



Trout Valley Association Golf Cart Guidelines

Revised: 26-August-2015

BE AWARE – The McHenry County Sheriff can issue tickets for non-compliant golf cars and unlicensed drivers.

The Village and Association boards have continued to discuss the best ways to ensure the safe integration of golf carts in our community. With more and more residents relying on golf carts to get around Trout Valley, in 2011 and with revisions in 2012, recommendations were made regarding the use of golf carts in our community. Due to continued safety concerns, as well as to accommodate residents' concerns, the Association upholds these recommendations for golf carts.

The Village and Association boards have agreed to the following guidelines for use of golf carts:

- Signs are being posted at entrances cautioning that there are golf carts on the roads
- Golf carts should meet certain requirements to be driven in Trout Valley – see details below
- All golf carts must be properly insured
- Owner's lot number must be displayed on the back of cart; min of 3-inch high with reflective numbers
- Golf carts must be operated in a responsible and proper manner, following established IL Rules of the Road, which require drivers be licensed

We encourage the responsible use of golf carts in our community. Golf cart owners are expected to comply with these requirements. Please help to keep Trout Valley safe for everyone.

Contact the Association President or the Village Mayor with any questions.

Golf carts should have the following functional equipment:

- Rear-view mirror
- Head lights
- Tail lights
- Brakes and brake lights
- Turn signals and flashers
- Horn
- Reflectors on front and back
- "Slow Moving Vehicle" emblem on the rear of the vehicle

Golf Carts – Frequently Asked Questions

Does the State of IL allow golf carts to be driven on streets?

Yes - State law permits local governing bodies to allow golf carts on local streets under certain circumstances. They may operate only on streets with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less, the drivers must have valid Illinois drivers' licenses, and the vehicles must have brakes, steering, a rear-view mirror, headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, reflectors on the front and back, and "slow-moving vehicle" signs in the rear. Although Trout Valley's streets are private, for the protection and safety of the community, the State's requirements are being enforced.

If an underage driver is ticketed driving a golf cart, would it affect their ability to become a licensed driver at 16?

It's up to a Judge – so the answer is "Maybe".

What is the difference between a golf cart and a Low-speed vehicle (LSV)?

Low-speed vehicles (LSV) can be driven on any road with a posted speed limit of 30 mph or less, as long as they are titled and registered with the Secretary of State's Office. LSVs are defined as any self-propelled 4-wheeled vehicle with an engine displacement under 1200cc that can reach a speed of 20 to 25 mph and which conforms to federal regulations. LSVs have vehicle identification numbers. The State of IL requires they be licensed by the DMV.

Most golf carts do not qualify as low-speed vehicles. Golf carts do not have a vehicle identification number and do not meet all of the safety requirements required for an LSV, such as a windshield, seat belts, tip-over protection and four-wheel brakes.