

O-12-2025

ARTICLE V. GOLF CARTS

Sec. 24-150. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Golf cart means a 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.

Low speed vehicle means a four-wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but less than 25 miles per hour.

Operator means a person having a valid North Carolina non-provisional driver's license (or a recognized similar valid license from another state) who is driving the golf cart and has full control of its operation and passengers.

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016)

State law reference(s)—Definitions, G.S. 20-4.01.

Sec. 24-151. Low speed vehicle.

Low speed vehicles, as defined under G.S. 20-4.01 and as equipped and regulated under G.S. 20-121.1 shall be operated under the applicable state statutes and shall not be subject to this article.

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016)

State law reference(s)—Definitions, G.S. 20-4.01; operation of low-speed vehicle on certain roadways, G.S. 20-121.1.

Sec. 24-152. Golf cart equipment.

Golf carts approved for operation under this article must be the size and shape that conforms to industry standards for manufactured golf carts. Additionally, the golf cart must be equipped with the following:

- (1) Identification or serial number;
- (2) An unobstructed rear-view mirror and left side mirror, or a wide angle cross bar rear-view mirror;
- (3) Operating headlight(s) on the front of the golf cart and operating tail light(s) on the back of the golf cart. All lights must be visible from a distance of 500 feet; and

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- (4) Golf carts may have "lift kits" but no golf cart may be more than 22 inches high measured from the ground to the floorboard of the cart.
 - (5) Golf carts must be equipped with rubber or equivalent tires; and
 - (6) Operational steering gear, brakes, emergency or parking brake, and adequately affixed driver's seat.

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016; Ord. No. O-18-2016, 7-25-2016)

State law reference(s)—Regulation of golf carts on streets, roads, and highways, G.S. 160A-300.6.

Sec. 24-153. Insurance requirements.

Every golf cart operated under this article shall have in full force and effect, valid liability insurance sufficient to cover the risk involved in using a golf cart on the public streets and roadways. Valid liability coverage is that which is defined in G.S. 20-279.21(b) as the minimum required.

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016)

State law reference(s)—Regulation of golf carts on streets, roads, and highways, G.S. 160A-300.6.

Sec. 24-154. Liability.

Golf carts are not designed or manufactured to be used on public streets, and the town in no way advocates or endorses their operation on public streets and roadways. The town, by regulating such operation, is trying to address safety issues, and adoption of this section is not to be relied upon as a determination that operating on public streets and roadways is safe or advisable if done in accordance with this section.

All persons who operate or ride upon golf carts on public streets do so at their own risk and peril, and must be observant of and attentive to the safety of themselves and others, including their passengers, other motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

The town has no liability under any theory of liability and the town assumes no liability for permitting golf carts to be operated on public streets and roadways.

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016)

State law reference(s)—Regulation of golf carts on streets, roads, and highways, G.S. 160A-300.6.

Sec. 24-155. Registration.

Operators of golf carts operated under this article must have a valid registration decal issued by the Town of Wendell prior to operating on the roads. This registration decal must be obtained by the owner through submittal of a golf cart registration *application*, a valid North Carolina driver's license, proof of ownership and liability insurance, a completed Attestation of Facts in and a waiver of liability to the Wendell Police Department.

The cost for the registration shall be \$300.00 and will be payable to the town at the time of registration. The registration shall be valid for no more than three years and is to be renewed in the final quarter of the third calendar year, at which time the owner shall submit the above documents. All renewals shall occur in the final quarter of the third calendar year. New golf cart, first-time registration fees shall be prorated by the quarter calendar year. Included in the registration or renewal application shall be a Liability Waiver and an Attestation of Facts form which must be signed. The Attestation declares that the registered golf cart complies and will continue to comply with all ordinance requirements for the duration of its registration.

- (1) The registration decal must be displayed on the lower left corner of the windshield (driver's side) or, in the absence of the windshield, the left front fender so as to be easily visible by law enforcement personnel.
- (2) Lost or stolen registration decals are the responsibility of the owner and must be replaced before the golf cart is operated on a public road. The cost of a replacement shall be \$20.00.

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016; Ord. No. O-22-2017, 7-24-2017)

State law reference(s)—Traffic control, G.S. 160A-300.

Sec. 24-156. Operation.

The following restrictions limiting the operation of golf carts in the town shall apply:

- (1) Golf cart transportation is limited to those streets and highways within the town limits which have a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less except as noted:
 - a. Golf carts may not be operated on the following streets or roadways regardless of the speed limit:
 1. Any portion of Wendell Blvd.;
 2. Any portion of US 231 (S. Selma Rd.);
 3. Any portion of Wendell Falls Parkway.
 - b. Golf carts may cross a road with a posted speed limit greater than 35 mph or one of the streets or roadways listed above. Golf carts must cross in a manner that is the most direct route in order to decrease crossing distance, i.e., no riding along a road or crossing at an angle.
- (2) Golf carts must be operated at the right edge of the roadway unless lane usage is necessary to make turns or travel through intersections.
- (3) Golf carts must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- (4) Golf carts must be parked in accordance with the laws and ordinances which apply to any parked vehicle in the town.
- (5) Golf carts are prohibited from traveling upon or parking on any sidewalk or multi-purpose path within the town.

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- (6) Any person who operates a golf cart on public streets and roads must adhere to all applicable state and local laws, regulations and ordinances, including but not limited to those banning the possession and use of alcoholic beverages, and all other illegal drugs. In addition, no golf cart containing any open container of alcohol shall be operated on public roads.
 - (7) The operator of the golf cart shall comply with all traffic rules and regulations adopted by the State of North Carolina and the town which governs the operation of motor vehicles.
 - (8) In no instance shall a golf cart be operated at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour. No golf cart may be operated at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions.
 - (9) Golf carts are required to follow the rules and regulations of any other vehicle during special events and are not permitted to enter special event areas unless the golf cart is a part of the event and approved by the chief of police.
 - (10) No person shall operate a golf cart on a public street or highway in the town unless said person has a valid non-provisional North Carolina driver's license or a valid similar recognized, out-of-state license in accordance with G.S. 20-7. Golf cart operators must carry their driver's license on their person at all times while operating a golf cart on public roads.
 - (11) Only the number of people the golf cart is designed to seat may ride on a golf cart. Additionally, passengers shall not be carried on the part of a golf cart designed to carry golf bags.
 - (12) Operators of golf carts are required to ensure that all occupants under the age of 18 are secured within the golf cart through the use of an appropriate passenger restraint system.
 - (13) Each golf cart owner must have proof of ownership, liability insurance and a completed waiver of liability releasing the town from liability that may arise as a result of operation of a golf cart inside the town. These documents must be in the golf cart at all times while in operation on public roads.
 - (14) If mechanical front and rear turn signal indicators are not installed on the golf cart, then hand signals are required for turns and stops.
 - (15) The operator of the golf cart is mandated to use the headlight(s) and tail light(s), as defined in section 24-152 of this article whenever the vehicle is operated during the period from dusk until dawn so as to maximize its visibility.
 - (16) Golf carts shall not be operated during inclement weather or when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions.

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016; Ord. No. O-18-2016, 7-25-2016)

State law reference(s)—Regulation of golf carts on streets, roads, and highways, G.S. 160A-300.6.

Sec. 24-157. Violations.

Any operator of a golf cart in violation of either this section or the motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina *may be subject to civil penalties for violations of this section as described in Sec. 158 or subject to criminal penalty in accordance with N.C.G.S 14-4 and 160A-175.*

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016)

Sec. 24-158. Penalties.

Violations of this may be enforced by a civil fine or criminal charge. The fine for violations of this section is \$300.00 for each offense. For any criminal charges filed in accordance with this section, penalties shall be at the discretion of the courts of North Carolina in accordance with N.C.G.S. 14-4a. In cases where a civil citation is issued, the driver or registered owner must provide their name, date of birth, and address to the issuing officer.

Additionally, violation of either this section or the motor vehicle laws of the state through a particular registered golf cart may be grounds for the inability to renew the registration which shall be at the discretion of the chief of police.

(Ord. No. O-17-2016, § 1, 7-11-2016)