GOLF CART SAFETY

ST JOHNS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE





A golf cart is a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and is NOT capable of speeds greater than 20 miles per hour. Co. Ord. 2018-42 (3.I.)

Golf carts can only be operated on public roadways that have been specifically designated to allow for golf cart use. Co. Ord. 2018-42 (5.i.)

- No roadway may be designated for golf cart use if the posted speed limit is greater than 25 miles per hour
- Golf carts may cross roads that have speed limits greater than 25 miles per hour from and to a designated road whose speed limit is 25 miles per hour or less.

A low speed vehicle (LSV) means any four-wheel vehicle that can travel no faster than 25 miles per hour. LSV's can be golf carts that are modified to travel greater than 20 miles per hour but not more than 25 miles per hour.

Low speed vehicles may travel up to 25 miles per hour, and can be driven on ANY county road that has a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less.

These low speed vehicles, however, are required to meet federal safety standards. Co. Ord. 2018-42 (3.J.)

NOTE: Most low speed vehicles are golf carts in appearance however, they are a little faster and have additional requirements listed in 2018-42 (6.N.) & (6.O.)

What equipment is required for a low speed vehicle? Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.O.)

- headlights
- parking brakes
- rearview mirror
- windshield
- seat belts
- VIN

Low speed vehicles are required to have a license plate and be insured the same as a car and truck as well. Because a low speed vehicle is required to have a license plate and be insured - the driver MUST have a valid drivers license.

Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.P.)



A Designated County Road means a county road or a portion thereof, that, consistent with this Ordinance, has received approval from the County for the use of golf carts.

NOTE: Just because a road is maintained or owned by the county doesn't mean that it is a road designated for golf cart use. A road that has been approved for golf cart use will have appropriate signage and or pavement markings to indicate that such vehicle use is allowed or prohibited as applicable.

A multi-use path is defined as a sidewalk that has been approved by the county for use of golf carts and low speed vehicles or both, and can be shared by bicyclists and pedestrians. NOTE: Golf Carts cannot operate on "standard sidewalks" unless it is designated as a multi use path. Co. Ord. 2018-42 (3.L.)

The speed limit for golf carts on a multi-use path is 15 miles per hour. Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.H.)



"No Golf Cart, Low Speed Vehicle, or Mini Truck shall be operated in a reckless or careless manner upon any county road."

(Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.A.))

If the golf cart is to be driven on designated roads during darkness, then it must be equipped with:

- headlights
- brake lights
- turn signals
- windshield

If the cart is being used on a multi-use path, then it must also be equipped with a horn. Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.F.)

Golf carts must be equipped with efficient brakes and steering, safe tires, a rear view mirror, and reflectors in front and in the rear. Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.N.)

Florida State Statute 316.193 prohibits operating a Golf Cart or LSV while impaired. You can be arrested and charged with DUI if found to be in violation of this statute.

THE LAW

- Golf carts can only be operated by persons **14 years of age or older,** but do not require a driver to be licensed for them to be driven. However - they do require the driver to have photographic identification.

  Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.G.) & (6.K.)

- Golf carts have time restrictions based on age:
  - **Juveniles 16 years of age and younger** who do not hold a valid driver license **may not operate a golf cart from 11 p.m. - 6 a.m.**
  - **Juveniles 17 years of age** who don't hold a valid driver license **may not operate a golf cart from 1 a.m. - 5 a.m.**

  Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.L.) & (6.M.)

- Golf carts can **only be operated on designated roads**, clearly marked by signs. They are **not allowed on sidewalks.**

  Co. Ord. 2018-42 (3.L.)

- Golf carts can not go faster than **20 miles per hour.**

  Co. Ord. 2018-42 (3.I.)

- **No golf cart** shall be operated in a **reckless or careless manner** upon any county road.

  Co. Ord. 2018-42 (6.A.)

THE PENALTY

Violations of the County Ordinance may be prosecuted via county citation. The fines are as follows:

1st Violation:

Uncontested	Contested
$75.00	**$93.00**

2nd Violation and every other thereafter:

Uncontested	Contested
$150.00	**$168.00**

Violations of this County Ordinance may also be prosecuted as a 2nd degree misdemeanor with a fine of up to $500 and/or 60 days in jail.

For this and more information on golf carts, low speed vehicles and the county ordinances, visit our website:

www.sjso.org/programs/safety-information/



You can decrease the risk of passenger ejection or rolling your golf cart over by:

- Avoiding sharp turns at high speed
- Sitting in the cart correctly
- Driving safely



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