

Golf Cart Safety

Golf cart safety is a high priority whether you are on the golf course or cruising through the community. Golf cart accidents can happen so understanding how to minimize accidents will make you a better driver and help keep the "roads" safe.



Maintain a safe speed and observe stop signs

- Like regular vehicles, golf carts have a maximum speed, but it is not expected that you always drive at the maximum speed. Weather conditions, vehicle congestion and the presence of pedestrians means you should drive more slowly.
- **Unless otherwise posted, the speed limits are 25 miles per hour in residential areas and 15 miles per hour in front of or around any of the community buildings and in parking lots.** (QCPOA Rules - Article 4.31)
- Reducing your speed when making sharp turns or with a heavy load is also a good golf cart safety habit. PASSENGER EJECTION AND ROLL-OVER USUALLY CAUSE THE MOST SEVERE INJURIES, ESPECIALLY TO THE HEAD.
- To avoid tipping, drive slowly through turns and drive straight (and slowly) up and down slopes - do not drive on the diagonal.
- **Vehicles must come to a full stop at all stop signs and yield to other vehicles and pedestrians prior to proceeding. This includes stop signs on golf cart paths, at crossing streets and on roads.** (QCPOA Rules - Article 4.32)

Who Can Drive?

- **Only people age 16 or older may operate a golf cart.** (QCPOA Rules - Article 4.34) Golf carts are not toys and should never be operated by children.

Designated paths and roadways

- Drive in designated golf cart paths and multi-purpose lanes. On the roadway, multi-purpose lanes are designated by a solid lane line next to the curb.
- When making a left-hand turn, golf carts should use the left-hand turn lane. Do not cross traffic to make a left-hand turn.
- **At intersections with four-way stop signs, vehicles other than golf carts and bicycles must not enter multi-purpose lanes to make turns and must yield to golf carts, bicycles and pedestrians in those lanes.** (QC POA Rules - Article 4.36)
- Do NOT drive golf carts on sidewalks. Sidewalks are for pedestrians only.

Passengers

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- Observe the passenger limit (only 2 people allowed in 2-person carts or 4 people allowed in 4-person carts). Exceeding your passenger capacity causes wear and tear on your cart as well as being unsafe.
- Never allow passengers to stand on the rear of the golf cart.

Hands, feet, and other body parts

- Keep your hands, arms, legs and feet inside the cart when the cart is in motion. Accidents can and do happen.
- If you are the driver, do not depress the accelerator until your passenger is seated.
- Do not attempt to stop a rolling or moving golf cart with any part of your body. You'll be the loser.

Parking your golf cart

- Use your parking brake when stopping and leaving the cart. A cart in gear can roll and cause an accident.
- When the golf cart is not in use, place the golf cart in "Neutral" and remove the key.
- When parking a golf cart in a space designated for a car, park furthest to the right or left so that another golf cart may share the space.
- See QCPOA Rules – **Article 4.4 – Parking Violations** for vehicle parking rules.
- When parking behind the Grill please use the designated parking spaces and do not park on the grass or the trail shoulder.

Drive defensively

Treat a golf cart like a car when driving. This means look out for pedestrians and other vehicles when backing up and going forward. Use the safety mirrors at each intersection.

Listen for warnings and other things that might affect your driving - emergency vehicles, pedestrians, other vehicles, etc. Be aware of your surroundings while driving. This allows you to anticipate and respond appropriately to obstructions or other interferences.

Maintain your golf cart

Regular golf cart maintenance, including checking your tires for wear and golf cart battery maintenance will help to keep your cart in tip top shape, and help reduce the risk of injury from tire blowouts, battery leaks, and other preventable accidents.

On the golf course

See QCPOA Rules – **Article 8 – Golf**.

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Share the road

Golf cart drivers, bicyclists and walkers/joggers share the multi-purpose lanes.