



TOWN OF EMERALD ISLE **GOLF CART REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Operation of Golf Carts Permitted. The operation of golf carts on the public streets, roads and highways with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less within the Town and on property owned or leased by the Town in compliance with the provisions of EITO 11-200 through 11-205 shall be permitted. However, it shall be unlawful to operate any golf cart that is not properly registered with and permitted by the Town or to operate any golf cart at any place or in any manner not authorized therein.

Registration and Permit Required. No golf cart may be operated on any public street, road, or highway within the Town or on any property owned or leased by the Town unless the golf cart has first been registered with the Town and permitted as required herein. The registration and permit shall be renewed annually thereafter in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Golf carts do not qualify as electric personal mobility devices. Golf carts do not qualify as electric personal mobility devices designed to assist handicapped or elderly individuals. All golf carts operated in the town on public streets must be properly registered with and permitted by the town.

Application and Permit. The owner shall complete an application provided by the Town and the golf cart shall be inspected by designated Town staff for compliance with the provisions of this article prior to the issuance of an annual permit for the golf cart. To evidence the registration, the owner shall be issued a unique license plate and annual registration decal which shall be displayed on the rear of the golf cart. The Board of Commissioners may establish, and amend from time to time, an annual registration fee for golf carts.

Basic Requirements. In order to register a golf cart and secure an annual permit, the owner and golf cart must meet the following basic requirements:

1. The owner must be at least 18 years old and possess a valid drivers license, and
2. 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 highway in North Carolina, and
3. The golf cart must be registered to a physical address in Emerald Isle, and
4. The golf cart must not have been modified to exceed a speed of 20 mph, and
5. The golf cart must have an identifiable identification number.

Required Safety Features. In order to register a golf cart and secure an annual permit, a golf cart must have the following safety features installed:

1. Two operating front headlights, visible from a distance of at least 250 feet,
2. Two operating tail lights, with brake lights and turn signals, visible from a distance of at least 250 feet,
3. A rear vision mirror,
4. At least one reflector per side,
5. A parking brake,

6. Seat belts for all seating positions on the golf cart,
7. A windshield,
8. Must be limited to a maximum of three rows of seats.

Inspection. Prior to the issuance of an initial permit or annual renewal, designated Town staff shall inspect the golf cart for compliance with the requirements of this article. No golf cart shall be registered and permitted unless it is in compliance with all requirements.

Acknowledgement. Prior to the issuance of an initial permit or annual renewal, the owner shall sign an acknowledgment that he/she has read and understands the provisions of this article.

Disqualified Vehicles. All-terrain vehicles, 4-wheel utility vehicles, go-karts, and other similar utility vehicles which are not manufactured for operation on a golf course, and/or a golf cart which has been modified so that it no longer meets the definition of golf cart may not be registered as a golf cart under this article nor shall such vehicles be operated on the public roads, streets, and highways within the Town, unless such vehicles are registered and permitted under the motor vehicle laws of North Carolina.

Standards of Operation. It is unlawful to operate a golf cart on a public street, road, or highway within the Town unless the following requirements are met:

1. A golf cart must display a valid Town-issued golf cart license plate and annual registration decal.
2. A golf cart may be operated on all public streets and roads in Emerald Isle, with the exception of the entire length of NC 58 (Emerald Drive) and the entire length of Coast Guard Road. Golf carts are strictly prohibited from traveling on NC 58 (Emerald Drive) and Coast Guard Road, however, golf carts are permitted to cross directly in a straight line from one side of NC 58 and Coast Guard Road to the other side.
3. No person may operate a golf cart unless that person is at least 18 years of age and is licensed to drive upon the streets, roads, and highways of North Carolina and then, only in accordance with such driver's license. An operator of a golf cart must be a licensed driver as required by the laws of their home state. The operator must have the valid driver license in his / her possession while operating the golf cart. The operator must be a resident, property owner, authorized guest, or tenant of property with a physical address in Emerald Isle.
4. The driver and passengers must be properly seated while the golf cart is in motion, with seat belts properly fastened, and may not be transported in a negligent manner. The seating capacity with seat belts shall not be exceeded.
5. No golf cart may be operated at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions, and in no instance at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour.
6. No golf cart may be operated in a careless or reckless manner.
7. Golf carts must be operated in accordance with all applicable State and local traffic laws and ordinances, including all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
8. Golf carts are subject to the same parking regulations as traditional motor vehicles, and may only be parked in the same manner and in the same places designated for the parking of traditional motor vehicles.
9. Golf carts are permitted to park in specially designated "golf-cart-only" parking spaces as may be provided by the Town in various locations.
10. 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.
11. Golf carts may not be operated on any sidewalk, multi-use path, or designated bicycle path, except for golf carts operated by governmental or public service agencies for official purposes.
12. 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.

13. The possession of open containers of alcohol and/or consumption of alcohol by the driver and/or passengers of a golf cart is prohibited.
14. The operator of a golf cart shall yield the right-of-way to traditional motor vehicles.

Penalties and Remedies.

1. Any person violating the motor vehicle laws of North Carolina, which shall also apply to golf carts registered under this article, shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in North Carolina law for said violation.
2. Any person who knowingly allows an underage driver to operate a golf cart shall be charged and subject to the penalties prescribed in North Carolina law for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
3. Any person violating the provisions of this article or failing to comply with any of its requirements shall be required to pay a civil violation in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00).
4. Any person violating the Town's parking ordinances shall be subject to the penalties outlined for parking violations in Article IV of Chapter 11 of the Town's Code of Ordinances.
5. 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 North Carolina law, and is punishable as provided therein.
6. The Town may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart, or may immediately 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 article and/or violations of North Carolina law within a three-year time period. Said revocation and/or denial of a permit shall be effective for one year.
7. The town may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart, or may immediately revoke a previously issued permit, if the registered golf cart and/or the owner of the golf cart is charged with operating a golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance, aiding and abetting the operation of the golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance, or operating a golf cart in a careless and reckless manner. Said revocation and/or denial of a permit shall be effective for one (1) year, unless the charge is dismissed or the owner and/or operator is acquitted, in which event the permit shall either be immediately reinstated or the application for the permit shall be approved if the conditions of the ordinance have been met.

Exceptions. The operation of golf carts in the following circumstances is not subject to the provisions of this article:

1. The operation of golf carts on private property, with the consent of the owner,
2. The operation of golf carts within private, gated, or limited access communities, unless the streets of the community are dedicated for public use and maintained by the Town,
3. The use of a golf cart in connection with a parade, a festival, or other special event provided the consent of the sponsor is obtained, the Police Department is notified, and provided the golf cart is only used during such event, and
4. The use of golf carts by Town personnel, other governmental agencies, and/or public service agencies on official business.

Disclaimer. Golf carts are not designed for nor manufactured to be used on public streets and the Town neither advocates nor endorses the golf cart as a safe means of travel on public streets, roads, and highways. The Town shall in no way be liable for accidents, injuries, or deaths involving or resulting from the operation of a golf cart.

Assumption of risk. Any person who owns, operates, or rides on a golf cart on a public street, road, or highway within the Town does so at his or her own risk and peril and assumes all liability resulting from the operation of the golf cart.

To continue in the application process:

1. Fill out the attached Golf Cart Application form and attach a copy of your current insurance policy showing financial responsibility for the golf cart.
2. Make arrangements to have the golf cart inspected by designated Town Staff. Any noted deficiencies must be corrected and a copy of the repair bill must be attached to the inspection form.
3. Sign the back of the Inspection Form Acknowledging that you are aware of the rules, regulations and penalties governing the operation and use of golf carts in accordance with the town ordinance.
4. Return all completed paperwork and a \$75.00 registration fee to Town Hall to receive your annual registration.