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Police

Know Before You Go: Golf Cart and Low Speed Vehicle Laws

In response to several questions received regarding golf carts driving through the streets of Winter Park, it is important to differentiate between a "Golf Cart" and a "Low Speed Vehicle."

Golf Cart

[Florida Statute 320.01\(22\)](#) defines a golf cart as "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 MPH."

- Golf carts may be operated on roadways that are designated for golf carts (there are none in Winter Park) with a posted speed limit of 30 MPH or less.
- Golf carts are not titled or registered and not required to be insured.
- A person must be 14 years of age or older to operate a golf cart.
- Golf Carts are designed for use on golf courses only unless the city (such as the Villages) has designated the municipality's roadways as golf cart permissible. The City of Winter Park does not have any golf cart permissible streets.

Converted Golf Cart that qualifies as a Low Speed Vehicle ("street legal")

A converted golf cart is a golf cart that has been inspected by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and has been assigned a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

- It will only be issued a VIN number if it meets the criteria for a **Low Speed Vehicle**:
 - seat belt for each designated seat
 - tail lights and brake lights
 - front and rear turn signals
 - a parking brake
 - head lamps
 - exterior mirrors and a windshield
- If the Converted Golf Cart has all of the listed items above, it becomes a Low Speed Vehicle and can be issued a license plate.
- Owners would be required to carry insurance on the vehicle and register it annually.
- Anyone operating a Converted Golf Cart on the roadways is required to have a valid driver's license.

Low Speed Vehicles

- All Low Speed Vehicles are limited to roadways where the speed limit is 35 mph or less and is required to have a top speed greater than 20 mph but not faster than 25 mph.

For further information on the specifics that govern golf carts and Low Speed Vehicles, you can reference [Florida State Statutes 316.212 and 316.2126](#). Winter Park Police Department officers will start educating those drivers who are in violation by issuing warnings for a short period of time. If the violations continue to happen within the city, the driver of the golf carts will receive a citation and fined as much as \$500.00.