

City of Sweeny

Golf Cart Rules & Regulations

(Per City Ordinance No. 101-20; Chapter 77)

The following sections enumerate the rule and regulations of the City of Sweeny Golf Cart Ordinance.

SECTION 1: PERMIT REQUIRED

SECTION 2: FEE REQUIRED

SECTION 3: DRIVER'S LICENSE & INSURANCE REQUIRED

SECTION 4: REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

SECTION 5: OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS

SECTION 6: NON-TRANSFERRABLE PERMIT

SECTION 7: REVOCATION OF PERMIT

SECTION 8: PENALTY

SECTION 9: SIGNATORY PAGE AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

SECTION 1: Permit Required

Before any golf cart may be operated on the streets and highways of the city, it must be registered with and provided a permit by the police department of the city.

Permits shall be effective for one year from the date of issuance or until such time as revoked for non-compliance or when the golf cart is transferred to a new owner.

SECTION 2: Fee Required

- A permit fee of \$50.00 is required for the initial registration, and a \$50.00 annual renewal fee is required for each subsequent registration.

Please make check or money order payable to City of Sweeny.

SECTION 3: Driver License & Insurance Required

- DRIVER LICENSE** --- All operators of golf carts shall be licensed to operate a motor vehicle as provided by the Texas Transportation Code and shall carry a valid driver's license while operating the golf cart.

Please attach a copy of your driver license with this registration packet.

- INSURANCE** --- The golf cart must be insured to minimum standards (liability insurance) consistent with the minimum requirements of the Texas Transportation Code for the operation of motor vehicles.

Please attach a copy of your insurance with this registration packet.

SECTION 4: Required Equipment

The following listed equipment is required. A police officer will inspect the golf cart as part of the permit process. If the required equipment is not present, a permit will not be issued.

- SLOW MOVING VEHICLE EMBLEM** --- Golf carts shall display a 'slow moving vehicle' emblem that has a reflective surface designed to be clearly visible in daylight and at night from the light of standard automobile headlamps at a distance of at least 500 feet (as provided for in Sections 551.404 and 547.703, Texas Transportation Code, and shall be mounted base down on the rear of the vehicle at a height of three to five feet above the road surface and shall be maintained in a clean, reflective condition.
- HEAD LAMPS** --- Golf carts shall be equipped with two head lamps.
- TAIL LAMPS** --- Golf carts shall be equipped with two tail lamps.
- TURN SIGNAL LAMPS** --- Golf carts shall be equipped with front and rear turn signal lamps.
- REAR VIEW MIRRORS** --- Rear view exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the vehicle and either (1) an exterior rear-view mirror mounted on the passenger side of the vehicle or (2) an interior rear-view mirror.
- PARKING BRAKE** --- Golf carts shall be equipped with a parking brake.
- WINDSHIELD** --- Golf carts shall be equipped with a windshield.
- SEAT BELTS** --- Golf carts shall be equipped with seat belts.
- VIN** --- Golf carts shall be equipped with a vehicle identification number (VIN).
- RED REFLECTORS or TAPE** --- Golf carts shall be equipped with one of the following: (1) one red reflector on each side as far to the rear as

practicable or (2) red and white reflective tape one-inch width parallel with the lower portion of the golf cart.

- EXHAUST SYSTEM** --- Every golf cart powered by gasoline shall, at all times, be equipped with an exhaust system in good working order and shall comply with all state, federal and city regulations.
- 25 MPH MAX SPEED** --- Golf carts which have been altered to allow them to travel at speeds greater than 25 mph are prohibited.

SECTION 5: Operation of Golf Carts

The following rules apply to the operation of golf carts in the City of Sweeny. Violations of these rules may be grounds for the revocation of the permit.

1. **OBEY ALL TRAFFIC LAWS** --- All operators of golf carts shall abide by all traffic regulations applicable to vehicular traffic when using any public roadway in the city, including proof of financial responsibility (vehicle insurance), the use of seat belts and the prohibition of alcohol open containers.
2. **SIDEWALKS** --- Golf carts shall not be operated on public sidewalks at any time.
3. **ROADWAYS** --- Golf carts may only be operated upon a public street with a posted speed limit of not more than 30 mph unless otherwise restricted. Golf carts will not be allowed to operate on a state highway, specifically FM 1459 and FM 524, unless crossing at a controlled intersection or permitted functions such as parades. Golf carts will not be allowed to operate on CR 332 except between the Texas Avenue and Camellia Street intersections and between the Azalea Street and Forest Park Court Street intersections.
4. **CROSSING ROADWAYS** --- A golf cart may cross a street or highway with a posted speed limit of more than 30 mph if such crossing occurs at an intersection, such crossing is perpendicular to (directly across) the street or highway with a posted speed limit of more than 25 mph, and such crossing is controlled by stop lights.
5. **MULTI-LANE ROADWAYS** --- The operator of a golf cart on a public street may cross a multi lane or a county or state route only at a signalized intersection.
6. **FULL USE OF ROADWAY** --- All golf carts are entitled to a full use of a lane on a public street and no motor vehicle shall be operated in such a manner as to deprive any golf cart of the full use of the lane.

7. **PASSING** --- The operator of a golf cart shall not overtake or pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.
8. **BETWEEN LANES** --- No operator shall operate a golf cart between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines of rows of vehicles.
9. **YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY** --- Golf carts shall move to the right and yield right of way to faster moving vehicles.
10. **TOWING PROHIBITED** --- Golf carts are prohibited from towing any other device or vehicles, including but not limited to skateboards, scooters, trailers, boats and jet skis.
11. **SEATING CAPACITY** --- The operator and every occupant of a golf cart shall be limited to the seating capacity as designed by the manufacturer and all occupants shall remain seated in a seat designed to hold passengers while the golf cart is in motion.
12. **CHILD SAFETY SEAT** --- Children under the age of five years may not ride on a golf cart unless they are in a child safety system (seat) required by law for motor vehicles.

SECTION 6: Non-Transferrable Permit

The city registration permit is not transferrable. Upon transfer of ownership to another person who intends to operate the golf cart in the city, the new owner must register the golf cart in his or her name and pay the required permit fee as outlined in this article.

SECTION 7: Revocation of Permit

The registration permit may be revoked if:

1. The owner or operator of the golf cart fails to abide by the rules and regulations of this ordinance.
2. The owner or operator is found operating the golf cart upon a public roadway without liability insurance.
3. The owner or operator of the golf cart fails to abide by the traffic laws.
4. The owner or operator of the golf cart operates the golf cart in an unauthorized area.

SECTION 8: Penalty

Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined in an amount of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per offense. Each violation of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

Furthermore, any person who violates traffic law while operating a golf cart may be ticketed for the violation of traffic law (running a stop sign, for example) and also for violating this ordinance.

SECTION 9: Signatory Page & Compliance Statement

The City of Sweeny has enacted this Golf Cart Ordinance on behalf of the citizens of this community as an ecofriendly alternative to traditional passenger vehicles. In doing so, the city also understands that golf carts are inherently less safe and more prone to passenger ejection and injuries when operated on public roadways.

The City of Sweeny hopes that by enacting strict legislation requiring additional safety equipment to be installed on golf carts and by providing these rules of operation, the chances of serious injuries will be reduced.

I hereby agree to comply with the rules and regulations of the City of Sweeny Golf Cart Ordinance. I understand that only by my compliance with these rules and regulations will my ability to operate a golf cart in Sweeny be permitted. I furthermore understand that violations of these rules and regulations subject me to criminal penalties under the laws of the State of Texas and the City of Sweeny.

Signature _____ Date _____