

# Florida State Statutes regarding Golf Carts

## \*\*These Laws supersede RWL Rules \*\*

**316.212 Operation of golf carts on certain roadways.**—The operation of a golf cart upon the public roads or streets of this state is prohibited except as provided herein:

(1) A golf cart may be operated only upon a county road that has been designated by a county, a municipal street that has been designated by a municipality, or a two-lane county road located within the jurisdiction of a municipality designated by that municipality, for use by golf carts. Prior to making such a designation, the responsible local governmental entity must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or cross the public road or street, considering factors including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street. Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on a designated road or street, the responsible governmental entity shall post appropriate signs to indicate that such operation is allowed.

(2) A golf cart may be operated on a part of the State Highway System only under the following conditions:

(a) To cross a portion of the State Highway System which intersects a county road or municipal street that has been designated for use by golf carts if the Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the location and design of the crossing and any traffic control devices needed for safety purposes.

(b) To cross, at midblock, a part of the State Highway System where a golf course is constructed on both sides of the highway if the Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the location and design of the crossing and any traffic control devices needed for safety purposes.

(c) A golf cart may be operated on a state road that has been designated for transfer to a local government unit pursuant to s. [335.0415](#) if the Department of Transportation determines that the operation of a golf cart within the right-of-way of the road will not impede the safe and efficient flow of motor vehicular traffic. The department may authorize the operation of golf carts on such a road if:

1. The road is the only available public road along which golf carts may travel or cross or the road provides the safest travel route among alternative routes available; and
2. The speed, volume, and character of motor vehicular traffic using the road is considered in making such a determination.

Upon its determination that golf carts may be operated on a given road, the department shall post appropriate signs on the road to indicate that such operation is allowed.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a golf cart may be operated for the purpose of crossing a street or highway where a single mobile home park is located on both sides of the street or highway and is divided by that street or highway, provided that the governmental entity having original

jurisdiction over such street or highway shall review and approve the location of the crossing and require implementation of any traffic controls needed for safety purposes. This subsection shall apply only to residents or guests of the mobile home park. If notice is posted at the entrance and exit of any mobile home park where residents of the park operate golf carts or electric vehicles within the confines of the park, it is not necessary for the park to have a gate or other device at the entrance and exit in order for such golf carts or electric vehicles to be lawfully operated in the park.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if authorized by the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection, a golf cart may be operated on a road that is part of the State Park Road System if the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

(5) A golf cart may be operated only during the hours between sunrise and sunset, unless the responsible governmental entity has determined that a golf cart may be operated during the hours between sunset and sunrise and the golf cart is equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.

(6) A golf cart must be equipped with efficient brakes, reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflectorized warning devices in both the front and rear.

(7) A golf cart may not be operated on public roads or streets by any person under the age of 14.

(8) A local governmental entity may enact an ordinance relating to:

(a) Golf cart operation and equipment which is more restrictive than those enumerated in this section. Upon enactment of such ordinance, the local governmental entity shall post appropriate signs or otherwise inform the residents that such an ordinance exists and that it will be enforced within the local government's jurisdictional territory. An ordinance referred to in this section must apply only to an unlicensed driver.

(b) Golf cart operation on sidewalks adjacent to specific segments of municipal streets, county roads, or state highways within the jurisdictional territory of the local governmental entity if:

1. The local governmental entity determines, after considering the condition and current use of the sidewalks, the character of the surrounding community, and the locations of authorized golf cart crossings, that golf carts, bicycles, and pedestrians may safely share the sidewalk;

2. The local governmental entity consults with the Department of Transportation before adopting the ordinance;

3. The ordinance restricts golf carts to a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour and permits such use on sidewalks adjacent to state highways only if the sidewalks are at least 8 feet wide;

4. The ordinance requires the golf carts to meet the equipment requirements in subsection (6). However, the ordinance may require additional equipment, including horns or other warning devices required by s. [316.271](#); and

5. The local governmental entity posts appropriate signs or otherwise informs residents that the ordinance exists and applies to such sidewalks.

(9) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as a moving violation for infractions of subsections (1)-(5) or a local ordinance corresponding thereto and enacted pursuant to subsection (8), or punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as a nonmoving violation for

infractions of subsection (6), subsection (7), or a local ordinance corresponding thereto and enacted pursuant to subsection (8).

**316.2125 Operation of golf carts within a retirement community.—**

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. [316.212](#), the reasonable operation of a golf cart, equipped and operated as provided in s. [316.212](#) (5), (6), and (7), within any self-contained retirement community is permitted unless prohibited under subsection (2).

(2)(a) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of golf carts on any street or highway under its jurisdiction if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

(b) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of golf carts on any street or highway under its jurisdiction if it determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

(3) A local governmental entity may enact an ordinance regarding golf cart operation and equipment which is more restrictive than those enumerated in this section. Upon enactment of any such ordinance, the local governmental entity shall post appropriate signs or otherwise inform the residents that such an ordinance exists and that it shall be enforced within the local government's jurisdictional territory. An ordinance referred to in this section must apply only to an unlicensed driver.

**316.2126 Authorized use of golf carts, low-speed vehicles, and utility vehicles.—**

(1) In addition to the powers granted by ss. [316.212](#) and [316.2125](#), municipalities are authorized to use golf carts and utility vehicles, as defined in s. [320.01](#), upon any state, county, or municipal roads located within the corporate limits of such municipalities, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Golf carts and utility vehicles must comply with the operational and safety requirements in ss. [316.212](#) and [316.2125](#), and with any more restrictive ordinances enacted by the local governmental entity pursuant to s. [316.212](#)(8), and shall be operated only by municipal employees for municipal purposes, including, but not limited to, police patrol, traffic enforcement, and inspection of public facilities.

(b) In addition to the safety equipment required in s. [316.212](#)(6) and any more restrictive safety equipment required by the local governmental entity pursuant to s. [316.212](#)(8), such golf carts and utility vehicles must be equipped with sufficient lighting and turn signal equipment.

(c) Golf carts and utility vehicles may be operated only on state roads that have a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less.

(d) Golf carts and utility vehicles may cross a portion of the State Highway System which has a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or less only at an intersection with an official traffic control device.

(e) Golf carts and utility vehicles may operate on sidewalks adjacent to state highways only if such golf carts and utility vehicles yield to pedestrians and if the sidewalks are at least 5 feet wide.

(2) State employees, state park volunteers, and state park visitors are authorized to use golf carts and utility vehicles, as defined in s. [320.01](#), upon any public roads within the boundaries of state parks managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Golf carts and utility vehicles must comply with the operational and safety requirements in s. [316.212](#).

(b) Golf carts and utility vehicles shall be operated only by state employees and state park volunteers for state purposes and by state park visitors for uses authorized by the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection.

(3)(a) As used in this subsection, the term:

1. "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle as defined in s. [320.01](#)(22), including vehicles modified to have a cargo platform or bin to transport parcels or a hitch to tow a trailer.

2. "Residential area" means areas zoned primarily or exclusively for single-family or multifamily residential use.

3. "Seasonal delivery personnel" means employees of a licensed commercial delivery service that has at least 10,000 persons employed in this state.

(b) Seasonal delivery personnel may use the following vehicles solely for the purpose of delivering express envelopes and packages having a maximum size of 130 inches for the combined length and girth and weighing not more than 150 pounds from midnight October 15 until midnight January 31 of each year:

1. Low-speed vehicles and utility vehicles as defined in s. [320.01](#) upon any public road within a residential area that has a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less.

2. Golf carts upon a public road within a residential area that has a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less.

3. Golf carts upon a public road within a residential area that has a posted speed limit of 30 to 35 miles per hour, unless a municipality having jurisdiction over the public road has enacted an ordinance restricting personnel from driving on such roads.

Seasonal delivery personnel may pull a trailer from any of these vehicles.

(c) All vehicles specified in this subsection must be:

1. Marked in a conspicuous manner with the name of the delivery service.

2. Equipped with, at a minimum, the equipment required under s. [316.212](#)(6).

3. Equipped with head lamps and tail lamps, in addition to the safety requirements in s. [316.212](#)(6), if operated after sunset.

(4) Anyone operating a golf cart, low-speed vehicle, or utility vehicle pursuant to this section must possess a valid driver license as required by s. [322.03](#).

**316.21265 Use of all-terrain vehicles, golf carts, low-speed vehicles, or utility vehicles by law enforcement agencies.—**

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any law enforcement agency in this state may operate all-terrain vehicles as defined in s. [316.2074](#), golf carts as defined in s. [320.01](#), low-speed vehicles as defined in s. [320.01](#), or utility vehicles as defined in s. [320.01](#) on any street, road, or highway in this state while carrying out its official duties.

(2) Such vehicles must be clearly marked as vehicles of a law enforcement agency and may be equipped with special warning lights, signaling devices, or other equipment approved or authorized for use on law enforcement vehicles.

(3) The vehicle operator and passengers must wear safety gear, such as helmets, which is ordinarily required for use by operators or passengers on such vehicles.

**320.105 Golf carts and utility vehicles; exemption.—**Golf carts and utility vehicles, as defined in s. [320.01](#), when operated in accordance with s. [316.212](#) or s. [316.2126](#), are exempt from provisions of this chapter which require the registration of vehicles or the display of license plates.