

## Golf Carts vs. Low Speed Vehicles\*

GOLF CART	LSV
<b>Maximum speed allowed</b>	
20 mph	25 mph
<b>Driver license/permit required?</b>	
Yes, when under 18	Yes
<b>Title and registration required?</b>	
No	Yes
<b>Insurance mandatory?</b>	
No	Yes
<b>Equipment requirements</b>	
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
Headlights	Parking brakes
Brake lights	Rearview mirrors
Turn signals	Windshields
Windshield	Safety belts
<b>Outside daylight hours:</b>	
Headlights	Vehicle identification numbers (VIN)
Brake lights	
Turn signals	
Windshield	
<b>Where can it be operated?</b>	
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](http://safemobilityfl.com/ResourceCenter.htm)

**Email:**  
[contact@safemobilityfl.com](mailto:contact@safemobilityfl.com)

**Call:**  
833-930-2952



# GOLF CARTS

How to Use  
Transportation Options  
in Florida



[SafeMobilityFL.com](http://SafeMobilityFL.com)



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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.
- > Rearview mirror.
- > Warning devices on both the front and back made of red reflective material.
- > 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.

**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

