

**Galveston, Texas, Code of Ordinances >> PART II - CODE OF THE CITY >> Chapter 34 - TRAFFIC  
>> ARTICLE IX. - GOLF CARTS >>**

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**Sec. 34-202. - Prohibited on public streets.**

Golf carts are not permitted on public streets as follows:

- (1) Where the posted speed limit exceeds thirty-five (35) miles per hour;
- (2) Avenue "O" between 53rd and 15th Streets and Avenue "P", between 19th and 53rd Streets; or
- (3) Which are designated as part of the state highway system, including the "Pelican Island Causeway".

*(Ord. No. 10-028, § 2, 3-11-10)*

**Sec. 34-203. - Registration permit.**

Before any golf cart may be operated over the authorized streets and parking areas of the city, it must be registered and provided a permit with the police department of the city. Registration for a registration permit will consist of an annual fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) which covers the administrative costs of such registration, to include a registration permit decal. The registration permit process includes the following specifics:

- (1) Applicant shall complete the city-supplied registration permit application form, which shall contain the:
  - a. Name and address of the applicant owner.
  - b. Location where the vehicle is regularly stored overnight.
  - c. Model, make, name and golf cart identification number.
  - d. Current driver's license number of owner.
  - e. Statement that all operators are required to be licensed pursuant to V.T.C.A., Transportation Code §§ 521.001(3) and 521.021, as amended, and that all equipment required herein is installed and will be kept current during the registration period.
  - f. Statement that the registration permit holder and any user shall indemnify and hold harmless the city for any and all civil liability associated with said registration waives any and all rights to sue or allow subrogation by insurance company.
  - g. Other information which the city may require.
- (2) The registration permit application shall be:
  - a. Accompanied by a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
  - b. Accompanied by proof of financial responsibility consistent with the minimum requirements of V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 601.051, as amended, for operation of motor vehicles. Applicant owner must also show their original driver's license and shall provide copies of the both the owner's drivers license and proof of financial responsibility.
  - c. Signed by the applicant owner.
- (3) Upon issuance, the registration permit decal shall be attached and displayed upon the right front panel (driver's side) of the golf cart so as to be clearly visible.
- (4) The registration permit shall be effective for one (1) year from the date of registration, or such time as revoked or the golf cart is transferred to a new owner.

- (5) There shall be a dual registration permit process, whereby registration permits shall be issued principally for operation east of 103rd Street or west of 103rd Street.
- a. Registration permit applications for operation east of 103rd Street shall require applicants to verify that they have already added the additional safety equipment required for such operation by subsection 34-206(b).
  - b. Registration permits for operation.
    1. East of 103rd Street shall be issued a green color permit registration decal.
    2. West of 103rd Street shall be issued a red color permit registration decal.
  - c. Golf carts that are registered for operation east of 103rd Street may also be operated west of 103rd Street. Golf carts that are registered for operation west of 103rd Street may not be operated east of 103rd Street.

*(Ord. No. 10-028, § 2, 3-11-10)*

#### **Sec. 34-204. - Revocation.**

The registration permit may be revoked if:

- (1) The owner or driver of a golf cart fails to abide by the rules and regulations of this chapter.
- (2) The owner or driver of a golf cart fails to abide by the traffic laws and the use of a golf cart on any authorized street or parking area.
- (3) The owner fails to maintain proof of financial responsibility during the entire permit registration period.

*(Ord. No. 10-028, § 2, 3-11-10)*

#### **Sec. 34-205. - Transfer.**

The registration permit is not transferable. Upon transfer of ownership of the golf cart to a person who intends to operate it over authorized streets and parking areas, the new owner must register the golf cart and pay the registration permit fee as outlined hereinabove in section 34-203.

*(Ord. No. 10-028, § 2, 3-11-10)*

#### **Sec. 34-206. - Required equipment for golf cart registration permits.**

- (a) A golf cart must be equipped with the following minimum equipment as mandated by V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 551.404(a) as amended and/or required by the city to be eligible for a registration permit:
  - (1) Operational headlamps;
  - (2) Operational tail lamps;
  - (3) Side reflectors;
  - (4) Operational parking brake;
  - (5) Rearview mirror(s);
  - (6) Slow moving vehicle sign having a reflective surface designed to be clearly visible in daylight or at night from the light of standard headlamps at a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet and shall be mounted base down on the rear of the vehicle at a height from three (3) to five (5) feet above the road surface and shall be maintained in a clean reflective condition.
- (b) Additionally, golf carts registered for operation principally east of 103rd Street must also be equipped with:
  - (1) Turn signals;
  - (2) Horn;
  - (3) Brake lights; and
  - (4) Seat belts.

Equipment and its installation must meet standards provided by the state transportation code, as amended.
- (c) All such safety equipment shall be maintained as provided by the state traffic laws within the state transportation code, as amended.

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*(Ord. No. 10-028, § 2, 3-11-10)*

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**Sec. 34-207. - Operation regulations.**

- (a) All drivers must be licensed to operate a motor vehicle as provided by V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 521.021, as amended and carry a valid driver's license as provided by V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 521.025.
- (b) All drivers of golf carts shall abide by all traffic regulations applicable to vehicular traffic when using the authorized streets and parking areas of the city.
- (c) Golf carts shall not be operated on sidewalks at any time.
- (d) The authorized driver of a golf cart operating the cart on a street (as defined herein) can cross an excluded street as provided in section 34-202, but otherwise may not operate a golf cart on any excluded street.
- (e) Golf carts are prohibited from pulling trailers, boats, jet skis, other objects or people on public streets and the right-of-way.
- (f) Driver and passengers shall:
  - (1) Be limited to limited to the seating capacity as designed by the manufacturer;
  - (2) Be seated at all times while the cart is in motion;
  - (3) If under the age of seven (7), be restrained by either a adult or by a seatbelt;
  - (4) If over the age of seven (7), use seatbelts when operating a golf cart east of 103rd Street.
- (g) Drivers shall maintain financial responsibility as required for other passenger vehicles in V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 601.051.

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*(Ord. No. 10-028, § 2, 3-11-10)*

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**Sec. 34-208. - Penalties.**

Any person who violates the terms of this chapter shall be penalized as follows.

In addition to traffic violations for which the owner or driver of the golf cart may be subject to pursuant to state law, violations of this article are unlawful and a misdemeanor offense punishable as follows:

- (1) Violations of section 34-203 shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00). Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.
- (2) Violations of subsections 34-207(e) or 34-207(f) shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

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*(Ord. No. 10-028, § 2, 3-11-10)*

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