



Rockwall Police Department Golf Cart Frequently Asked Questions





Q: What need exists for enforcement of golf cart regulations?

Many residents have expressed concerns about children driving golf carts in an unsafe manner. In addition, Rockwall Police Officers have witnessed unsafe golf cart driving by juveniles, who often are unfamiliar with basic rules of the road and driver courtesy. The intent is to enforce existing state laws now to avert possible future tragedies.

Q: Is a golf cart defined as a motor vehicle under Texas law?

YES - Two provisions in the Texas Transportation Code (T.C. 551.401 & 545.428) establish golf carts as motor vehicles. The full definition of a motor vehicle under state law includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, golf carts, and neighborhood electric vehicles.

Q: It is legal to operate a golf cart on a public street?

Under certain circumstances, it is legal to operate a golf cart on a public street. Golf carts may be driven on a public highway when the following conditions are met:

- The posted speed limit is no more than 35 mph
- In a master planned community that is a residential subdivision as defined by Section 209.002(9), Property Code, or has in place a uniform set of restrictive covenants; and for which a county or municipality has approved one or more plats;
- A golf cart may be operated outside of a master planned community if not more than five miles from the location where the golf cart is usually parked and for transportation to or from a golf course.
- Operation is only legal during the daytime

So what does all this mean? Golf carts may be operated in residential neighborhoods with a posted speed limit of 35mph or less. Golf carts may not travel outside of a residential area unless they are traveling to or from a golf course on a roadway with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less.

(Texas Transportation Code Section 551.403)



Q: Does the law require the operator of a golf cart to have a driver's license?

YES - The State of Texas has classified golf carts as motor vehicles. Texas requires all operators of a motor vehicle to have a driver's license. (Texas Transportation Code Section 521.021)

Q: Is a golf cart required to display a license plate?

YES & NO, it depends on the following:

T.C. 551.403(b) - A golf cart is not required to display a license plate if operated in a master planned community.

T.C. 551.402(b) - The golf cart must display a license plate when leaving a master planned community to travel to or from a golf course.



Q: Is the driver of a golf cart required to have liability insurance?

NO - In fact, the law specifically exempts golf carts from holding normal motor vehicle liability insurance. (T.C. 601.052(2-a))

Is a golf cart required to have a slow moving vehicle placard?

Yes - Golf carts driven on a public road must have a slow moving vehicle placard. These are commonly referred to as "orange triangles" and are often used on farm and construction equipment T.C. 547.703(d)

Special Note on Orange Placards

has a reflective surface designed to be clearly visible from the light of standard automobile headlamps; is mounted base down on the rear of the vehicle and at a height that does not impair the visibility of the emblem; and is maintained in a clean, reflective condition.





Q: Are golf carts subject to any other Texas motor vehicle laws?

YES - because golf carts are included in the state's definition of a motor vehicle. When on a public street, the driver of a golf cart must obey all traffic laws including stop or yield signs, speed limits, and other posted warnings. They must pull to the side of the road to yield to emergency vehicles, and are required to signal turns either with blinker signals or hand signals.

Q: Where do I obtain a Golf Cart License Plate?

Rockwall County Tax Office:

Address: 101 E Rusk St #101, Rockwall, TX 75087

Hours: Open 8AM · Closes 5PM

Phone: (972) 204-6130



Q: If I purchase a Golf Cart that already has a Texas License Plate, am I required to obtain a new plate?

YES – A golf cart license plate is not transferable to a new owner. T.C. 551.402 (d)

Sidewalks are specifically designed for pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic and **are NOT authorized for Golf Carts** or Motor Vehicles (TC 545.422)

More information regarding Golf Carts can be found on the State of Texas website at [Unique Vehicles | TxDMV.gov](https://www.txdmv.gov/unique-vehicles)