

**ORDINANCE NO. 74
TOWN OF GENEVA**

Ordinance to Regulate the Operation of a Golf Cart on Public Roads

The Town Board of the Town of Geneva, Walworth County, Wisconsin, does ordain Town of Geneva Ordinance No. 74 as follows:

Purpose and definitions

A. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a means of travel that is not only convenient and safe, but conserves resources and protects the environment. Golf carts, if properly used, are an effective way to travel for short distances within the Town. However, to ensure the public safety and welfare, the operation of golf carts must not only comply with normal regulations regarding vehicles but should comply with special safety regulations intended to protect the operator and passengers in a vehicle that is primarily designed for operation on a golf course or recreational purposes. This chapter establishes the basic, minimum standards of care to be used by the operators of golf carts on public roads, streets and highways. Likewise, the public safety requires that golf carts, used as a means of transportation, must also meet certain minimum safety standards that can only be assured through a system of registration and inspection. The registration and inspection of golf carts is required in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

B. Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, these definitions shall also apply throughout this chapter.

Golf Cart. A golf cart is a vehicle whose speed attainable in one mile does not exceed 20 miles per hour on a paved, level surface, and that is designed and intended to convey one or more persons and equipment to play the game of golf in an area designated as a golf course.

Section 1. Registration, Application, Denial, and Revocation

A. Registration: A bi-annual Town of Geneva use permit is required to operate a Golf cart on public roads within the limits of the Town. The fee for this permit shall be determined by the Town Board. Upon payment of fees, an operating permit shall be issued for a 2 year term. The permit sticker shall be applied to the cart and plainly visible on the front cowling of the cart. Golf Cart owners MUST provide proof of liability insurance in an amount not less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to receive a permit.

B. Application. The application for registration shall be made to the Town clerk, or to some other person designated, on forms provided by the Town. The application may, among other things, require the owner's name, street address, mailing address, a phone number, the make, model and identification or serial number of the golf cart, proof of insurance and such other information as may be reasonably required as well as a release or disclaimer of liability by the Town for accidents involving the registered golf cart.

C. Denial and revocation. The initial registration of a golf cart may be denied or subsequently revoked by the Town if it is determined that:

- (1) The application contains any material misrepresentation;
- (2) Financial responsibility requirements of the State of Wisconsin (liability insurance) have not been met;
- (3) The golf cart is not in compliance with the requirements set out above;
- (4) The golf cart has been altered or customized and no longer meets the definition of a golf cart;
- (5) Equipment supplied by the manufacturer, especially safety equipment, has been removed from the golf cart or the vehicle identification or serial number removed; or
- (6) Other good cause shown including repeated violations of this chapter.

Section 2. Operating Restrictions:

1. Golf Cart usage is only allowed on Town of Geneva roads with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour or lower except as further provided herein. Usage is prohibited on County Highway H, Wisconsin Highway 50, McDonald Road or any other public road with posted speed limits exceeding 25 miles per hour.
2. No golf cart may be operated on Township roads before sunrise or after sunset.
3. No person under the age of 16 may operate any golf cart on any public roads. All legal operators will be required to have a valid driver's license. All passengers must be seated and seating is limited to two people per bench seat. A child is allowed on a golf cart operated on any public road in a child restraint seat as required by state and/or federal automobile regulations.
4. Cart operators shall obey all posted road signs, i.e. Stop, Yield and Speed limit signs. Operators shall be subject to Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 346 "Rules of the Road" applicable to automobiles. Forfeitures for violations will be determined by those in effect for automobiles. In particular, the operator must be sober, open alcohol is not allowed on the cart and all riders must be seated.
5. Any golf cart which cannot attain a speed of 25 miles per hour must display a slow moving vehicle emblem as required by Section 347.245(1) Wis. Statutes.
6. No unattended golf cart is permitted on any public roadway while the motor is running or with the key in the ignition.

7. No person may operate a golf cart on a sidewalk, pedestrian walkway, in any park or any grassy area outside the roadway easement.
8. Golf Carts shall be operated on the extreme right side of the improved roadway and travel with the flow of traffic. Golf Carts shall be operated single file.

Section 3. Forfeiture. Operators violating any of the above restrictions will be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$1,000.00.

Section 4. Fees.

1. The biannual permit fee shall be \$25.00 which permit shall expire on December 31 of even years. Permit fees are not prorated.
2. Fees for owners of a golf cart holding a valid driver's license plus a valid Handicapped Driver certificate shall be waived as long as the Handicapped certificate remains valid.

Section 5. Effective Date.

The passage of this Ordinance shall take effect from and after its adoption by the Town Board and its posting or publication thereof as required, pursuant to s. 60.80, Wis. Stat.

Adopted this 12th day of June, 2023 by a vote of 4-1.