

Virginia Beach City Codes Relating to the Beach & Golf Carts

Sec. 6-2. - Obstructing beach.

It shall be unlawful for any person to put, place or set any equipment, such as dugouts, chairs, umbrellas, windbreakers, surfboards, air floats, life rafts or similar paraphernalia not actually occupied or engaged, or to build or erect any fence or other obstruction on any public sand beach, so as to obstruct, impede or retard the free and unconstrained use and occupancy of such sand beach by the public.

(Code 1965, § 6-3)

Sec. 6-12. - Riding horses or driving vehicles on beach or dunes.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a horse or any other animal or to operate or drive a vehicle of any kind on the sand beaches or upon the sand dunes within the city, except that area between the ocean and sand dunes south of the exit ramp at the southern end of Little Island Recreation Park (now being used as a public way to commute back and forth to a place of residence).

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the police mounted patrol, city vehicles operated while cleaning or working on the beach, police and emergency vehicles, erosion commission vehicles, vehicles of net fishermen operating under proper permits, vehicles operated by physically handicapped persons by permission of the city manager or his designee, or vehicles operated by wildlife rescue workers pursuant to written authorization by the police department's second precinct commander.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply in the resort area to conduct that is explicitly authorized by a special events permit issued pursuant to City Code [Section 4-1](#) or by franchise awarded by the city council.

(Code 1965, § 6-6; Ord. No. 1849, 4-3-89; Ord. No. 2123, 4-28-92; Ord. No. 2927, 2-28-06; Ord. No. 2960, 9-5-06; Ord. No. 2973, 2-27-07; Ord. No. 3028, 6-10-08; Ord. No. 3186, 6-28-11)

Cross reference— Animals, Ch. 5; traffic, [Ch. 21](#).

Sec. 7-3. - Inspections.

A police officer at any time, upon reasonable cause to believe that a bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, motorized skateboard, motorized scooter, golf cart, low-speed vehicle, surrey or moped is unsafe and not equipped as required by this chapter or that the equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair, may require the person riding such wheeled device or vehicle to stop and submit the wheeled device or vehicle to an inspection and such test with reference thereto as may be appropriate.

(Ord. No. 2848, 10-26-04; Ord. No. 2952, 6-27-06)

Sec. 7-65. - Golf cart operation, generally.

No person shall operate a golf cart on or over any highway, bike path or sidewalk in the city except as provided in this article.

(Ord. No. 2848, 10-26-04)

Sec. 7-66. - Designation of City highways for golf cart operation; posting of signs.

(a) Pursuant to Section 46.2-916.2 of the Code of Virginia, city council may authorize by ordinance, the operation of golf carts on designated public highways within the City after (i) considering the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using such highways, and (ii) determining that golf cart operation on particular highways is compatible with state and local transportation plans and consistent with the Commonwealth's statewide pedestrian policy. No City highway shall be designated for use by golf carts if such golf cart operations will impede the safe and efficient flow of motor vehicle traffic, or if the highway's posted speed limit is greater than twenty-five (25) miles per hour.

(b) All requests made to have specific highways designated for golf cart use shall be directed to the Traffic Engineering Office of Public Works.

(c) Any City highway designated for golf cart operations shall be posted with signs indicating this designation. The organization, individual or entity requesting a highway designation allowing golf cart operations shall reimburse the City its actual cost for the installation and continued maintenance of such signs.

(d) The following City streets located in the specified neighborhoods are approved for golf cart operation in accordance with the provisions of this Article:

(1) Heron Ridge Estates—Couples Court, Heron Ridge Lane, Heron Ridge Drive, Lynx Drive, Lynx Court and Ryan Court.

(2) Chubb Lake West of Pleasure House Road—Beaufort Avenue, West Chubb Lake Avenue, Chubb Lake Avenue, Lauderdale Avenue (4800-5100 Blocks), Athens Boulevard, Creek Cove Court, Sunny Circle, Bradpointe Lane, Leatherneck Road, Lookout Road (4800-4900 Blocks), Bradford Point, Bayview Avenue, Guy Avenue, Ocean View Avenue (4900 Block), Lee Avenue (4800 Block), Zivo Court and Lake Drive (4800 Block);

(3) Lago-Mar—Atwoodtown Road, Costa Grande Drive, Camino Real South, Camino Court, Rota Circle, Santa Marta Court, Santa Clara Court, Cinta Court, Granada Court, San Jose Court, San Miguel Court, Sevilla Court, Acapulco Court, Casa Court, Estrella Court, Rio Grande Drive, Rio Grande Court, Pinon Court, Corrente Lane, Escorial Court, La Mirage Court, Los Conaes Way, Trevino Court, Rio Bravo Bend, Santiago Point, Toledo Place, Infanta Circle, Costa Grande Drive, Malaga Lane, Malaga Court, Alcon Court, Soria Circle, Tres Lane, Vaso Court, Toro Court, Amigo Court, Tono Court, Los Colonis Drive, Las Brisas Drive, Baja Court, Sonora Court, Morado Court, La Tierra Court, La Tierra Circle, Las Corrales Court, Brasileno Drive, Brasileno Court, Valiente Court, Esquiana Court, Verano Court, Verano Circle, Belleza Court, Torero Court, Entrada Drive, Rancho Road, Cordova Court, San Marco Road, San Marco Circle and San Marco Court.
(Ord. No. 2848, 10-26-04; Ord. No. 2920, 1-31-06; Ord. No. 3424, 8-4-15)

Sec. 7-67. - Limitations.

Golf cart operations on designated city highways shall be in accordance with the following limitations:

(1) No person shall operate a golf cart on a city highway unless that highway is designated for golf cart operations and is posted with the required sign.

(2) No golf cart shall be driven across any highway at an intersection where the highway being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than twenty-five (25) miles per hour.

(3) No person shall operate any golf cart on any designated city highway unless he has in his possession a valid driver's license.

(4) No golf cart shall be operated on any designated city highway without displaying a slow-moving vehicle emblem in conformity with Virginia Code section 46.2-1081.

(5) No person shall operate any golf cart on any designated city highway between sunset and sunrise, unless equipped with lights as required by section 21-141 of this Code.

(Ord. No. 2848, 10-26-04)

Sec. 7-68. - Exceptions.

The limitations set forth in [section 7-67](#)(1) and (2) above shall not apply to golf carts being operated as follows:

(1) To cross a highway from one (1) portion of a golf course to another portion thereof or to another adjacent golf course; or to travel between a person's home and golf course if (i) the trip would not be longer than one-half mile in either direction, and (ii) the speed limit on the road is no more than thirty-five (35) miles per hour;

(2) To the extent necessary for city employees and city contractors to fulfill a governmental purpose, or as otherwise authorized by the city manager or his designee, provided the golf cart is not operated on a city highway with a posted speed limit over thirty-five (35) miles per hour;

(3) As necessary by employees of public or private two-year or four-year institutions of higher education if operating on highways within the property limits of such institutions, provided the golf cart is being operated on highways with speed limits of thirty-five (35) miles per hour or less.

(Ord. No. 2848, 10-26-04)

§ 46.2-908.2. Low-speed vehicles; required equipment.

Every low-speed vehicle operated upon a highway shall be equipped with head lights, brake lights, tail lights, reflex reflectors, an emergency or parking brake, an externally mounted rearview mirror, an internally mounted rearview mirror, a windshield, one or more windshield wipers, a speedometer, an odometer, braking for each wheel, a safety belt system, and a vehicle identification number.

2002, cc. [214](#), [234](#).

§ 46.2-908.3. Low-speed vehicles; operation on highways; license required; registration required; safety and emissions inspections not required.

Low-speed vehicles may be operated on public highways where the maximum speed limit is no greater than 35 miles per hour, but this limitation shall not prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles across intersections with highways whose maximum speed limits are greater than 35 miles per hour. Operation of low-speed vehicles shall be prohibited on any highway where the Department of Transportation or the local governing body of the locality having control of the highway, as the case may be, has prohibited their operation in the interest of safety and such prohibition is indicated by conspicuously posted signs.

Low-speed vehicles shall be operated on public highways only by persons who hold driver's licenses or learner's permits issued as provided in Chapter 3 (§ [46.2-300](#) et seq.).

Low-speed vehicles shall be titled and registered as provided in Chapter 6 (§ [46.2-600](#) et seq.) and shall be subject to the same requirements as to insurance applicable to other motor vehicles under that chapter.

On or after October 1, 2013, low-speed vehicles titled and registered as provided in Chapter 6 (§ [46.2-600](#) et seq.) shall display license plates as provided in subsection D of § [46.2-711](#).

The operator of any low-speed vehicle being operated on the highways in the Commonwealth shall have in his possession: (i) the registration card issued by the Department or the registration card issued by the state or country in which the low-speed vehicle is registered, and (ii) his driver's license, learner's permit, or temporary driver's permit.

The provisions of Article 22 (§ [46.2-1176](#) et seq.) of Chapter 10 of this title shall not apply to low-speed vehicles.

2002, cc. [214](#), [234](#); 2011, c. [283](#); 2013, c. [783](#).

§ 46.2-916.3. Limitations on golf cart and utility vehicle operations on designated public highways.

A. Golf cart and utility vehicle operations on designated public highways shall be in accordance with the following limitations:

1. A golf cart or utility vehicle may be operated only on designated public highways where the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour or less. However, a golf cart or utility vehicle may cross a highway at an intersection controlled by a traffic light if the highway has a posted speed limit of no more than 35 miles per hour and in the Town of Colonial Beach may cross any highway at an intersection marked as a golf cart crossing by signs posted by the Virginia Department of Transportation;

2. In towns with a population of 2,000 or less, a golf cart or utility vehicle may cross a highway at an intersection conspicuously marked as a golf cart crossing by signs posted by the Virginia Department of Transportation if the highway has a posted speed limit of no more than 35 miles per hour and the crossing is required as the only means to provide golf cart access from one part of the town to another part of the town;

3. No person shall operate any golf cart or utility vehicle on any public highway unless he has in his possession a valid driver's license;

4. Every golf cart or utility vehicle, whenever operated on a public highway, shall display a slow-moving vehicle emblem in conformity with § [46.2-1081](#); and

5. Golf carts and utility vehicles shall be operated upon the public highways only between sunrise and sunset, unless equipped with such lights as are required in Article 3 (§ [46.2-1010](#) et seq.) of Chapter 10 for different classes of vehicles.

B. The limitations of subdivision A 1 shall not apply to golf carts and utility vehicles being operated as follows:

1. To cross a highway from one portion of a golf course to another portion thereof or to another adjacent golf course or to travel between a person's home and golf course if (i) the trip would not be longer than one-half mile in either direction and (ii) the speed limit on the road is no more than 35 miles per hour;

2. To the extent necessary for local government employees, operating only upon highways located within the locality, to fulfill a governmental purpose, provided the golf cart or utility vehicle is being operated on highways with speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less;

3. As necessary by employees of public or private two-year or four-year institutions of higher education if operating on highways within the property limits of such institutions, provided the golf cart or utility vehicle is being operated on highways with speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less;

4. On a secondary highway system component that has a posted speed limit of no more than 35 miles per hour and is within three miles of a motor speedway with a seating capacity of at least

25,000 but less than 90,000 on the same day as any race or race-related event conducted on that speedway; and

5. To the extent necessary for employees of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, operating only on highways located within Department of Conservation and Recreation property or upon Virginia Department of Transportation-maintained highways that are adjacent to Department of Conservation and Recreation property, to fulfill a governmental purpose, provided that the golf cart or utility vehicle is being operated on highways with speed limits of no more than 35 miles per hour.

C. The governing body of any county, city, or town may by ordinance impose additional restrictions or limitations on operations of golf carts, utility vehicles, or both, on public highways within its boundaries, provided that the restrictions or limitations imposed by any such ordinance are no less stringent than the restrictions and limitations contained in this article. In the event that any provision of any such ordinance conflicts with any provision of this section other than subdivision B 5, the provision of the ordinance shall be controlling.

2004, c. [746](#); 2008, c. [456](#); 2009, cc. [743](#), [835](#); 2010, c. [112](#); 2011, cc. [68](#), [140](#), [469](#).

§ 46.2-1010. Equipment required.

Every vehicle driven or moved on a highway within the Commonwealth shall at all times be equipped with such lights as are required in this chapter for different classes of vehicles. The lights shall at all times be capable of being lighted, except as otherwise provided. This section shall not apply, however, to any vehicle for transporting well-drilling machinery licensed under [§ 46.2-700](#) when operated only between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

Code 1950, § 46-264; 1950, p. 690; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-259; 1989, c. 727 .

§ 46.2-1081. Slow-moving vehicle emblems.

A. Every farm tractor, self-propelled unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry, and any other vehicle designed for operation at speeds not in excess of 25 miles per hour or normally operated at speeds not in excess of 25 miles per hour, shall display a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear of the vehicle when traveling on a public highway at any time of the day or night.

B. Should a slow-moving vehicle tow a unit on a public highway, then the towing vehicle or the towed unit shall be equipped with the slow-moving vehicle emblem as follows:

1. If the towed unit or any load thereon obscures the slow-moving vehicle emblem on the towing vehicle, the towed unit shall be equipped with a slow-moving vehicle emblem, in which case the towing vehicle need not display such emblem.

2. If the slow-moving vehicle emblem on the towing vehicle is not obscured by the towed unit or any load thereon, then either or both such vehicles may be equipped with such emblem.

C. The standards and specifications for the slow-moving vehicle emblem and the position of mounting of the emblem shall conform to standards and specifications adopted by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the American National Standards Institute, Inc., or the federal Department of Transportation.

D. The use of the slow-moving vehicle emblem shall be restricted to the uses specified in this title.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to bicycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, or mopeds. Display of a slow-moving vehicle emblem on a bicycle, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped shall not be deemed a violation of this section.

1970, c. 301, § 46.1-264.1; 1972, c. 146; 1978, c. 605; 1989, c. 727; 1996, c. [82](#); 2003, cc. [29](#), [46](#).