



Town of Beaufort
701 Front St. • P.O. Box 390 • Beaufort, N.C. 28516
252-728-2141 • 252-728-3982 fax
www.beaufortnc.org

It is unlawful to operate a golf cart on a public street or roadway within the Town of Beaufort unless the following requirements are met:

Sec. 73.04 - Registration and permit requirements.

- (A) *Registration and permit required.* No golf cart may be operated on any public street, road, or highway within the town or on any property owned or leased by the town unless the golf cart has first been registered with the town and permitted as required herein. The registration and permit shall be renewed annually thereafter in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
- (B) *Application and permit.* The owner shall complete an application provided by the town and the golf cart shall be inspected by designated town staff for compliance with the provision of this chapter prior to the issuance of an annual permit. To evidence the registration, the owner shall be issued a unique license plate and annual registration decal which shall be displayed on the rear of the golf cart. The Board of Commissioners may establish, and amend from time to time, an annual registration fee for golf carts.
- (C) *Basic requirements.* In order to register a golf cart and secure an annual permit, the owner and golf cart must meet the following basic requirements:
- (1) All golf cart operators must be at least 16 years old and possess a valid driver's license. A golf cart may be operated without a valid driver's license by a driver or operator 18 years of age or older with a medical or physical condition that prevents that individual from being able to obtain a valid North Carolina driver's license but which would not prevent the safe operation of a golf cart, provided further such medical or physical condition must be evidenced by a certification from a licensed health professional attesting to such medical or physical condition and stating that same would not prevent the safe operation of a golf cart. Any driver or operator that is exempt from the requirement of a valid North Carolina license must still present and have on record and while operating a golf cart, a valid North Carolina Identification card.
 - (2) The owner must possess and maintain liability insurance in an amount not less than required by North Carolina law for traditional motor vehicles operated on a public highway in North Carolina;
 - (3) The golf cart must be registered to a physical address in Beaufort;
 - (4) The golf cart must not have been modified to exceed a speed of 20 mph; and
 - (5) The golf cart must have an identifiable identification number.



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(D) *Required safety features.* In order to register a golf cart and secure an annual permit, a golf cart must have the following safety features installed:

- (1) Two operating front headlights, visible from a distance of at least 250 feet;
- (2) Two operating tail lights, with brake lights and turn signals, visible from a distance of at least 250 feet;
- (3) A rear vision mirror;
- (4) At least one reflector per side;
- (5) A parking brake;
- (6) Seat belts for all seating positions on the golf cart;
- (7) A windshield; and
- (8) Must be limited to a maximum of three rows of seats.

(E) *Inspection.* Prior to the issuance or renewal of an annual permit, designated town staff shall inspect the golf cart for compliance with the requirements of this chapter. No golf cart shall be registered and permitted unless it is in compliance with all requirements.

(F) *Acknowledgment.* Prior to issuance of an initial permit or annual renewal, the owner shall sign an acknowledgment that he/she has read and understands the provisions of this chapter.

(G) *Disqualified vehicles.* All-terrain vehicles, 4-wheel utility vehicles, go-karts, and other similar utility vehicles which are not manufactured for operation on a golf course, and/or a golf cart which has been modified so that it no longer meets the definition of golf cart may not be registered as a golf cart under this chapter or shall such vehicles be operated on the public roads, streets and highways within the town, unless such vehicles are registered and permitted under the motor vehicle laws of North Carolina.

Sec. 73.05 - Standards of operation.

It is unlawful to operate a golf cart on a public street, road or highway within the town unless the following requirements are met:

- (A) A golf cart must display in a visible location on the rear of the golf cart a valid town-issued golf cart license plate and a current annual registration decal
- (B) A golf cart may be operated on all public streets and roads in Beaufort, with the exception of Highway 70, Highway 101, Live Oak St north of Cedar Street, Carraway Drive and Turner Street north of Pine Street.



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- (C) Any person who operates a golf cart shall comply with § 73.04(C)(1). The driver and passengers must be properly seated while the golf cart is in motion, with seat belts properly fastened and may not be transported in a negligent manner. The seating capacity with seat belts shall not be exceeded. Age and weight appropriate child passenger restraint systems must be used when transporting a child of less than 8 years of age.
- (D) No golf cart may be operated at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions, and in no instance at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour.
- (E) No golf cart may be operated in a careless or reckless manner.
- (F) Golf carts must be operated in accordance with all applicable state and local traffic laws and ordinances, including all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- (G) Golf carts are subject to the same parking regulations as traditional motor vehicles, and may only be parked in the same manner and in the same places designated for the parking of golf carts and traditional motor vehicles.
- (H) Golf carts are permitted to park in all parking spaces provided. The town encourages the use of one parking space for two golf carts.
- (I) Golf carts may only park in handicapped spaces if the driver has a valid handicapped placard or sticker and the same is clearly posted or displayed in the golf cart.
- (J) Golf carts may not be used for the purpose of towing another cart, trailer or vehicle of any kind, including a person on roller skates, skateboard, or bicycle.
- (K) The possession of open containers of alcohol and/or consumption of alcohol by the driver and/or passengers of a golf cart is prohibited.
- (L) The operator of a golf cart shall yield the right-of-way to traditional motor vehicles.
- (M) Golf carts may not be operated on any sidewalk.

Sec. 73.99 - Penalties and remedies

- (A) Any person violating the motor vehicle laws of North Carolina, which shall also apply to golf carts registered under this chapter, shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in North Carolina law for said violation.
- (B) Any person who knowingly allows an underage driver to operate a golf cart shall be charged and subject to the penalties prescribed in North Carolina law for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.



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- (C) Any person violating the provisions of this chapter or failing to comply with any of its requirements shall be required to pay a civil violation in the amount of \$50.00.
- (D) Any person violating the town's parking ordinances shall be subject to the penalties outlined for parking violations.
- (E) Operating a golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance (such as alcohol or drugs) on a public street or road is a violation of North Carolina law, and is punishable as provided therein.
- (F) The town may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart, or may revoke a previously issued permit, if the registered golf cart and/or the owner of the golf cart is involved in three or more violations of this chapter and/or violations of North Carolina law within a three-year time period. The revocation and/or denial of a permit shall be effective for one year.
- (G) The town may refuse to register and issue a permit for the operation of a golf cart, or may immediately revoke a previously issued permit, if the registered golf cart and/or the owner of the golf cart is charged with operating a golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance, aiding and abetting the operation of the golf cart under the influence of an impairing substance, or operating a golf cart in a careless and reckless manner. Said revocation and/or denial of a permit shall be effective for one year, unless the charge is dismissed or the owner and/or operator is acquitted, in which event the permit shall either be immediately reinstated or the application for the permit shall be approved if the conditions of the ordinance have been met.