

Golf Cart Ordinance FAQ's - Frequently Asked Question

Listed below you will find answers to some frequently asked questions about golf carts in Atlantic Beach. The safety of residents and visitors on our roadways is always our primary concern; so keep in mind that during the summer months, the traffic in Atlantic Beach explodes as visitors flock to our beaches. This means that anyone driving an alternate form of transportation (i.e. golf cart or low-speed vehicle) is placing him/herself and any passengers on busy thoroughfares alongside drivers of full-sized vehicle who may or may not be familiar with our streets. ***Extra caution MUST be used by all!***

- 1. When can I start driving my golf cart on roads in Atlantic Beach?** – Beginning November 2, 2018 the operation of golf carts, in compliance with the provisions of [Ordinance 10-189](#), will be permitted on those public roads in Atlantic Beach with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less.
- 2. Can I drive on the Atlantic Beach Causeway?** –No. For safety reasons, Ordinance 10-189 specifically prohibits golf carts from traveling along the AB Causeway.
- 3. Can I drive on NC 58 (Fort Macon Road)?** – No. Again, for safety reasons, Ordinance 10-189 specifically prohibits golf carts from traveling along NC58 (Fort Macon Road) except when crossing at the following areas:
 - Triple S Marina & Henderson Blvd.
 - Island Quay Drive & Island Quay Court
 - Ocean Ridge Drive & Ocean Ridge Court
 - Charlotte Avenue & NC58 Traffic Light
 - Atlantic Station & Town Park Traffic Light
- 4. If I live on (insert the name of your street here), can I drive my golf cart to the beach/the grocery store/the post office/etc.?** – Maybe. For safety reasons, golf carts are limited to driving on public roads where the speed limit does not exceed 35 mph and specifically prohibited from driving on the AB Causeway and NC 58 except at specific crossings (see questions #2 & #3 above). Click [here \[Link MAPS\]](#) to view a map of the golf cart boundaries by location.
- 5. What do I have to do to make my golf cart legal in Atlantic Beach?** – To drive a golf cart in Atlantic Beach, you must have your cart insured under an auto liability policy, fill out a registration form, pay the registration fee, and pass a safety equipment inspection. These are annual requirements and must be renewed every calendar year. Click [here](#) to access the registration form and a list of fees. Click [here](#) to view the Safety Inspection Process.
- 6. Can I drive my golf cart to the police department and have someone do the safety inspection whenever I get into town?** – No. You cannot drive your golf cart until AFTER you have completed the entire registration process and have an AB Golf Cart License Plate/Annual Registration Decal on your vehicle. Safety Inspections are conducted at your house by appointment only. Please call the AB Police Department at 252-726-2523 during regular business hours to set up an appointment.

7. **I'm just running down to the beach. Can I leave my purse/wallet at home?** – You can leave your purse/wallet at home, but the golf cart driver MUST carry a valid driver's license with them while driving.
8. **Can my 16-year-old grandson drive my golf cart?** – No. Only licensed drivers over 18 years of age can operate golf carts in Atlantic Beach.
9. **Can I park my golf cart on the sidewalk like I park my bike?** – No. Golf carts are more like your family car than a bike. They must follow all of the same parking rules as your car is required to – park in a legal parking spot, pay for parking, etc.
10. **Can I drive my golf cart on the beach during beach driving season if I have a pass?** – No. Golf carts and atv's are not allowed on the beach at any time (except for Town vehicles).
11. **I have an ATV that I want to drive around town; can I register it and do so?** – No. ATV's are not able to be registered under Ordinance 10-189.
12. **I have a Low-Speed Vehicle (it has a license plate issued by the State of NC), are the rules for driving it in AB different than the rules for golf carts?** – Yes. Correctly-licensed Low-Speed Vehicles (LSV's) are allowed to drive on any public road where the speed limit does not exceed 35 mph; this includes NC 58 only during the period of March 15 – October 15 and the AB Causeway year-round. However, these vehicles must also follow all of the operational and parking rules that your family car is required to follow.
13. **Do I have to pay to park my golf cart or low-speed vehicle during the paid parking season?** – Yes. Golf Carts and LSV's are required to park in legal parking spots and to pay for parking if parked in a numbered spot during the paid parking season.
14. **Can I tow my grandson on his skateboard behind my golf cart?** – No. Golf carts may not tow anything – not a trailer, or another cart, or a skateboarder, or a bicyclist. No towing.
15. **I don't really like the color of the AB Golf Cart license plate; do I HAVE to display it on my vehicle?** – Yes. In order to operate your golf cart legally in Atlantic Beach, you must have AND display the license plate issued to you when you register your golf cart.
16. **Can I transport my 6 grandkids on my four-seater golf cart?** – No. All passengers and the golf cart driver must be seated and WEARING SEATBELTS while the cart is in motion. That means that you cannot transport more people than the number of seatbelts.
17. **Who has the right-of-way when I'm driving my golf cart?** – Golf carts must yield the right-of-way to traditional motor vehicles on AB roads.
18. **Can I get a DWI or a parking ticket while operating my cart?** – Yes. All traditional state/local traffic laws apply to carts - so no open containers or consumption of alcohol and park in a legal parking spot.
19. **I have been using my cart in AB for years, what happens if I don't register my golf cart now?** – Unregistered golf carts caught driving on AB roads face a \$50 fine per offense and/or the possibility of being towed at the owner's expense.