

Golf Carts vs. Low Speed Vehicles*

GOLF CART	LSV
Maximum speed allowed	
20 mph	25 mph
Driver license/permit required?	
Yes, when under 18	Yes
Title and registration required?	
No	Yes
Insurance mandatory?	
No	Yes
Equipment requirements	
Efficient brakes	Headlights
Reliable steering device	Brake lights
Safe tires	Turn signals
Rearview mirror	Tail lamps
Red reflectors in both the front and rear	Reflex reflectors
Outside daylight hours:	Parking brakes
	Rearview mirrors
Headlights	Windshields
Brake lights	Safety belts
Turn signals	Vehicle identification numbers (VIN)
Windshield	
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 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

Safe Mobility for Life develops educational materials and resources that meet the safety and transportation needs of Florida’s aging population.

All resources are free - available for download or to request printed copies by mail.

- Visit: fdot.info/resourcecenter
- Email: contact@safemobilityfl.com
- Call: 833-930-2952



Golf Carts

Tips on Using Transportation Options in Florida



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Printed September 2026



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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 mirrors.
- > A properly operating steering wheel.
- > Properly inflated tires with good tread.

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.



Laws for Safely Operating Golf Carts in Florida

Florida law requires local governments to officially designate a road for golf cart use. To determine whether golf carts can safely travel on or cross a road, officials consider:

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

If it is determined that golf carts can safely operate in a community, an ordinance is passed and signs are posted on the roadway to indicate golf carts are allowed.

Am I allowed to cross a state or county road in my golf cart?

You are not allowed to cross a state or county road unless the crossing is properly marked with signs that have been approved by the Florida Department of Transportation or local government.

Can I drive my golf cart on sidewalks?

You are not allowed to drive on sidewalks unless a local government passes an ordinance, signs are posted, and golf cart speeds do not exceed 15 miles per hour.

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

You are not allowed to drive on bike paths or shared-use trails unless a local government passes an ordinance.

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

Insurance is not required, however it is important in the event you or someone is injured by your golf cart. Check with your insurance provider to determine what type of coverage you need to protect yourself and others.

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

You may only drive your golf cart during daylight hours. However, if a community determines a golf cart may be driven between sunset and sunrise, your golf cart must be equipped with headlights, turn signals, brake lights, and a windshield.

How can I stay safe while driving my golf cart?

- > Follow the same rules of the road that apply to driving a car.
- > Make sure your vision meets the requirements to maintain a Florida driver license.
- > Keep feet, legs, hands, and arms inside the golf cart unless using hand turn signals.
- > Always watch for people walking and biking.

- > Keep speed at or below the legal 20-mph limit.
- > Do not drive while impaired.
- > Limit passengers to the number of available seats.
- > Never allow anyone to stand on the back platform.
- > Secure small children in child passenger safety (CPS) seats approved for use on golf carts.
 - > Prior to use, confirm with both the CPS seat **and** golf cart manufacturers that the seat can be safely used in your golf cart.
- > Never park in fire lanes, 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 leaving your golf cart.

LAW CHANGE - A golf cart **may not** be operated on public roads or streets by anyone under 18 years of age unless they possess a valid learner’s driver license or valid driver license. Anyone 18 years of age or older must possess a valid form of government-issued photo ID. *Section 316.212(7)(b), Florida Statutes*

