



Golf Cart Information for City of Venice Residents



What is the legal definition of a “golf cart”?

- “Golf cart” means a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour. ([320.01\(26\)](#))
- The operator must be at least 14 years old ([316.212\(7\)](#))

What is the legal definition of a “low speed vehicle”?

- “Low-speed vehicle” means any four-wheeled vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour, including, but not limited to, neighborhood electric vehicles. ([320.01\(41\)](#))
- Valid driver’s license, vehicle registration, and vehicle insurance. ([316.2122\(3\)](#) and [\(4\)](#))

Where can I drive a golf cart in the City of Venice?

- The City of Venice has not designated the use of golf carts on any public roads within its jurisdiction. There are only a few locations where residents may cross the public roads. ([316.212\(1\)](#)) and ([316.212\(2\)](#))
- If your homeowners’ association is a “self-contained retirement community” you can drive it within the community as long as it is not prohibited by the homeowners’ association rules, City of Venice, or Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). ([316.2125](#))

Where can I go with my low speed vehicle in the City of Venice?

- A low-speed vehicle or mini truck may be operated only on streets where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. This does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle or mini truck from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour. ([316.2122\(1\)](#))

Why does Florida law seemingly “split hairs” over such small differences between definitions of golf carts and low speed vehicles?

The biggest difference that will matter to other drivers is insurance. This will be quite evident in the event of a crash on a public road.

- Let’s say a golf cart runs a stop sign and hits a car. The golf cart driver doesn’t have to have insurance, and at best will be covered under homeowner’s insurance.
- Now let’s say a low speed vehicle runs a stop sign and hits a car. The low speed vehicle driver has to have a license, vehicle registration, and vehicle insurance.

(There’s more on back)

Am I allowed to operate my golf cart or low speed vehicle on the sidewalk?

No, Florida law prohibits driving “any vehicle other than by human power” upon a sidewalk or sidewalk area. This includes golf carts. ([316.1995](#))

What do the City of Venice Ordinances say about golf carts?

The only mention of golf carts in all of the ordinances is in reference to parks, beaches, and recreational areas. The ordinances advise golf carts (and all other vehicles) are not allowed to drive anywhere other than specifically designated areas. If they are allowed to be driven in an area, 15 mph is the speed limit. ([Section 46-62 \(a\)\(1\) and \(2\)](#))

How do I know what I just bought is “street legal”?

- A low-speed vehicle must be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, license plate bracket, license plate light, taillamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshield, seat belts, slow moving vehicle emblem, and a VIN. ([316.2122\(2\)](#))
 - See FLHSMV form 86064 to see the actual DMV checklist
 - <https://www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/forms/BFO/86064.pdf>
- If never registered before, register low speed vehicles at the Regional Department of Motor Vehicles in Palmetto (DHSMV)
 - 323 10th Ave W #200, Palmetto, FL 34221
 - Contact can be made by phone 941-723-4551 option 5 or email Dmvregion8@flhsmv.gov
 - They will have all of the proper forms to walk you through the process if you don't have a dealer doing this for you.

Can I be issued a traffic citation for improperly operating a golf cart?

- Yes, the golf cart operator can be issued a traffic infraction citation for any moving violation, with an associated fine of \$166.00 and 3 points.
- If you are operating a low speed vehicle on public roads, you are subject to the exact same penalties as if you were in a regular car.
- If you put a license plate from another vehicle or trailer to make it appear it is a registered low speed vehicle, you could go to jail, have your golf cart towed, and license plate seized. ([320.261](#))

References

Some of this information was adapted and verified from MCSO's Golf Cart FAQ found at:
<http://www.manateesherriff.com/pdf/CrimePrev/Golf%20cart%20FAQ.pdf>