

**ORDINANCE: 18-03-12**  
**ADOPTED: 18-03-13**  
**EFFECTIVE: 18-03-13**

**The City of Oxford, North Carolina Golf Cart Ordinance**  
**G.S. 160A-300.6 – City Ordinance Chapter 20 Article 1 Section 17**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT REGARDING GOLF CART USE ON ROADS WITHIN THE CITY**

The establishment of a golf cart ordinance is necessary to address the interests of public safety within the City of Oxford (the “City” hereinafter). Golf carts, generally, are not designed or manufactured to be used on public streets, roads, and highways, (“road(s) hereinafter). The City of Oxford in no way advocates or endorses their operation on roads. The City of Oxford, by regulating such operation by this Ordinance, is addressing obvious safety issues with respect to operation of golf carts on roads and adoption of this Ordinance is not to be relied upon as a determination that operation on roads is safe or advisable, even if done in accordance with this Ordinance. All persons who operate or ride upon carts on roads do so at their own risk and peril and must be observant of and attentive to the safety of themselves and others, including their passengers, other motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The City of Oxford has no liability under any theory of liability for permitting golf carts to be operated on roads under special legislation granted by the State Legislature. Any person who operates a golf cart must procure liability insurance sufficient to cover the risks involved in using a golf cart on the roads of the City of Oxford.

(A) **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Ordinance shall be to regulate the use of golf carts on roads within the City of Oxford; to promote the health, safety and welfare of persons operating cart(s) within the City of Oxford; and to protect the safety of their passengers and other users of roads within the City.

(B) **DEFINITIONS:** For the purpose of this section, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings.

1. **Golf Cart:** A vehicle 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. G.S. 20-4.01(12a).
2. **Driver’s License:** A valid license issued by the State of North Carolina, or any other state, to operate a motor vehicle on the roadways of North Carolina.
3. **Financial Responsibility:** Liability insurance coverage on a golf cart in an amount not less than that required by North Carolina law for motor vehicles operated on public highways in the State of North Carolina.
4. **Operator:** Only persons over 16 years of age and holding a current, valid driver’s license may operate a golf cart on roads.

**Section 1: Rules and Regulations for Golf Cart Use on Roads within the City**

1. Golf carts shall not be operated on or alongside any public road or street with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or greater.
2. Golf carts may cross a road with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or greater but only as provided for herein. Once this segment of road has been transversed, the golf cart is still required to travel only on or along a roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less. Golf carts must cross in a manner that is the most direct route in order to decrease crossing distance, i.e. no riding along a road or crossing at an angle. Under no circumstance is a golf cart allowed to cross a controlled access highway (i.e. interstate

highway) other than at bridges which cross over or under a controlled access highway.

3. Any person who operates a golf cart shall be responsible for all liability associated with operation of the golf cart and must have liability insurance coverage which provides coverage for the use of a golf cart in an amount not less than required by North Carolina law for motor vehicles operated on highways in the State of North Carolina. Any person who operates a golf cart must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. No person may operate a golf cart unless that person possesses at the time of operation, a valid, current driver's license issued by the State of North Carolina or some other state and then, only in accordance with such valid driver's license. Golf cart operators must carry their driver's license on their person at all times while operating a golf cart on roads.
4. Any person who operates a golf cart on roads must adhere to all applicable State and local laws, regulations and ordinances, including but not limited to those prohibiting the possession and use of alcoholic beverages, and all other illegal drugs. In addition, possession of an open container of alcohol on golf carts being operated on roads is prohibited.
5. The operator of the golf cart shall comply with all traffic rules and regulations adopted by the State of North Carolina and the City of Oxford which govern the operation of motor vehicles.
6. An operator may not allow the number of people in the golf cart at any one time to exceed the maximum capacity specified by the manufacturer. The operator shall not allow passengers to ride on any part of a golf cart not designed to carry passengers, such as the part of the golf cart designed to carry golf bags.
7. Golf carts must be operated at the right edge of the roadway and must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
8. The maximum speed limit for operation of golf carts on roads shall be 20 miles per hour. In addition, no golf cart shall be operated at a speed or in a manner greater than reasonable and prudent for the conditions existing at the time of operation.
9. Golf carts must park in designated spaces in such a manner that multiple golf carts can utilize the space. All parking rules and limits apply. No parking on sidewalks is allowed.
10. Golf carts must have basic equipment supplied by the manufacturer, including a vehicle identification or serial number. Such equipment must include all safety devices as installed by said manufacturer, including rear view mirror and a rear triangle reflector of the same type required by North Carolina law.
11. Golf carts without lights may be operated only during daylight hours. Golf carts meeting the requirements set forth below may operate at any time:
  - a. Golf carts having two (2) operating headlights, one on each side of the front of the golf cart and two (2) operating tail lights, one on each side of the rear of the cart, all four (4) lights must be visible from a distance of 500 feet; and
  - b. A mechanical turn signal indicator.

**Section 2: Registration, Inspection and Fee Prior to Usage**

1. All golf carts must be registered with the City of Oxford by completion and submission of an application approved by the City. The applicant must provide a copy of a current, valid driver's license issued by the State of North Carolina or other state. Before driving on public roads, the operator of a golf cart must have a valid issued registration.
2. Each owner must have proof of ownership, and liability insurance, and a completed Waiver of Liability, releasing the City from liability that may arise as a result of operation of a golf cart inside the City limits. These documents must be in the golf cart at all times while in operation on public roads.
3. All golf carts must meet the requirements or minimum standards of safety equipment as set forth above in this Ordinance.
4. All golf cart operators must present a valid driver/s license while operating a golf cart on a public road.
5. The registration sticker shall be valid for no more than one year and must be visible on the golf cart.
6. Lost or stolen permits/stickers are the sole responsibility of the owner and must be replaced before the golf cart is operated on a public road.
7. Each Golf Cart permitted and registered under the provisions of this Ordinance shall pay a \$50.00 per year registration fee.

**Section 3: Enforcement**

Violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed an infraction in accordance with Chapter 20 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the maximum penalty for which shall be \$75.00 plus applicable court cost.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, do certify that I have read and understand the Golf Cart Ordinance that was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners in an official meeting of said Board held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date