



ST. JOHNS COUNTY **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF

GOLF CART SAFETY



St. Johns County has seen rapid growth in planned golf cart communities resulting in a steady increase in incidents involving juvenile golf cart drivers. As a result, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office worked to sponsor legislation to change the state statute. The legislation passed unanimously and went into effect October 1, 2023. Florida Statute 316.212 now **prohibits a person under 18 years of age from operating a golf cart on certain roadways unless he or she possesses a valid learner's driver license or valid driver license.**

GOLF CARTS

A golf cart is a motor vehicle which is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and is NOT capable of speeds greater than 20 miles per hour. County Ordinance 2018-42 (3.i.)

Golf carts can only be operated on public roadways that have been specifically designated to allow for golf cart use. County Ordinance 2018-42 (5.i.)

No roadway may be designated for golf cart use if the posted speed limit is greater than 25 miles per hour

Golf carts may cross roads which have speed limits greater than 25 miles per hour from and to a designated road whose speed limit is 25 miles per hour or less.

A Designated County Road means a county road or a portion thereof, that, consistent with this Ordinance, has received approval from the County for the use of golf carts.

NOTE: Just because a road is maintained or owned by the county does not mean it is a road designated for golf cart use. A road which has been approved for golf cart use will have appropriate signage and or pavement markings to indicate such vehicle use is allowed or prohibited as applicable.

A multi-use path is defined as a sidewalk that has been approved by the county for use of golf carts and low speed vehicles or both, and can be shared by bicyclists and pedestrians.

NOTE: Golf Carts cannot operate on “standard sidewalks” unless it is designated as a multi use path.
County Ordinance 2018-42 (3.L.)

The speed limit for golf carts on a multi-use path is 15 miles per hour.
County Ordinance 2018-42 (6.H.)

No Golf Cart, Low Speed Vehicle (LSV), or Mini Truck shall be operated in a reckless or careless manner upon any county road. — *County Ordinance 2018-42 (6.A.)*

If the golf cart is to be driven on designated roads during darkness, then it must be equipped with:

- ▶ Headlights
- ▶ Windshield
- ▶ Brake Lights
- ▶ Turn Signals



If the cart is being used on a multi-use path, then it must also be equipped with a horn. — *County Ordinance 2018-42 (6.F.)*

Golf carts must be equipped with efficient brakes and steering, safe tires, a rear view mirror, and reflectors in front and in the rear. — *County Ordinance 2018-42 (6.N.)*

Florida State Statute 316.193 prohibits operating a Golf Cart or LSV while impaired. You can be arrested and charged with DUI if found to be in violation of this statute.

KNOW THE LAW ON GOLF CARTS

A golf cart may not be operated on public roads or streets by a person:

- (a) Who is under 18 years of age unless he or she possesses a valid learner’s driver license or valid driver license.**
- (b) Who is 18 years of age or older unless he or she possesses a valid form of government-issued photographic identification.**

— *Florida Statute 316.212*

Golf carts can only be operated on designated roads, clearly marked by signs. They are not allowed on sidewalks.
— *County Ordinance 2018-42 (3.L.)*

Golf carts can not go faster than 20 miles per hour. — *County Ordinance 2018-42 (3.I.)*

No golf cart shall be operated in a reckless or careless manner upon any county road. — *County Ordinance 2018-42 (6.A.)*

THE PENALTY

Violations of Florida State Statute may be prosecuted. [See Florida State Statute 316.212\(8\)\(b\)\(9\) for details.](#)

