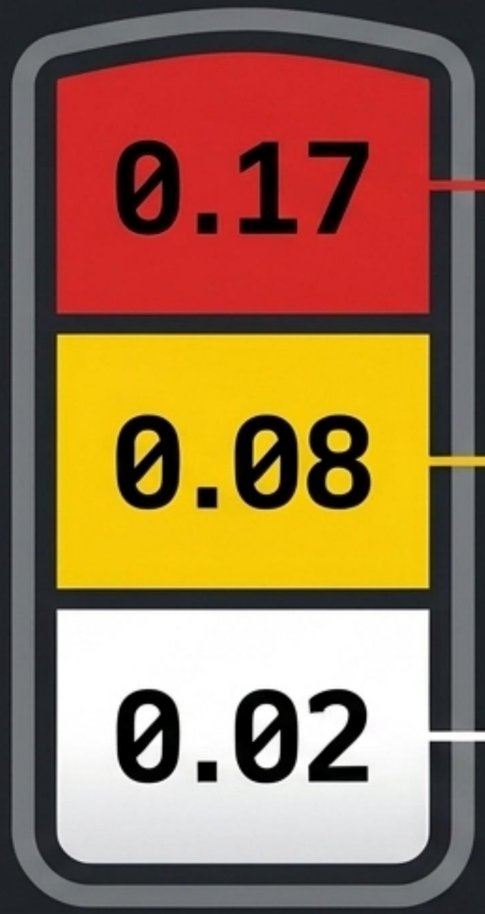


Coffee, fresh air, cold showers, and exercise do not work to lower Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC).

OVI covers beer/wine/liquor; illegal drugs; prescription/over-the-counter meds; and inhalants (glue/paint). Combining alcohol and drugs multiplies the risk.

Only time sobers you up — coffee, cold air, and exercise do not.

The Three BAC Tiers



High-Test Tier

0.17% or more (Breath equivalent: 0.17 grams). Double the limit, double down on punishment.

Adult Per-Se Limit

Applies from 0.08% to under 0.17%. (Breath equivalent: 0.08 grams per 210 liters). The number itself establishes the violation.

OVUAC (Under 21)

Applies to whole-blood at least 0.02% but less than 0.08%. This is a complete offense for underage drivers, not a warning zone.

0.02 is under-21, 0.08 is over the line, 0.17 is high test.

The Consent You Gave by Driving



The Rule:
Operating or being in physical control of a vehicle = you are deemed to have consented to chemical tests (blood, serum/plasma, breath, oral fluid, urine) if arrested for OVI, OVUAC, or physical control.

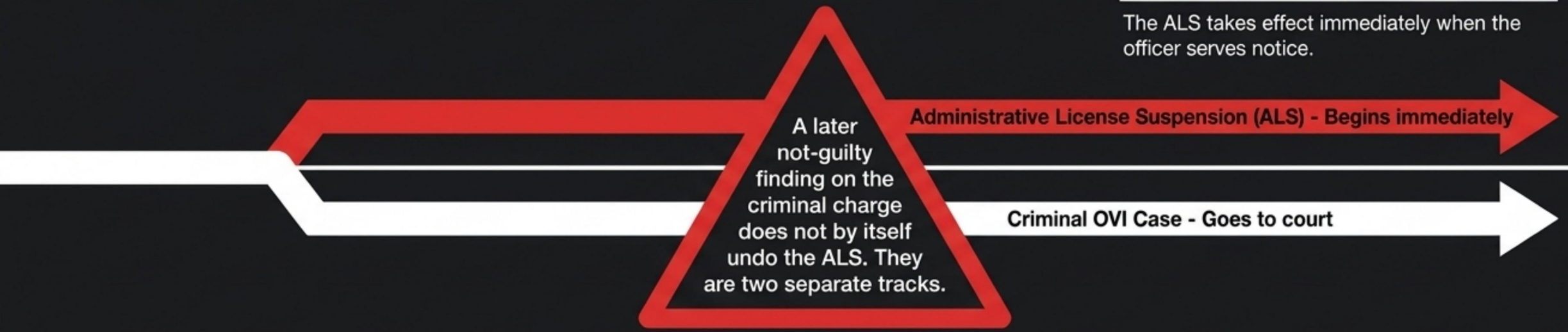
The Refusal Trap:
Refusing never "beats" the charge. Refusing after an OVI arrest (and being advised of consequences) is a separate criminal offense IF you have a prior OVI conviction within **20 years**.

Driving is consenting.
Refusal is a separate crime with a 20-year look-back.

Losing Your License Before Conviction

ALS Penalty (First Offense)	
Failed Test:	3 months
Refused Test:	1 year

The ALS takes effect immediately when the officer serves notice.



Fail the test — 3 months.
Refuse the test — 1 year.

A First OVI: Low Test vs. High Test

Low Test (0.08 to under 0.17)	High Test (0.17+ or Refusal Provision)
• **Jail:** 3 consecutive days (72 hours). Court may suspend for 3 consecutive days in a certified drivers' intervention program. (Total exposure up to 6 months). • **Fine:** $565–$1,075 (Current minimum is $565). • **Suspension:** 1–3 years.	• **Mandatory Sentence:** At least 3 consecutive days in jail PLUS a 3-day drivers' intervention program. • **Alternative:** At least 6 consecutive days in jail (only if program is refused, not conducive, or provided by the jail).

High test on a first OVI — 3 days in jail plus 3 days in the program, or 6 days in jail.

A Second OVI Within 10 Years

The look-back window is exactly 10 years.

1st OVI

2nd OVI

Low Test:
10 consecutive days jail.

High Test:
20 consecutive days jail
(exactly double the low test).

Fine & Suspension: **$715 to $1,625 fine.**
1 to 7 years license suspension.



Vehicle Penalty:
90 days of vehicle immobilization and plate impoundment (if the vehicle is registered to the offender).

Memory Aid Badge

Second OVI in 10 years — 10 days low, 20 days high; $715 to $1,625; 1 to 7 years.

The Aftermath: Points, Fees, and Young Drivers

BMV Points

OVI = **6** points

OVUAC = **4** points

Reckless Operation = **4** points

Under-18

An alcohol-related conviction under age 18 results in a license suspension of at least **six** months.

BMV Fees

The ALS and OVI/Physical Control reinstatement fee is **$315** (published current fee).

OVI — 6 points. OVUAC and reckless operation — 4 points.

Self-Check: Are You Ready?

1 State Ohio’s three BAC tiers and the specific offense or penalty level each belongs to.

2 A first OVI comes back as a high test. State the mandatory sentence in full, including the conditions for the six-consecutive-days alternative.

3 One driver fails the chemical test on a first offense; another refuses it. State each driver’s ALS, and explain what a later not-guilty finding does to those suspensions.

Answer Key & Master Data Log

Answer Key

A1: 0.02 = OVUAC (under-21). 0.08 = Adult per-se limit. 0.17 = High-test tier (enhanced penalties).

A2: At least 3 consecutive days jail PLUS a 3-day intervention program, OR at least 6 consecutive days jail where the program is refused, not conducive, or provided by the jail.

A3: Failed test = 3 months. Refusal = 1 year. ALS is immediate; a later not-guilty finding does not by itself undo it.

Master Data Log

30 of 40	BMV Pass Rate
$565–$1,075	1st OVI Fine (Low)
$715–$1,625	2nd OVI Fine
$315	Reinstatement Fee
3 Days / 6 Days	1st High OVI Jail Options
10 Days / 20 Days	2nd OVI Jail Options
6 Points	OVI Penalty
4 Points	OVUAC / Reckless Op Penalty

Keep practicing — free, no sign-up

Ohio Alcohol, Drugs & Driving Conditions study guide, practice tests & flashcards:

drivinglicensetest.org/oh