

CHAPTER 75: GOLF CART ORDINANCE

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Statutory reference:

Motor vehicles, see G.S. Chapter 20
Municipal authority to regulate traffic, see G.S.
§ 160A-300

An Ordinance to regulate the operation of Golf Carts within their corporate limits on Town streets and roads as authorized pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160-A- 300.6

75.01 Purpose and Authority

The purpose of the ordinance is to regulate the operation of golf carts on any public street, road or highway within the jurisdiction of the Town of Cooleemee, under the authority of North Carolina General Statute 160A-300.6 , in order to provide certain limited safety protections relating to golf cart operations ,golf cart passengers and other users of streets and highways.

75.02 LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

The following ordinance is adopted to address the interest of public safety.

Most golf carts are not designed or manufactured to be used on public streets.

The Town of Cooleemee in no way advocates or endorses their operation on public streets.

By establishing guidelines that regulate the use of golf carts ,the Town is merely

trying to address safety issues that may be pertinent to golf cart usage.

The adoption of this Ordinance is not to be relied on upon as a determination that operation of golf carts on public streets is safe or advisable even if done in accordance with this ordinance .

As with any other form of transportation ,all person s who operate golf carts or any other vehicle ,do so at their own risk and peril and must br observant of and attentive to the safety of themselves and others .

The Town has no liability under any theory of liability and the Town assumes no liability for permitting golf carts to be operated on public streets.

75.03 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this ordinance ,the following definitions apply

A) GOLF CART

A golf cart vehicle ,designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of twenty (20) miles

per hour in speed of movement.

B) OPERATE

To drive or be in physical control of a golf cart on a public street or in areas that are otherwise authorized by this ordinance.

C) PUBLIC STREET

Any public street or road within the Corporate limits of the Town of Cooleemee, open to the general public and whose posted speed limit is twenty five (25) miles per hour.

Cannot operate on any state maintained road such as US HWY 801 except to cross at designated intersections.

D) TOWN

The Town of Cooleemee, North Carolina

75.04 LIABILITY INSURANCE

No golf cart shall be operated on any public road within the Town of Cooleemee without liability insurance coverage being provided for that golf cart.

Any person who owns a golf cart that is operated on the Public Streets of the Town of Cooleemee shall be responsible for procuring liability insurance sufficient

to satisfy legal requirements required to operate a motor vehicle upon the streets and roads of the State of North Carolina.

75.05 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

In addition to all other requirements stated herein, all golf carts operated within the Town of Cooleemee shall have the following equipment installed on the golf cart and said equipment shall be visible and/ or operational at all times:

- A)** A rear view mirror
- B)** A triangle reflector at least 12 inches in height, located on the rear of the golf cart.

75.06 REGISTRATION ,INSPECTION,AND FEE PRIOR TO USAGE

All golf cart owners must complete a golf cart registration form and submit it to the Chief of Police or his or her designated officer prior to being eligible for an inspection.

Prior to being operated within the town ,a golf cart must be inspected by the Chief

of Police or his or her designated officer.

Upon successfully passing an inspection, the owner of the golf cart will be given a registration card.

Registrations may be issued at any time and will be good for one year.

The registration card must be located on the golf cart at all times.

Prior to receiving a golf cart registration card, the applicant must produce proof of payment of the applicable golf cart registration fee and provide proof of liability insurance at the level required to operate a motor vehicle upon the streets and highways of the State of North Carolina.

There will be a registration fee of Twenty (20) dollars.

75.07 GENERAL OPERATIONS

- A)** Golf carts may be operated only from one hour after sunrise to one hour before sunset.
- B)** Golf cart drivers shall have a valid driver's license and in no case be under the age of 16.
- C)** Golf cart drivers shall stay on the far right of the road and shall yield to the

right-of-way of overtaking vehicles.

- D)** The maximum occupancy of a golf cart traveling on a public street shall be one person per seat. *(e.g. the baggage /storage area that is typical on most golf carts shall not be used as a passenger area.)*
- E)** All applicable state laws concerning possession and use of alcoholic beverages or any other intoxicating substances shall apply to golf cart drivers and passengers.
- F)** Golf Cart shall be operated in accordance with all applicable state and local laws. Golf carts will be subject to the same right-of-way ,maneuvering ,and operating laws as those that apply to motor vehicles ,except as otherwise noted herein;
- G)** Golf Carts may not be operated on public streets during inclement weather unless the golf cart is equipped with a windshield , operating windshield wipers and headlights ; and
- H)** No golf Cart shall be operated at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent for the then existing conditions ,and in no event at a speed greater than twenty (20) miles per hour.

76.08 ENFORCEMENT

Violation of any provision of this ordinance shall constitute an misdemeanor, the maximum penalty for which shall be fifty (\$50.00) dollars.

Notwithstanding the foregoing ,persons who, while driving a Golf Carts on public streets with in the Town of Cooleemee, violate the "Rules of the Road" applicable to motor vehicles generally (as set firth in Part 10 of the North Carolina General Statutes , Chapter 20) shall be subjected to the same penalties applicable to the operators of such other motor vehicles.

(Ordinance passed 8-18-2014)

