



TOWN OF KNIGHTDALE

950 Steeple Square Court
Knightdale, NC 27545
KnightdaleNC.gov

ORDINANCE #20-09-16-003 AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS IN THE TOWN OF KNIGHTDALE

State Law Reference: NCGS 160A-300.6. Regulation of golf carts on streets, roads, and highways.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 20-50 and G.S. 20-54, a city may, by ordinance, regulate the operation of golf carts, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(12b), on any public street, road, or highway where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less within its municipal limits or on any property owned or leased by the city.

(b) By ordinance, a city may require the registration of golf carts, charge a fee for the registration, specify who is authorized to operate golf carts, and specify the required equipment, load limits, and the hours and methods of operation of golf carts. No person less than 16 years of age may operate a golf cart on a public street, road, or highway. (2009-459, s. 3.)

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 motor vehicle having not less than four wheels in contact with the ground and unmaned weight less than 1,300 pounds which is 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. Golf carts may be gas-powered or electric. This *does not* include vehicles known as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), Utility Task Vehicles (UTVS), go-carts, scooters or unmanned robotic vehicles.

LOW SPEED VEHICLE as defined by NCGS 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.

State Law reference — § 20-4.01. Definitions.

Low Speed Vehicle

Low Speed Vehicles, as defined under North Carolina General Statute 20-4.01 and as equipped and regulated under North Carolina General Statute 20-121.1 shall be operated under the applicable state statutes and shall not be subject to this ordinance.

State Law reference — § 20-4.01. Definitions and 20-121.1.

Golf Cart Equipment

Golf Carts approved for operation under this ordinance 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 rearview mirror;
3. Operating headlight(s) on the front of the golf cart and operating taillight(s) on the back of the golf cart. All lights must be visible from 500 feet, and
4. Golf carts may have “lift kits” but no golf cart may be more than 22” high measured from the ground to the floorboard of the cart.

State Law reference — § 160A-300.6

Insurance Requirements

Every golf cart operated under this ordinance 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 North Carolina General Statute 20-279.21(b) as the minimum required.

State Law reference — § 160A-300.6

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.

State Law reference — § 160A-300.6

Registration

Operators of golf carts operated under this ordinance must have a valid registration decal issued by the Town of Knightdale prior to operating on the roads. This registration decal must be obtained by the owner through submittal of a golf cart registration, a valid North Carolina Driver’s License, proof of ownership and liability insurance and a waiver of liability to the Knightdale Police department who will then schedule an inspection of the golf cart.

The cost for the registration shall be \$100.00 and will be payable to the Town at the time of registration. The registration shall be valid for no more than one year and is to be renewed annually at which time the owner shall submit the above documents and shall schedule the vehicle for a subsequent inspection. Registration fees shall not be prorated.

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 to be easily visible by law enforcement personnel.

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.

State Law reference — § 160A-300.

Inspection

No golf cart may be operated on any street or highway in the town without first passing an inspection which will be conducted prior to the issuance of a Town registration decal.

Furthermore, no registration decal will be issued until the operator presents proof that the golf cart is fully insured, and the operator has a valid North Carolina driver's license or recognized valid driver's license from another state

To pass the inspection for the town and to obtain a golf cart permit, the golf cart must have the following:

1. Operational headlight(s) and taillight(s);
2. Rubber or equivalent tires;
3. Operational steering gear, brakes, emergency or parking brake, rear-view mirror, adequately affixed driver seat(s); and
4. Other requirements as set forth in Article V of this Section must be complied with.

State Law reference — § 160A-300.

Operation.

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

1. Golf carts shall not be operated between the hours of 10pm and 6am.
2. 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:
3. Golf carts may not be operated on the following streets or roadways regardless of the speed limit:
 - a. Any portion of Knightdale Boulevard
 - b. Any portion of Smithfield Road
 - c. Any portion of S. First Avenue
 - d. Any Portion of Old Knight Road
 - e. Any portion of Forestville Road
 - f. Any portion of Horton Road
 - g. Any portion of Hodge Road
 - h. Any portion of Old Ferrell Road
 - i. Any portion of Crosspoint Place

- j. Any portion of Bethlehem Road
- k. Any portion of Old Faison Road
- l. Any portion of Old Crews Road

Golf carts *may not* cross a road with a posted speed limit greater than 35 mph or any of the streets or roadways listed above. Other roadway crossings 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.

Golf carts must be operated at the right edge of the roadway unless lane usage is necessary to make turns or travel through intersections.

Golf Carts must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Golf carts must be parked in accordance with the laws and ordinances which apply to any parked vehicle in the town.

Golf carts are prohibited from traveling upon or parking on any sidewalk, multi-purpose path, or greenway trail within the town.

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.

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.

At no time 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.

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.

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 North Carolina General Statute § 20-7. Golf cart operators must always carry their driver's license while operating a golf cart on public roads.

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. No person shall ride or travel in a golf cart standing up or sitting on anything other than a standard seat designed and included as a part of the golf cart.

Operators of Golf Carts are required to ensure that all occupants under the age of 18 are secured within the golf cart using an appropriate passenger restraint system.

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 always be in the golf cart while in operation on public roads.

If mechanical front and rear turn signal indicators are not installed on the golf cart, then hand signals are required for turns and stops.

The operator of the golf cart is mandated to use the headlight(s) and taillight(s), as defined in Section 152 of this article whenever the vehicle is operated during the period from dusk until dawn to maximize its visibility.

Golf carts shall not be operated during inclement weather or when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions;

State Law reference — § 160A-300.6

Violations

Any operator of a golf cart in violation of either this Section or the motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina shall be charged the same as any other driver of any registered vehicle in the state. Unpaid penalties or fines may result in the loss of the operator's driver's license or other penalty.

Penalties

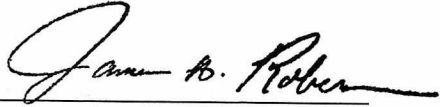
Violations of this Section or the motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina shall result in fines and penalties as described in this section for similar violations made with registered vehicles or in the case of violations of the motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina, the penalties shall be the same as those set by applicable state statute.


Additionally, violation of either this Section or the motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina through a registered golf cart may be grounds for the inability to renew the registration which shall be at the discretion of the Chief of Police. Failure to pay imposed civil penalties may result in the issuance of a Criminal Summons to appear in court, and instant revocation of the owner's registration.

Disclaimer: This ordinance, upon approval by the Town Council, shall be applicable to all persons who register and operate golf carts within the corporate limits of the Town of Knightdale, until such time that the ordinance is altered, modified, or rescinded by the Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Knightdale, North Carolina that the Knightdale Code of Ordinances provides clear definition and guidance to ensure the safe operation of golf carts within the Town.

This the 16th day of September 2020.

BY: 
James A. Roberson, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Heather Smith, Town Clerk