

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 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
Outside daylight hours: 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 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:

833-930-2952



GOLF CARTS

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 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, 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 unless it has been approved by the Florida Department of Transportation or local government and the crossing is properly marked with signs.

Can I drive my golf cart on sidewalks?

You are not allowed to drive on sidewalks unless local government pass 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 local government pass 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.



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.

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.

What should I remember while operating my golf cart?

- > The same vision requirements to maintain a Florida driver license are needed to safely operate a golf cart.
- > Always watch out for people walking and riding bikes.
- > Never drive over 20 miles per hour.
- > Do not drive impaired.

- > Limit passengers to the number of seats available.
- > Always follow the same rules as a car while on the road.
- > Never allow anyone to stand on the back platform.
- > Small children should be in approved child restraint seats.
- > Always keep feet, legs, hands, and arms inside the golf cart unless using hand turn signals.
- > 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.

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

