

South Carolina Golf Cart Laws

Who Can Drive a Golf Cart in South Carolina?

Only licensed drivers 16 years of age or older. That means that it is illegal for young children or unlicensed drivers to drive a golf cart on a public road (which includes your neighborhood). It doesn't matter if you're seated next to your child; they still can't drive. Also, if your child has an accident, you can be criminally liable for endangering your child and civilly liable for "negligent entrustment" for any accident caused by your child.

Do I Need to Register My Golf Cart in South Carolina?

Golf carts must have a permit decal and proper registration issued from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Registration requires proof of ownership and liability insurance for the golf cart. The registration fee is \$5. Permits are valid for 5 years or until the permit holder changes their address. Validation decals are issued for a period of 12 months, except for carts which do not require the payment of property taxes.

Where and When Can I Drive a Golf Cart in South Carolina?

During certain holidays such as Halloween, I frequently see neighbors pile themselves and their kids on a golf cart to drive through the neighborhood. In South Carolina, you can only drive a golf cart during DAYLIGHT hours. During these hours, you can drive on secondary highways or streets with a speed limit of 35 mph or less.

You can cross a highway or street at an intersection even if the highway or street being crossed has a speed limit of greater than 35 mph. However, you can't go too far. Specifically, you must stay:

- Within four miles of the address on the registration certificate,
- Within four miles of a point of ingress or egress to a gated community, or
- On an island not accessible by a bridge designed for use by automobiles.

A local ordinance (such as a county or city ordinance) can reduce the distances above down from four miles, but can't reduce it less than two miles, so if you are traveling more than two miles from your house or entrance to the gated neighborhood, make sure there are no local laws prohibiting this.

What Happens if I Violate South Carolina's Golf Cart Laws?

As of November 19, 2018, violation of South Carolina's golf cart laws is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$100 or 30 days in jail.

Do I Need to Keep Anything with Me While Driving My Golf Cart in South Carolina?

Yes, you need to have at all times while driving on a road:

- The registration certificate issued by the DMV,
- Proof of liability insurance, and
- Your driver's license.

Are There Any Special Laws Regarding Driving a Golf Cart in South Carolina?

Other than the distance limitations above, golf carts are subject to the same laws as normal motor vehicles. Do not think you have right-of-way simply because you are driving a low-speed vehicle. And be very careful. If you get in a wreck, regardless of who's fault it is, the injuries could be terrible.

Source: <https://www.charlestonlaw.net/golf-cart-laws-in-south-carolina>

How Do I get A Golf Cart Permit in South Carolina?

- Complete the [Golf Cart Permit Registration \(SCDMV Form GC-2\)](#)
- Provide proof of liability insurance for the Golf Cart.
- Provide your valid SC driver's license number.
- Pay \$5 Registration Fee.

www.scdmvonline.com



South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles
GOLF CART PERMIT DECAL AND REGISTRATION APPLICATION

GC-2
(Rev. 4/18)

Select the service type below:

- First-time Applicant \$5** – the Golf Cart is not currently registered
- Renewal \$5** – the Golf Cart permit was issued more than 5 years ago or is now expired
- Replace Permit Decal \$5** – the permit decal on the Golf Cart is missing or damaged
- Replace Permit Registration \$1** – the existing Permit Registration is lost and/or stolen
- Duplicate Permit Registration \$1** – an additional Permit Registration is required

GOLF CART IDENTIFICATION		
Vehicle Identification Number (if applicable)	Make	Year Make
OWNER INFORMATION		
I certify that this golf cart is owned by:		
Owner Complete Legal Name (Last, First, Middle)	SC Customer Number	Driver License Number
Co-Owner Complete Legal Name (Last, First, Middle)	Co-Owner SC Customer Number	Co-Owner Driver License Number
Residential Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Additional Operating Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
INSURANCE CERTIFICATION		
Under penalties of perjury, I declare this vehicle is insured with the company named below and I will maintain liability insurance throughout the registration period.		
Name of Insurance Company		
Signature of Owner		Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I wish to donate \$5.00, more or less, to Donate Life S.C. Amount of donation \$ _____.		
OPERATING RESTRICTIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Permit Registration must be carried when the golf cart is operated. To be operated during daylight hours only. Operator must have a valid driver's license and must be at least sixteen years of age. The driver's license must be in the operator's possession. May be driven on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty-five miles an hour or less, within 4 miles of residential or additional address noted above. May cross a highway or street at an intersection where the highway has a posted speed limit of more than thirty-five miles an hour. Upon sale of the golf cart, immediately notify the Department of Motor Vehicles in writing giving the name and address of the new owner, with date of sale. Remove the assigned permit decal from the golf cart upon sale. 		
Owner's Signature		Date
<u>DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE</u>		
Audit No. _____	Office/Specialist Code _____	Date of Issue _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS DOCUMENT TO:
 South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV)
 P.O. Box 1498
 Blythewood, SC 29016 - 0024