

Town of Newton Grove Golf Cart Ordinance

Rules and Regulations

Golf Carts may be operated on streets within the Town of Newton Grove in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- I. Golf Carts, and otherwise defined as Low Speed Vehicles, as defined by North Carolina General Statute 20-4.01(27)h, that are currently in compliance with ALL STATE LAWS related to their operation, registration, and insurance requirements, and are operated by licensed drivers will be exempt from this ordinance.

- II. Other Golf Carts/UTV's and Low Speed Vehicles not in compliance with NC General Statutes that operate on a street or public vehicular area within the Town of Newton Grove will be subject to an annual inspection by the Chief of Police, or his designee. After successfully completing the inspection process, the operator may receive a Town of Newton Grove Golf Cart/UTV's Permit/Sticker, which must be applied to the Golf Cart//UTV by the Chief of Police, or his designee, to insure that the Permit/Sticker is applied in the most conspicuous location on the Golf Cart.

- III. The inspection by the Chief of Police, or his designee, will cover the following safety requirements, and every Golf Cart operating on Town of Newton Grove streets must have the following safety equipment:
 - a. Permits/Stickers will be issued to operators of ELECTRIC AND GAS-POWERED GOLF CARTS and UTV's.

 - b. Each owner must have proof of ownership, and a completed Waiver of Liability, releasing the Town of Newton Grove, its employees, and affiliates from all liability that may arise as a result of operating a Golf Cart inside the Town of Newton Grove. A current Waiver of Liability must be on file with the Town of Newton Grove and must be renewed annually.

 - c. All Golf Carts and UTV's must meet the requirements or minimum standard of safety equipment, to wit: Rear View Mirror, Lap Belts and Child Restraints for use while the vehicle is in motion, head lights, tail lights, a Reflective "Slow Moving Vehicle" Sign Affixed on the Rear of the Golf Cart and a rear facing strobe light.

 - d. All golf cart operators must possess a valid driver's license, except any 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. The medical or physical condition must be evidenced with a professionally certified mental phobia or physical condition which, although it prevents them from driving a licensed motor vehicle, would not prevent the safe operation of a golf cart and said certification must be provided from a medical professional. 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.

e. Golf Carts/UTV's, by design, are equipped to seat a certain number of passengers. Each Golf Cart differs in that it may accommodate 2 to 6 passengers, generally. This section is designed to regulate overcrowding or reckless operation of a Golf Cart; therefore, no passengers are permitted to stand on a golf cart/UTV while it is in operation.

f. All operators must provide a minimum of liability insurance on any Golf Cart prior to inspection.

g. Permits/Stickers will be issued annually and are valid from July 1st of each year. The following fees shall apply:

1. Inspection by Police Department (Includes Permit/Sticker) \$40 Annually

2. Re-Inspection by Police Department \$10.00 (If a Golf Cart fails the initial inspection)

h. Lost or Stolen Permit/Stickers are the responsibility of the owner. A Police report must be filed in the event of a Lost or Stolen Permit/Sticker. The Chief of Police will have the discretion in determining whether a Permit/Sticker may be re-issued in this instance. If no record can be found of a previous application, or the receipt of a Permit/Sticker, the Chief of Police may direct the applicant to reapply, and also resubmit any and all fees necessary, before a replacement Permit/Sticker is issued.

IV. Any person who operates a Golf Cart/UTV in the Town of Newton Grove, and fails to receive or properly display a Town of Newton Grove Permit/Sticker will be subject to the state law requiring registration, insurance, and any other applicable laws, in addition to being in violation of this ordinance.

V. Golf Carts/UTV's will be subject to the traffic laws of North Carolina:

a. All operators must adhere to ALL LAWS that apply to normal vehicle operation, to wit: Stop Signs, Stop Lights, One-Way Streets, etc. All alcohol and drug laws will also apply.

b. Golf Carts/UTV's will adhere to all traffic flow patterns and will operate on the right side of the roadway.

c. Golf Cart/UTV's operators must yield the right of way to any overtaking vehicles.

d. Golf Carts/UTV's shall not be operated on private property, without the permission and consent of the property owner

VI. Golf Carts/UTV's that are issued permits to operate under this ordinance may only be used from Sunrise to 30 minutes prior to Sunset. NO operation after 30 minutes prior to sunset is allowed.

VI. Speed Limit: The maximum speed limit for golf carts and UTV's will be 25mph.

- VII. Liability Disclaimer – This ordinance is adopted to address the interests of public safety. Golf carts/UTV's are not designed, or manufactured to be used on public streets, and the town in no way advocates or endorses their operation on public streets or roads. The town, by regulating such operation, is merely trying to address obvious safety issues, and adoption of this ordinance is not to be relied upon as a determination that operation on a public street or public vehicular area is safe or advisable, if done in accordance with this ordinance. All persons who operate or ride upon golf carts on public streets or public vehicular areas 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 town has no liability under any theory of liability, and the town assumes no liability, for permitting golf carts to be operated on the public streets and public vehicular areas, under special legislation granted by the state's legislature. Any person who operates a golf cart is responsible for procuring liability insurance sufficient to cover the risk involved in using a golf cart or UTV's on the public streets and public vehicular areas of the town.

Golf cart: A four-wheel 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

UTV: The side-by-side (SxS or SSV), also called a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) or recreational off-highway vehicle (ROV), is a small, 2- to 4-person two or four-wheel drive off-road vehicle. **For the purpose of this ordinance a UTV must have a utility bed affixed from the factory.**

Examples of a UTV that is permitted are as follows include but not limited to: Polaris Ranger, John Deere Gator, Kubota RTV, Yamaha Viking, Kawasaki Mule, Bobcat 3650

Recreational and Performance UTV's are not a part of or regulated in this ordinance.