

# Golf Cart Safety Fundamentals

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Just like professional baseball players who annually attend spring training to work on the fundamentals of the game (ground balls, run down drills, sliding, hitting the cutoff man); drivers of golf carts will benefit by brushing up on the fundamentals:

This is by no means an exhaustive list of safety guidelines and precautions however we do think it is a pretty good start. This safety list cannot replace the old fashioned common sense of responsible drivers and passengers. The Safety and Security committee are asking that you operate your Golf Cart responsibly, and thank you for supporting our effort to have a fun, safe environment.

- **Safety First !** ANYONE caught driving in an unsafe manner will lose the privilege to have a golf cart on property.
- Carts shall be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of other vehicles and pedestrians. In congested pedestrian areas, operators must either park or reduce speed and proceed at a pace consistent with that of pedestrians. **Pedestrians shall be afforded the right-of-way at all times.** Pedestrians as defined in this document refer to: persons walking, jogging, inline skating, skate boarding, bicycling, or those in wheelchairs or mobility assistance devices.
- The owner of the golf cart is responsible for their golf cart. This includes whoever you allow to operate your cart. Please make them aware of our policy, Rules & Regulations and of course golf cart safety fundamentals.
- Observe all vehicle traffic laws such as lane travel, stop signs, legal passing of other vehicles, etc. Remember golf carts shall be operated in compliance with the common "rules of the road".
- Never drive recklessly or joy ride. Drive courteously.
- Never drive intoxicated or under the influence of any drug or narcotic.
- Avoid distractions while operating the golf cart just as you would in an automobile. Be safe and attentive -- avoid talking, texting, or reading while driving, reaching for objects, applying makeup or eating.
- A golf cart should not be operated with more passengers than it is designed to carry.
- All occupants in the golf cart shall keep hands, arms, legs and feet within the confines of the golf cart at all times when the cart is in motion.
- All occupants must remain seated on a seat during operation.
- Drivers of carts that are not equipped with turn indicators shall use appropriate hand signals.
- Check blind spots before turning. When making a left hand turn, yield to the thru traffic lane and merge into that lane before turning left. Never make a left hand turn from the golf cart lane (right hand side of the road).
- Carefully turn and look behind golf cart before backing up.
- Avoid sharp turns at maximum speed, and drive straight up and down slopes to reduce the risk of passenger ejections and/or rollover. Avoid excessive speed, sudden starts, stops and fast turns.

- Reduce speed due to driving conditions, especially hills or other inclines or declines, blind corners, intersections, pedestrians and inclement weather.
- Do not leave keys in golf cart while unattended and make sure the parking brake is set.
- A golf cart should be operated no faster than 15 mph.
- Golf cart operators must use the safety mirrors at each intersection to ensure pedestrian safety
- Read and follow all safety precautions outlined in the owner's manual of your vehicle. Also, know and follow all state and local regulations governing the use of golf cars in your area.
- Special care must be taken when using the vehicle in the presence of children. Do not allow young children or teenagers to operate the vehicle, particularly unattended. Golf cart manufacturers recommend that only licensed drivers operate the vehicles.
- Do not allow young children to ride in the vehicle without a supervising adult.
- Modifications to the vehicle, such as installation of a "lift kit" or rear-facing seat, can change the operating characteristics of the vehicle. Always be sure you understand and are mindful of the ways in which a modification can alter a vehicle's behavior.
- Do not modify your vehicle to go faster than the speed at which it was designed to operate from the factory.
- Passengers in a rear-facing seat must use particular care, since they cannot see the upcoming path of the vehicle or possible approaching hazards. Rear-facing passengers must always hold on to safety handles.
- Always drive slowly in congested areas, on wet or loose terrain, and when backing up.
- Golf carts intended for use between dusk and dawn, regardless of operating speeds, shall be equipped with headlights and taillights.
- Golf carts shall not be parked in any manner likely to obstruct or interfere with the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic in heavily traveled areas.
- Operators shall not stop (bring a golf cart to rest for any period of time) in the middle of roads and walkways.
- Special care shall be taken while driving carts through parking lots to observe traffic and vehicles pulling in/out of parking spaces. Carts should be operated at speeds of less than 10 miles per hour in parking lots.
- Drivers may not wear headphones, use cell phones or use/operate any other device that may cause a distraction.
- In the event a cart is decorated for a special event, the decorations must be securely attached in a manner that will not cause damage or obstruct the driver's vision in any direction.

Remember Safety 1<sup>st</sup>. The Safety and Security committee would like to see everyone enjoy our association and get the most out of it. With safety in mind we can hopefully ensure this happens.

**Have a safe fun filled 2013 summer!**