



# Guide to Golf Cart and Low-Speed Vehicle Use in Laguna Woods

*The City of Laguna Woods is committed to supporting the mobility of its residents. Over the years, the City has constructed a network of paths and crossings to help facilitate the use of golf carts throughout Laguna Woods. This guide is intended to provide an introduction to where and under what circumstances golf carts and low-speed vehicles (AKA “neighborhood electric vehicles”) can be used.*



# GOLF CARTS

## What is a golf cart?

As defined by the California Vehicle Code (CVC), a golf cart is “a motor vehicle having not less than three wheels in contact with the ground, having an unladen weight less than 1,300 pounds, which is designed to be and is operated at not more than 15 miles per hour and designed to carry golf equipment and not more than two persons, including the driver” (CVC 345).

## Where can a golf cart be driven in Laguna Woods?

### Golf carts **CAN** be driven:

- ✓ On the City’s designated golf cart paths **[SEE MAP]** (*Laguna Woods Municipal Code 8.18.030*);
- ✓ Across the City’s designated golf cart crossings during daylight **[SEE MAP]** (CVC 21115.1); and
- ✓ On private property (CVC 21115). Homeowner’s associations and private property owners may have their own golf cart use regulations, including access, license, and registration requirements. Please check with the appropriate parties prior to using a golf cart on private property.

### Golf carts **CANNOT** be driven:

- ✗ On any roadway or bicycle lane on El Toro Road, Moulton Parkway, Santa Maria Avenue, or Ridge Route Drive (CVC 21716);
- ✗ Across any part of the El Toro Road/Moulton Parkway intersection (CVC 21716, CVC 21663, and *Laguna Woods Municipal Code 8.18.030*);
- ✗ On any sidewalk on El Toro Road, Moulton Parkway, Santa Maria Avenue, or Ridge Route Drive, unless designated as a golf cart path **[SEE MAP]** (CVC 21716, CVC 21663, and *Laguna Woods Municipal Code 8.18.030*);
- ✗ Across any designated golf cart crossing during darkness **[SEE MAP]** (CVC 21115.1); or
- ✗ In City Centre Park, “A Place for Paws” Dog Park, or Woods End Wilderness Preserve (*Laguna Woods Municipal Code 8.18.030*).

## Does golf cart use require a driver's license or registration?

**NO.** Golf cart use does not require a California driver's license or registration with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (CVC 4019).

# YIELD!

Golf carts and low-speed vehicles must yield to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vehicles. Drivers must be mindful of their vehicles’ speed and must respect the safety of others as they pass.



# LOW-SPEED VEHICLES

## What is a low-speed vehicle?

(AKA “neighborhood electric vehicle”)



As defined by the California Vehicle Code (CVC), a low-speed vehicle is “a motor vehicle that meets all of the following requirements: (1) has four wheels, (2) can attain a speed, in one mile, of more than 20 miles per hour and not more than 25 miles per hour, on a level paved surface, and (3) has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 3,000 pounds” (CVC 385.5(a)).

## Where can a low-speed vehicle be driven in Laguna Woods?

### Low-speed vehicles **CAN** be driven:

- ✓ Across the City’s designated golf cart crossings **[SEE MAP]** (CVC 21115.1); and
- ✓ On private property (CVC 21115). Homeowner’s associations and private property owners may have their own low-speed vehicle use regulations, including access, license, and registration requirements. Please check with the appropriate parties prior to using a low-speed vehicle on private property.

### Low-speed vehicles **CANNOT** be driven:

- ✗ On any roadway or bicycle lane on El Toro Road, Moulton Parkway, Santa Maria Avenue, or Ridge Route Drive (CVC 21260);
- ✗ Across any part of the El Toro Road/Moulton Parkway intersection (CVC 21260, CVC 21663, and Laguna Woods Municipal Code 8.18.030);
- ✗ On any sidewalk on El Toro Road, Moulton Parkway, Santa Maria Avenue, or Ridge Route Drive (CVC 21260, CVC 21663, and Laguna Woods Municipal Code 8.18.030);
- ✗ On the City’s designated golf cart paths **[SEE MAP]** (Laguna Woods Municipal Code 8.18.030); or
- ✗ In City Centre Park, “A Place for Paws” Dog Park, or Woods End Wilderness Preserve (Laguna Woods Municipal Code 8.18.030).

## Does low-speed vehicle use require a driver's license or registration?

**YES.** The driver of a low-speed vehicle must have a valid California driver's license and the low-speed vehicle must be registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles prior to any use on public roadways (CVC 12500(a)) or shopping centers (CVC 12500(c)).

Drivers may be held civilly and criminally liable for collisions or other injuries or damage caused by or related to their use of golf carts or low-speed vehicles.

**DRIVE  
SAFELY AND  
RESPONSIBLY!**

## City of Laguna Woods

# Designated Golf Cart Paths & Crossings Map



For more information on California Vehicle Code requirements and other motor vehicle laws pertaining to the use of golf carts and low-speed vehicles, please contact the California Department of Motor Vehicles at (800) 777-0133/TTY (800) 368-4327 or [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov), or private legal counsel.



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