

Golf Carts vs. Low Speed Vehicles*

GOLF CART	LOW-SPEED VEHICLE
Maximum speed allowed	
20 mph	25 mph
Driver license required?	
No	Yes
Title and registration required?	
No	Yes
Insurance mandatory?	
No	Yes
Equipment requirements	
Efficient brakes Reliable steering device Safe tires Rearview mirror Red reflectors in both the front and rear	Headlights Brake lights Turn signals Tail lamps Reflex reflectors Parking brakes Rearview mirrors
When operating before sunrise or after sunset: Headlights Brake lights Turn signals Windshield	Windshields Safety belts Vehicle identification numbers (VIN)
Where can it be operated?	
On designated roadways with posted speed limits of 30 mph or less	On designated roadways with posted speed limits of 35 mph or less

*Check with your local government for any additional requirements.

If you convert a golf cart to a low-speed vehicle, you must obey state laws to drive low speed vehicles legally and safely on designated roads.



Where Can I Drive a Golf Cart?

Contact your City Hall or county government offices to learn local laws on driving your golf cart.

A golf cart is defined as a “motor vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour..”

Section 320.01(22), Florida Statutes

A low-speed vehicle is defined as any “four-wheeled vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour, including, but not limited to, neighborhood electric vehicles.”

Section 320.01(41), Florida Statutes

Safe Mobility for Life Resource Center

Florida’s Safe Mobility for Life Coalition develops many other resources to help aging road users stay safe and mobile. Please contact the resource center to request outreach materials:

Visit:

safemobilityfl.com/ResourceCenter.htm

Email:

contact@safemobilityfl.com

Call:

850-644-8426



GOLF CARTS

Tips on How to Use Transportation Options in Florida



SafeMobilityFL.com



SafeMobilityFL.com

Golf carts can provide you with transportation to community activities and services including recreation, healthcare, education, and shopping.

It is important to prepare your golf cart properly to be safe. When driving on **roads designated by a local government for golf cart use**, your golf cart must have:

- ▶ Properly operating brakes
- ▶ Warning devices on both the front and back made of red reflective material
- ▶ Rearview mirror
- ▶ Properly operating steering wheel
- ▶ Properly inflated tires with good tread

Laws for Safely Operating Golf Carts in Florida

Florida law requires a local government to officially designate a road for use by golf carts. To determine whether golf carts can safely travel on or cross a road, a local government considers:

- ▶ **Speed**
- ▶ **Traffic** at various times of day
- ▶ **Types of traffic**, such as cars, bikes, and people

If a local government determines that golf carts can safely operate in a community, it passes an ordinance and posts signs on the road to show that golf carts are allowed.

Can I cross a state or county road in my golf cart?

You may **not** cross unless the crossing has been approved by the Florida Department of Transportation and local government and the crossing is properly marked with signs.

Can I drive my golf cart on sidewalks?

Golf carts are not allowed to operate on sidewalks unless approved by the local government, golf cart speeds do not exceed 15 miles per hour, and signs are posted.

Can I drive my golf cart on bike paths or shared-use trails?

Golf carts are **never** allowed on bike paths, but a local government may pass an ordinance allowing golf carts on shared-use trails.

Is there an age requirement to drive a golf cart?

Yes, you must be at least 14 years old to drive a golf cart on designated roads. However, check with your local government as it may have a higher age requirement.

What type of insurance do I need for my golf cart?

Check with your insurance company to determine what type of insurance you need to protect yourself and others.

Golf carts are a popular way to travel, particularly in retirement communities. However, they are not recognized as on-road vehicles and can cause serious injuries if not driven correctly.



Do I need a driver license to drive a golf cart?

No, but the same vision requirements needed for safe driving are needed to safely drive a golf cart.

What time of day is it safe for me to drive my golf cart?

You may only drive your golf cart during daylight hours unless a community determines a golf cart may be driven outside of those hours. Then your golf cart must be equipped with headlights, turn signals, brake lights, and a windshield.

What should I remember while operating my golf cart?

- ▶ Never drive over 20 miles per hour
- ▶ Do **not** drive impaired
- ▶ Always watch out for people walking and riding bikes

- ▶ Limit passengers to the number of seats available
- ▶ Never allow anyone to stand on the back platform
- ▶ Do not allow small children to ride without an adult
- ▶ Always keep feet, legs, hands, and arms inside the golf cart unless using hand turn signals
- ▶ Always follow the same rules as a car while on the road
- ▶ Never park in a fire lane, in front of building entrances, or in accessible parking spaces or access aisles
- ▶ Consider adding safety belts and warning devices to your golf cart
- ▶ Always engage the parking brake and remove the keys when you step away from your golf cart