

Article IX Golf Carts and Other Utility Vehicles

Sec. 210 Authority to Regulate

This article is established pursuant to Code of Virginia §46.2-916.2, which authorizes the town, by ordinance, to authorize the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on designated public highways within its boundaries and Code of Virginia §46.2-916.3, which establishes limitations on golf cart and utility vehicle operations on designated public highways and authorizes the town, by ordinance to impose additional restrictions or limitations on the operation of golf carts, utility vehicles or both on public highways within its boundaries.

Sec. 211 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 and utility vehicle means a motor vehicle having not less than three wheels in contact with the ground and unladen weight less than 1,300 pounds which is designed to be operated at not more than 25 miles per hour and is designed to carry golf equipment and maintenance equipment. The term “golf cart and utility vehicle” does not include vehicles known as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or go-carts, as defined in Code of Virginia §46.2-100, as amended.

Golf cart operator means a person having a valid driver’s license that is driving the golf cart and has full control of its operation.

Sec. 212 Regulation

Golf carts are hereby permitted to be operated within the jurisdictional limits of the Town of Victoria subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) The golf cart must be the shape and size that conforms to the industry standards for manufactured golf carts.
- (b) Required Safety Equipment – in addition to any safety equipment required by the Code of Virginia for golf carts, such shall have the following safety equipment installed:
 - a. Speed governor if gasoline powered;
 - b. Seatbelts for driver and passengers;
 - c. Headlights, tail lights, and turn signals, if the golf cart is driven between sunset and sunrise;
 - d. Equipped with either an unobstructed rear-view mirror and left side mirror, right and left rear-view mirror, or a wide angle cross bar rear view mirror;
 - e. Reflectors and vehicle emblems that conform to Code of Virginia §46.2-1081, as amended, for slow-moving vehicles;
 - f. Windshield wiper if equipped with permanent windshield;
 - g. Rubber or equivalent tires;
 - h. Horn;

- i. Adequate steering gear;
- j. Brakes;
- k. Emergency brake;
- l. Adequately fixed driver's seat.

Sec. 213 Insurance Requirements

Every golf cart and driver thereof shall be covered by an insurance policy. Such policy shall meet the minimum liability amounts contained in Code of Virginia §46.2-472, as amended, and provide coverage during the operation of the golf cart upon public highways.

Proof of insurance must be carried on the golf cart when operated on a public highway.

Sec. 214 Permit Process

All golf carts operated within the Town of Victoria shall be registered annually with the town prior to such use. Proof of insurance coverage will be required for annual registration. The registration fee shall be set by council from time to time.

Sec. 215 Operation on Public Highways

- (a) Golf carts must display a slow-moving vehicle emblem in conformity with Code of Virginia §46.2-1081, as amended.
- (b) Golf carts must display a current Town of Victoria Registration.
- (c) No person shall operate a golf cart on the public highways in the town unless said person has a valid driver's license in accordance with Code of Virginia 46.2, as amended.
- (d) Golf carts must be operated in accordance with all applicable state and local laws and ordinances, including all laws, regulations, and ordinances pertaining to the possession and use of drugs and alcoholic beverages.
- (e) Only the number of people the golf cart is designed to seat may ride on the golf cart. Additionally, passengers shall not be carried on the part of the vehicle designed to carry golf bags or cargo.
- (f) Golf carts must be operated at the extreme right of the roadway and must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- (g) Golf carts shall be operated only between sunrise and sunset unless equipped with such lights as are required in Code of Virginia Article 3 of Chapter 10, as amended.
- (h) Golf carts shall not be operated during inclement weather; or when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog, or other conditions.

Sec. 216 Operations Restrictions

- (a) Only those golf carts that have been retrofitted with the safety equipment specified herein may be operated under the provisions of this article.
- (b) Golf cart operation is limited to streets that have a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Golf carts are not allowed on Main Street from the intersection with Nottoway Boulevard to

the east corporate limits, Court Street, or Nottoway Boulevard. Golf carts may cross these streets provided the crossing is within the 25 mile per hour speed zone.

- (c) The Police Chief or Town Manager may prohibit the operation of golf carts on any highway if it is determined that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.
- (d) Golf carts are not permitted on the Tobacco Heritage Trail.
- (e) A golf cart operator must maintain his/her golf cart in a safe condition at all times.

Sec. 217 Penalty

Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this article shall be deemed a Class IV misdemeanor as defined in Section 1-18

Sec. 218 Use of Golf Carts and Utility Vehicles by Local Government Employees or Emergency Services Personnel

The limitations set forth above shall not apply to golf carts or utility vehicles being operated by local government employees or emergency services personnel to fulfill governmental purposes provided the golf cart or utility vehicle is being operated on highways with a speed limit of 35 MPH or less.

Sec. 219 Liability Disclaimer

This section is adopted to address the interest of public safety. 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 or roads. The town, by regulating such operation, is merely trying to address obvious safety issues, and adoption of this section is not to be relied upon as a determination that operating on public streets is safe and advisable if done in accordance with the 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, bicycles, 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 roads under special legislation granted by the state general assembly. Any person who operates a golf cart is responsible for procuring liability insurance sufficient to cover the risk involved in using a golf cart on the public streets and roads.