

## GOLF CART LAWS

Plain language		Statute
<p><b>Is a golf cart a motor vehicle?</b></p> <p>YES</p>		<p>Sec 541.201 (11) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle or a vehicle that is propelled by electric power from overhead trolley wires. The term does not include an electric bicycle or an electric personal assistive mobility device, as defined by Section 551.201.</p>
<p><b>Is it legal for a child to drive a golf cart?</b></p> <p>NO</p> <p>It is illegal for any person, including children, to operate a golf cart without a driver license except on private property.</p> <p>Parents can be charged if they allowed the child to drive the golf cart.</p>		<p><b>Sec. 521.021. LICENSE REQUIRED.</b> A person, other than a person expressly exempted under this chapter may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway in this state unless the person holds a driver's license issued under this chapter.</p> <p><b>Sec. 521.458. PERMITTING UNAUTHORIZED PERSON TO DRIVE.</b> (a) A person may not knowingly permit or cause the person's child or ward who is under 18 years of age to operate a motor vehicle on a highway in violation of this chapter.                      (b) A person may not authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by or under the control of the person to be operated on a highway by any person in violation of this chapter.</p>
<p><b>Can someone drive a golf cart w/o a driver license?</b></p> <p>NO</p> <p>It is illegal for any person, including children, to operate a golf cart without a driver license except on private property.</p>		<p><b>Sec. 521.021. LICENSE REQUIRED.</b> A person, other than a person expressly exempted under this chapter, may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway in this state unless the person holds a driver 's license issued under this chapter.</p>
<p><b>It is legal for a golf cart to be driven <u>on</u> a sidewalk.</b></p> <p>NO</p>		<p><b>Sec. 545.422. CROSSING SIDEWALK OR HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL.</b></p> <p>(a) A person may not drive a motor vehicle on a sidewalk, sidewalk area, or hike and bike trail except on a permanent or authorized temporary driveway.</p> <p>(b) Subsection (a) does not prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle on a hike and bike trail in connection with maintenance of the trail.</p> <p>(c) In this section, "hike and bike trail" means a trail designed for the exclusive use of pedestrians, bicyclists, or both.</p>

**It is legal to drive a golf cart on a public roadway.**

YES

If it is used in one of the following ways:

- Inside a "Master Planned Community" w/ deed restrictions
- On a street with a speed limit not more than 35MPH
- During daytime only.
- Drive to and from a golf course within 2 miles.

**Sec. 551.403. LIMITED OPERATION.**

(a) An operator may operate a golf cart:

- (1) in a master planned community:
  - (A) that has in place a uniform set of restrictive covenants; and
  - (B) for which a county or municipality has approved a plat;
- (2) on a public or private beach; or
- (3) on a public highway for which the posted speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour, if the golf cart is operated:
  - (A) during the daytime; and
  - (B) not more than two miles from the location where the golf cart is usually parked and for transportation to or from a golf course.

**Sec. 541.401 "Daytime"** means the period beginning one-half hour before sunrise and ending one-half hour after sunset

**Sec. 547.703. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES.** (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a slow-moving vehicle shall display a slow-moving-vehicle emblem that:

- (1) has a reflective surface designed to be clearly visible in daylight or at night from the light of standard automobile headlamps at a distance of at least 500 feet;
- (2) is mounted base down on the rear of the vehicle at a height from **three to five feet above the road surface**; and
- (3) is maintained in a clean, reflective condition.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a vehicle that is used in construction or maintenance work and is traveling in a construction area that is marked as required by the Texas Transportation Commission.

(c) If a motor vehicle displaying a slow-moving-vehicle emblem tows machinery, including an implement of husbandry, and the visibility of the emblem is not obstructed, the towed unit is not required to display a slow-moving-vehicle emblem.

**(d) A golf cart as defined by Section 502.001 is required to display a slow-moving-vehicle emblem only when it is operated on an arterial street.**

**(e) In this section, "arterial street" means:**

- (1) a roadway assigned a number by this state or the United States;
- (2) a controlled-access highway; or
- (3) a major radial or circumferential street or highway that is in the territory of a local authority and designated by the authority as part of a major arterial system of streets or highways.

**Is it legal to drive a golf cart across a highway?**

Yes, only perpendicular.

**Sec. 551.405. CROSSING CERTAIN ROADWAYS.** A golf cart may cross intersections, including a road or street that has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

