

## **Golf Carts**

In the State of North Carolina, if a golf cart is to be operated on the *streets, highways or public vehicular areas*, it is considered a *motor vehicle* and subject to all laws, rules and regulations that govern motor vehicles. In short, the golf cart must have all of the following:

- Headlights
- Tail lights
- Turn signals
- Rear view mirrors
- State Inspection Sticker
- License Plate Issued by NCDMV
- Liability Insurance
- The driver must have a current, valid Driver's License
- Child Restraint Laws must be followed

Since most Golf carts are purchased and a bill of sale is given to the buyer, the owner must apply for a title through the NC License Plate Office. In order to receive a title through this agency, you must have a notarized bill of sale and proof of liability insurance. If the golf cart is purchased from a dealer, you must also have the certificate of origin for the vehicle. All of the streets in the Town (including the side streets) are considered *streets or public vehicular areas* according to the State Law. This means that to operate a golf cart anywhere in the Town of White Lake, you must meet the standards above. Also, golf carts may not be operated on streets with posted speed limit greater than 35 mph.

### **Golf Cart/Low Speed Vehicles**

The operation of low-speed vehicles is governed by North Carolina State Statute G.S. 20-121.1.

#### OPERATION OF A LOW-SPEED VEHICLE ON CERTAIN ROADWAYS

1. A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.
2. This does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
3. A low-speed vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number.
4. A low-speed vehicle shall be registered and insured in accordance with G.S. 20-50 and G.S. 20-309.

5. The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles on any road or highway if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

6. Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 C.F. R. § 571.500. (2001-356, s.5.)