

GOLF CART & OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE OPERATION

CONDITIONS

A person may operate a golf cart or off-highway vehicle in:

- A county or municipality approved master plan community containing a set of HOA/POA rules or restrictive covenant's; or
- A public or private beach approved for vehicle or travel; or
- A roadway for which the posted speed limit is not more than 35 mph, and the vehicle is operated during daytime hours in an area not more than 2 miles from the location where the vehicle is usually parked and used for transportation to and from a golf course.

REQUIREMENTS

- Golf carts and off-highway vehicles must display the appropriate license plate to legally operate on the roadway. The fee for the plate is \$10, and the plate does not expire.
- Golf carts and off highway vehicles traveling at the speed of not more than 25 mph are also required to display slow moving vehicle emblem.
- All traffic laws pertaining to the movement and operation of regular motor vehicles apply, and must be obeyed while operating a golf cart or off-highway vehicle in a public roadway.
- The Texas Attorney General's office has stated (No. KP-0364) that the requirement to possess a valid driver's license to operate a vehicle on a public roadway applies to the operation of golf carts and off-highway vehicles while on a public road. Yes, an operator of a golf cart or off-highway vehicle must possess a valid driver's license (or learners permit with adult present) to drive on a public roadway.
 - They must have plates, must have a max speed of 35mph, are restricted to public streets that have a posted speed limit of 35mph, and must have a maximum speed limit of 25 mph. The same rules apply to golf carts as do every other vehicle on the road.

Nighttime driving of golf carts, NEV's, ROV's, and UTV's is **prohibited**. These vehicles can only be driven during the **daytime**.

TRANSPORTATION CODE

TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

SUBTITLE C. RULES OF THE ROAD

CHAPTER 551. OPERATION OF BICYCLES AND MOPEDS, GOLF CARTS, AND OTHER LOW-POWERED VEHICLES

SUBCHAPTER F. GOLF CARTS

Sec. 551.401. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "golf cart" means a motor vehicle designed by the manufacturer primarily for use on a golf course.

Sec. 551.402. REGISTRATION NOT AUTHORIZED; LICENSE PLATES. (a) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles may not register a golf cart for operation on a highway regardless of whether any alteration has been made to the golf cart.

(b) A person may operate a golf cart on a highway in a manner authorized by this subchapter only if the vehicle displays a license plate issued under this section.

(c) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles:

(1) shall by rule establish a procedure to issue license plates for golf carts; and

(2) may charge a fee not to exceed \$10 for the cost of the license plate, to be deposited to the credit of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund.

(d) A golf cart license plate does not expire. A person who becomes the owner of a golf cart for which the previous owner obtained a license plate may not use the previous owner's license plate.

Sec. 551.403. OPERATION AUTHORIZED IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) An operator may operate a golf cart:

(1) in a master planned community:

(A) that is a residential subdivision as defined by Section [209.002\(9\)](#), Property Code, or has in place a uniform set of restrictive covenants; and

(B) for which a county or municipality has approved one or more plats;

(2) on a public or private beach that is open to vehicular traffic; or

(3) on a highway for which the posted speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour, if the golf cart is operated:

(A) **during the daytime**; and

(B) not more than five miles from the location where the golf cart is usually parked and for transportation to or from a golf course.

(b) Notwithstanding Section [551.402\(b\)](#), a person may operate a golf cart in a master planned community described by Subsection (a) without a golf cart license plate on a highway for which the posted speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour, including through an intersection of a highway for which the posted speed limit is more than 35 miles per hour.

Sec. 551.4031. PROHIBITION OF OPERATION ON HIGHWAY BY MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, OR DEPARTMENT. (a) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of a golf cart on a highway under Section [551.403](#) if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

(b) The Texas Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of a golf cart on a highway under Section [551.403](#) if the department determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

Sec. 551.404. OPERATION ON HIGHWAY AUTHORIZED BY MUNICIPALITY OR CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) In addition to the operation authorized by Section [551.403](#), the governing body of a municipality may allow an operator to operate a golf cart on all or part of a highway that:

- (1) is in the corporate boundaries of the municipality; and
- (2) has a posted speed limit of not more than 35 miles per hour.

(b) In addition to the operation authorized by Section [551.403](#), the commissioners court of a county described by Subsection (c) may allow an operator to operate a golf cart on all or part of a highway that:

- (1) is located in the unincorporated area of the county; and
- (2) has a speed limit of not more than 35 miles per hour.

(c) Subsection (b) applies only to a county that:

- (1) borders or contains a portion of the Red River; or
- (2) borders the Gulf of Mexico and has a population of less than 500,000.

Sec. 551.4041. EQUIPMENT. A golf cart operated under Section [551.404](#) must have the following equipment:

- (1) headlamps;
- (2) taillamps;
- (3) reflectors;

(4) parking brake; and

(5) mirrors.

Sec. 551.405. CROSSING INTERSECTIONS. A golf cart may cross a highway at an intersection, including an intersection with a highway that has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.