

## Penalties Upon Violation of Ordinance

- In addition to constituting a misdemeanor or infraction as provided by G.S. 14-4, violation of any provision of this ordinance shall subject the offender to a civil penalty in the amount of \$50 for each separate or distinct offense to be recovered by the city in an action in the nature of debt if not paid by the offender within 72 hours after being cited for the violation.
- Operating a golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance (i.e., alcohol or drugs) on a public street or road is a violation of state law, and is punishable as provided therein. The charging officer does not have discretion to issue a civil citation for violation of this subsection.
- The city may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart, or may revoke a previously issued permit, if the registered golf cart and/or the owner of the golf cart is involved in three or more violations of this section and/or violations of state law pertaining to within a three-year time period. Said revocation and/or denial of a permit shall be effective for one year.

## Liability Disclaimer

- This section is adopted to address the interest of public safety. Golf carts are not designed or manufactured to be used on the public streets and the city in no way advocates or endorses their operation on public streets or roads. The City, by regulating this operation, is addressing obvious safety issues, and adoption of this section is not to be relied upon as determination that operation on public streets is safe or advisable if done in accordance with this section. All persons who operate or ride upon golf carts on public streets or roads 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 City has no liability under any theory of liability and the city assumes no liability, for permitting golf carts to be operated on the public streets and roads under the special legislation granted by the state legislature.
- Prior to operating a golf cart, please read the complete ordinance as shown on the City Website. Also available on request from the City Clerk or from the Police Department.
- Feel free to call the Police Department at 910-457-0302 if you have questions or to schedule an inspection.



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## City of Southport Golf Cart Ordinance

*Effective January  
31, 2018*

**City Hall: 910-457-7900  
Police : 910-457-0302**

## Registration Requirements

- In order to operate a golf cart in the corporate limits of the City of Southport, Golf Carts must be registered annually with the City.
- Registrations will be valid from July 1 through June 30th. Registrations will be subject to renewal July 1.
- A 25.00 per year registration fee must be paid before a registration sticker is issued.
- Registration stickers must be displayed on the left rear fender of the golf cart.
- Low speed vehicles subject to state regulation and licenses are exempt from a permit and inspection. The City does request that these vehicle owners obtain a sticker free of charge.
- All Golf Cart operators must be 18 or older and possess a full valid drivers license, except any driver or operator 18 or older with a doctor's certified medical or physical condition. Exempted drivers must still have a NC ID card on record.
- The owner must possess and maintain liability insurance in an amount not less than required by North Carolina law for traditional motor vehicles operated on a public street or highway.
- Golf Cart must have an identifiable vehicle id number.

## Required Safety Features

- Two operating front headlights or an equivalent light bar, visible from a distance of at least 250 feet.
- Two operating tail lights, with brake lights and turn signals, visible from a distance of at least 250 feet.
- A rear vision mirror, a horn, and stop lamps.
- At least one reflector per side, a parking brake.
- A Type 1 or Type 2 seat belt assembly conforming to section 571.209 of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209 installed at each seating position.
- A windshield, and a maximum of three rows of seats.
- Any modification to the golf cart must comply with all safety requirements of this section and must be inspected by the appropriate City staff prior to operation.
- Operators views shall not be materially obstructed, obscured, or impaired by any sign poster, or sticker.

## Operation

- Golf carts can only operate on streets and roads that have a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less.
- Golf carts must display a valid city golf cart annual registration sticker.
- No golf cart shall be operated more than 20 mph.
- Golf carts shall not be operated in a careless or reckless manner.
- Drivers and passengers must be properly seated while the golf cart is in motion.
- Golf carts must be operated to the extreme right of the roadway and must yield to all vehicular traffic.

- Golf carts must be operated in accordance with all applicable state, local laws, and ordinances, including all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the possession and use of alcoholic beverages and other impairing substances.
- Golf carts may only park in handicapped parking spaces if the driver has a valid handicapped placard or sticker and the same is clearly posted or displayed in the golf cart.
- Golf carts may not be used for the purpose of towing another cart, trailer or vehicle of any kind, including a person on roller skates, skateboard, or bicycle.
- The possession of open containers of alcohol and/or consumption of alcohol by the driver and/or passengers of a golf cart is prohibited.
- Golf carts shall not be operated on or across any public or private properties without the permission of the property owner.
- During an emergency situation or at a special event, any police officer supervising or controlling traffic may direct that golf carts be operated only on or upon certain streets or locations as directed by the officer.
- Golf carts may not be operated or parked on any sidewalk or in any city park, except for golf carts operated by governmental or public service agencies for official purposes.