

CHAPTER 78

GOLF CARTS

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78.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to permit and regulate the operation of golf carts within the City.

78.02 DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Golf cart” means a three- or four-wheeled recreational vehicle generally used for transportation of persons in the sport of golf that is limited in engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of less than 800 pounds.
2. “Operate” means to ride in or on, other than as a passenger, use or control the operation of a golf cart in any manner, whether or not the golf cart is moving.
3. “Operator” means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of a golf cart.
4. “Roadway” means that portion of a highway improved, designated or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.
5. “Street” or “highway” means that entire width between property lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for the purpose of vehicular travel.

78.03 OPERATION OF ROADWAYS, STREETS OR HIGHWAYS.

1. Golf carts shall not be operated on State Highway 93, any portion of Main Street, or any portion of Seventh Avenue other than to make a direct crossing.
2. Golf carts may be operated on the streets of the City after first obtaining a permit as provided herein. Persons who obtain a permit as required below are authorized to operate a motorized golf cart on roadways (or portions thereof) within the City.
3. The operation of the golf carts on City streets is to be only by persons possessing a valid driver’s license and 18 years of age or older.
4. It is unlawful for any parent, guardian, or other person having the care, custody and control of a minor under the age of 18 years to knowingly permit or allow such a minor to violate the provisions of this chapter.
5. The operation of golf carts on City streets is to be only from sunrise to sunset. They shall not be operated when visibility is such that there is insufficient light to clearly see person and vehicles at a distance of 500 feet. Even though a golf cart has lights on it, this does not permit operation after sunset.
6. The number of occupants in the motorized golf cart may not exceed the design occupant load.
7. Golf carts shall not be operated on the bike trail at any time.

78.04 EQUIPMENT REQUIRED.

1. Golf carts shall be equipped with a bicycle safety flag and reflective slow moving vehicle signage for operation on City streets.
2. Golf carts shall be equipped with adequate brakes to be operated on City streets.
3. Golf carts shall be in good mechanical condition and thoroughly safe for transportation of passengers.
4. Motorized golf carts shall be equipped with a mirror to provide the driver with adequate vision from behind.

78.05 UNLAWFUL OPERATION. A person shall not drive or operate a golf cart:

1. In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner as to endanger the person or property of another or cause injury or damage thereto.
2. While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics or habit-forming drugs.
3. In or on any park, playground, or sidewalk or upon any public property except with the permission of the governing body thereof.

78.06 PERMITS AND PERMIT HOLDERS. For the persons who wish to operate golf carts as mode of transportation within the City, the following shall apply.

1. An application for a permit shall be made on a form supplied by the City.
2. The application shall contain the name and address of the applicant and the make, model, year, and serial number of the golf cart.
3. The applicant shall provide a valid driver's license issued by the Iowa Department of Transportation and be 18 years of age or older on the date of issuance.
4. The applicant shall provide and maintain an owner's policy of liability insurance which is issued by an insurance carrier authorized to do business in the State of Iowa to or for the benefit of the person named in the policy as insured and insuring the person named as insured and any person using the golf cart with the express or implied permission of the named insured against loss from liability imposed by the law for damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of an insured golf cart in the amounts not less than the minimum limits specified for motor vehicles in Section 321A.21 of the *Code of Iowa*.
5. The annual cost for such a permit shall be set by resolution of the Council and is payable at the time the permit is granted. Permits may be granted for one year and will be valid from January 1 through December 31. Permits may be purchased at any time during the year, but will be valid only through December 31.
6. All permits shall be issued for a specific motorized golf cart, except as otherwise stated. Permit holders will be issued a number and will purchase three-inch minimum reflective numbers affixed to the left side of the golf cart on the back.
7. The permit may be suspended or revoked upon finding evidence that the permit holder has violated the conditions of the permit or has abused the privilege of being a permit holder. There will be no refund of the license fee.

78.07 CITY CELEBRATION WAIVER. This permit provision will be waived for golf carts used by officials, workers, and volunteers of the City Celebration.

78.08 PENALTY. In addition to the suspension or revocation of the permit, a person who violates this chapter is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a non-scheduled violation under the *Code of Iowa*.

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