

VILLAGE OF LAKE ODESSA
Golf Cart Ordinance

Definitions.

Decal means the sticker displayed on the front of every registered golf cart within the Village, which are obtained by completing and submitting the proper registration form to the Lake Odessa Police Department.

Driver license means an operator's or chauffeur's license or permit issued to an individual by the Secretary of State under Chapter III of the Michigan Vehicle Code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.301 to MCL 257.329, as amended, for that individual to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.

Golf cart means a vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf. Off-road vehicles, such as Gators, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), a multitrack or multi-wheel drive vehicle, dune buggy, snowmobiles, or like-vehicles are not considered golf carts.

Maintained portion means that portion of a road improved, designated, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic.

Operate means to ride in or on, or be in actual physical control of the operation of the golf cart.

Operator means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of the operation of a golf cart.

Registration means the process through which every person intending to operate a motorized golf cart on roads or streets within the Village must follow.

Street means a road, roadway, street, or right-of-way within the Village of Lake Odessa street system, but does not include a private road. The terms road, roadway, street, and right-of-way are interchangeable.

Sunset and *sunrise* mean that time determined by the National Weather Service on any given day.

Village means the Village of Lake Odessa, Ionia County, State of Michigan.

Operation of golf carts on Village streets.

A person may operate a golf cart on Village streets, subject to the following restrictions:

- A. A person shall not operate a golf cart on any street unless he or she is at least sixteen (16) years old and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle. The operator of a golf cart shall carry their driver's license on their person at all times while operating a golf cart within the Village.
- B. The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal (hand or mechanical) requirements of MCL 257.648, as amended, that apply to the operation of a vehicle.

- C. All golf carts are required to have a red reflector on the rear of the golf cart that shall be visible from all distances up to 500 feet when in front of lawful low beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle.
- D. The operator of a golf cart shall obey by all sections pertaining to traffic in the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Uniform Traffic Code, including, but not limited to, the prohibition on operating a vehicle while intoxicated under MCL 257.625 and the prohibition on transporting or possessing an open alcohol container in a motor vehicle under MCL 257.624a.
- E. A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
- F. A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway. This subsection does not prohibit a person from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart on a street of the Village, using the most direct line of crossing.
- G. Where a usable and designated path for golf carts is provided adjacent to a road or street, a person operating a golf cart shall be required to use that path. A golf cart shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians.
- H. A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic, but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a two-way street, or on the left or right of traffic, in an unoccupied lane, in the case of a one-way street.
- I. A golf cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour and shall not be operated on a roadway or street with a speed limit of more than 30 miles per hour.
- J. A golf cart shall not be operated on the streets of the Village during the time period from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise.
- K. A golf cart shall not be used to carry more than four (4) persons at one time or more than the number for which it is designed and equipped, if designed or equipped to carry less than four (4) persons.
- L. A golf cart operated on a street of the Village is not required to be registered under this Act for purposes of Section 3101 of the Insurance Code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3101, as amended.
- M. A golf cart shall not be operated during weather events with snow and/or ice on roadways.
- N. Golf carts shall not be operated on a road or street in a negligent manner, endangering any person or property, or obstructing, hindering, or impeding the lawful course of travel of any motor vehicle or the lawful use by any pedestrian of public streets, sidewalks, paths, trails, walkways, or parks.
- O. Each owner or operator of a golf cart operating on Village streets must have proof of liability insurance and a completed Waiver of Liability in the form prescribed by the

Village. Such documents must be in the golf cart at all times while in operation on Village streets.

- P. While the golf cart is in motion, the operator and all passengers shall remain seated in seating designed and manufactured for operators and passengers.
- Q. Golf Carts are prohibited from operating:
 - (i) on Jordan Lake Avenue, except for the section of Jordan Lake Avenue that is south of Emerson Street;
 - (ii) in any public park or recreation area, except when parking in designated parking areas associated with such parks or recreation areas;
 - (iii) on unpaved alleys; or
 - (iv) on private property without the consent of the property owner or his or her agent.

Parking.

The stopping, standing, and parking regulations provided in the Village Code shall also apply to golf carts operated in the Village, as if they are motor vehicles under those provisions.

Registration and decals.

- A. Golf cart owners shall register each golf cart by making application to the Lake Odessa Police Department. Such application shall include proof of insurance as a rider to a homeowner's or renter's policy, or in any other form of policy selected by the applicant, for coverage of personal injury or property damage resulting from operation of the subject golf cart. The minimum amount of coverage shall be no less than \$300,000.00. The Lake Odessa Police Department shall review and approve or deny each application, and provide a list of registered golf carts to the Village Manager.
- B. There shall be no charge for the registration of a golf cart, and each approved golf cart shall be issued a registration decal. The golf cart owner shall affix each decal provided by the Lake Odessa Police Department on a clearly visible place on the back of the golf cart.
- C. Failure to register a golf cart shall constitute a violation of this article. Lost or stolen registration stickers are the sole responsibility of the owner and must be replaced and visible as required by this article before the golf cart is operated on a Village street.
- D. The Lake Odessa Police Department retains the right to refuse to issue and/or to revoke a registration decal from any golf cart for any reason that is deemed appropriate to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of the Village.
- E. Any police officer may temporarily suspend a registration decal, and ban further access on any public street or public property by any golf cart, when in the opinion of that officer the golf cart is being used in a manner to cause damage to public property or members of the public.

Public Officials.

This article does not apply to police officers, Village officials, employees, contractors, or volunteers during the performance of official Village duties.

Violation.

- A. Any person violating any provisions of this article shall be responsible for a civil infraction. Notwithstanding any other provision in the Village Code, the penalty for the first offense shall be \$50.00, and \$100.00 for the first repeat offense. For any second or subsequent repeat offense, the fine shall be \$250.00.
- B. A court may order a person who causes damage to the environment, a road, or other public property as a result of the operation of a golf cart to pay full restitution for that damage above and beyond the penalties paid for civil infractions.