

## A Quick Overview

A golf cart must be permitted. A permit may be obtained at any S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles branch office. A permit allows a *licensed driver* to operate a golf cart *during daylight hours only*, and only on a *secondary highway or street* with a posted speed limit of 35mph or less, *within four miles* of the registration holder's address. The operator must have the permit *and* registration on their person.

A golf cart is different from a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV). An LSV must have a *license plate* and may operate after dark. A golf cart is restricted to *daylight hours* and is *permitted*.

## Alcohol, Overcrowding, Children & Animals

The same laws that prohibit the *use and possession of alcohol* while operating a motor vehicle apply to the operation of a golf cart. This includes passengers.

Do not exceed the number of occupants for which the golf cart was designed.

Do not carry children or animals on your lap while operating a golf cart.

Follow the same traffic laws that you would follow when operating a motor vehicle.

Stay off sidewalks.

Be aware at all times that golf cart occupants are extremely at risk when traveling in traffic. A golf cart offers no protection from collision. *Remain alert and drive defensively!*



## GOLF CART RULES



**North Myrtle Beach  
Department of  
Public Safety**

**Community Services  
Division**

**1015 2nd Avenue South  
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582  
(843) 280-5511**

# **SOUTH CAROLINA'S GOLF CART LAW**

*South Carolina's golf cart law was amended effective October 1, 2011:*

Golf carts must be permitted through the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles.

A person operating a permitted golf cart must be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid driver's license.

The operator of a permitted golf cart being operated on a highway or street must have in their possession the registration certificate for the golf cart issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, proof of financial responsibility for the golf cart, and their driver's license.

A golf cart permit must be replaced with a new permit every five years, or at the time the permit holder changes their address. Golf cart owners holding golf cart permits on or before October 1, 2011 will have until September 30, 2015 to obtain a replacement permit.

**During daylight hours only:**

A permitted golf cart may be operated within four miles of the address on the registration certificate and only on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less.

A permitted golf cart may be operated within four miles of a point of ingress and egress to a gated community, and only on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less.

Within four miles of the registration holder's address, and while traveling along a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less, a permitted golf cart may cross a highway or street at an intersection where the highway has a posted speed limit of more than 35 mph.

A permitted golf cart may be operated along a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less on an island not accessible by a bridge designed for use by automobiles.

A political subdivision may, on designated streets or roads within its jurisdiction, reduce the area in which a permitted golf cart may operate from four to no less than two miles. However, it may not reduce or amend the other restrictions placed on the operation of a permitted golf cart as contained in the state law.

The law does not apply to a golf cart used by a public safety agency in connection with the performance of its duties.

*Please be aware that this law does not apply to "low speed vehicles." They are regulated by a separate state law.*

## **Restricted Roads**

**Golf carts are not allowed on Highway 17, 27th Avenue South, Ocean Boulevard, and Sea Mountain Highway. However, golf carts may *cross* these roads.**

## **Additional Information Sources**

*For a complete copy of the state law regulating golf carts, please visit [www.NMB.us](http://www.NMB.us) and then look under "New City Laws" on the homepage.*

*To access South Carolina golf cart permitting requirements online, visit [www.scdmvonline.com](http://www.scdmvonline.com). Click on "Vehicle Licenses" at the top of the homepage, then scroll down to "Golf Cart." Once there, you can view the requirements and download a copy of the required form, GC-2 Golf Cart Registration.*

