

GOLF CART FAQ

Castle Hills has long been a golf course community. Existing state laws have never been enforced for operation of golf carts within the community. The City of Lewisville (“COL”) has provided law enforcement on a contract basis for 911 calls since 1998. Patrol services, which would include enforcement of existing motor vehicle laws, is not part of that agreement. In recent years the Districts paid for patrol services by police officers, other than COL officers, who did not have jurisdiction to enforce motor vehicle laws in Castle Hills. Numerous questions have arisen regarding golf cart operation as a result of COL now providing patrol services, which began February 2019. They include the following questions:



- WHY NO ENFORCEMENT BEFORE?
 - *PRIVATE POLICE PATROL HAD NO JURISDICTION IN CASTLE HILLS*
 - *COL POLICE SERVICES ONLY INCLUDED 911 CALLS UNTIL FEBRUARY 2019 WHEN COL PATROL BEGAN*
- WHY ENFORCEMENT NOW?
 - *EXISTING STATE LAW GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES*
 - *AS OF FEBRUARY 2019, THE COL BEGAN PATROL IN CASTLE HILLS WITH JURISDICTION TO ENFORCE STATE LAWS*
 - *RESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING MINORS DRIVING VEHICLES*
- WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC LAWS THAT ARE BEING ENFORCED? (TEXAS “TRANSPORTATION CODE” OR “TC”)
 - *TC 502.001 & TC 551.401 – DEFINES A MOTOR VEHICLE*
 - *TC 502.021 – DEFINES DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIREMENTS*
- ARE THERE ANY NEW LAWS?
 - *YES. TC 502.402 – LICENSE PLATES FOR GOLF CARTS ARE NOW REQUIRED AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019. HOWEVER, THIS WILL NOT BE ENFORCED UNTIL PLATES BECOME AVAILABLE BY THE DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY*
- WHAT IS CONSIDERED A MOTOR VEHICLE?
 - *GOLF CART – HAS NO LESS THAN 3 WHEELS AND A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 15-25 MPH*
 - *NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLE – HAS SAFETY FEATURES AND A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 20-35 MPH*
- CAN A DRIVER WITH A LEARNER’S PERMIT DRIVE A GOLF CART?
 - *YES, AS LONG AS A FRONT SEAT PASSENGER IS OVER 18 YRS. OLD AND HAS A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE*
- DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE?
 - *NO. THE TC DOESN’T CURRENTLY REQUIRE PROOF OF INSURANCE FOR GOLF CART OPERATION*
- ARE GOLF CARTS REQUIRED TO HAVE BLINKERS, HEAD/TAIL LIGHTS, AND SEAT BELTS?
 - *NO. HOWEVER, ANY MOTOR VEHICLE BEING DRIVEN AT NIGHT MUST HAVE HEAD/TAIL LIGHTS*
- HOW ARE YOU NOTIFYING RESIDENTS OF THESE CHANGES?
 - *WATER BILL INSERT*
 - *CITY OF LEWISVILLE NEWS LETTER*
 - *DCFWSO WEB SITE AT WWW.DENTONCOUNTYFWSO.COM*
- WHEN DOES THIS GO INTO EFFECT?
 - *OCTOBER 1, 2019*
- WHAT IS THE FINE FOR DRIVING A GOLF CART WITHOUT A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE?
 - *THE FINE COULD BE UP TO \$500.00*
- WHAT IF MY UNLICENSED CHILD DRIVES MY GOLF CART WITHOUT PERMISSION OR WHEN I’M NOT HOME?
 - *THE PARENTS OF THE CHILD ARE SUBJECT TO RECEIVING A CITATION AND/OR FINE BY COL PD*
- CAN MY UNLICENSED CHILD DRIVE A GOLF CART ON THE SIDEWALK OR A WALKING PATH?
 - *NO. A GOLF CART IS A MOTOR VEHICLE AND ONLY A PERSON WITH A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE. ALSO, CASTLE HILLS DOES NOT ALLOW MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON SIDEWALKS OR WALKING PATHS*
- ARE TRAFFIC LAWS THE SAME FOR GOLF CARTS AS THEY ARE FOR A CAR?
 - *YES. GOLF CARTS MUST OBEY ALL STATE TRAFFIC LAWS.*

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GOLF CART ENFORCEMENT, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.DENTONCOUNTYFWSO.COM

Golf Cart Enforcement



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Anyone driving a golf cart must obey all traffic laws while on roadways.

Under the Texas Transportation Code (TC):

- ◆ **Golf carts are considered motor vehicles
(TC 502.001 and TC 551.401)**
- ◆ **Operator must have a valid driver's license
(TC 521.021)**
- ◆ **Golf cart must have a license plate
(TC 551.402)**

Why the need for enforcement?

Many residents expressed safety concerns over kids driving golf carts. We want to educate the public on the laws regarding the use of golf carts. Enforcement for golf cart laws will begin October 1. However, officers have discretion and may enforce the laws at any time.

Why hasn't this been enforced before?

The private patrol had no jurisdiction to enforce traffic laws. Until February 2019, Lewisville police only responded to calls for service per contract. Traffic enforcement is part of expanded patrol services.

Can my child drive one?

Parents can be cited for allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a golf cart. Youth with learner's permits may operate a golf cart if accompanied by a licensed adult passenger.

Do golf carts need to be insured?

No. TC 601.052 exempts golf carts from insurance requirements.

For additional information on golf cart enforcement, please visit:

www.CityofLewisville.com/CastleHills