

Rules of the Road

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Although the first golf car was invented in the late 1940s as a way for people with disabilities to get around a golf course, they have become a convenience enjoyed by millions of players. The National Golf Foundation estimates that about two-thirds of all 18-hole rounds are played with the use of a motorized golf car.

For your golf course superintendent, golf cars can present a challenge. When they are used improperly, they can cause serious damage to the course. More importantly, unsafe operation can lead to accidents and injuries.

- The National Golf Foundation estimates that about two-thirds of all 18-hole rounds are played with the use of a motorized golf car.
- Most courses have a standard golf car policy and sometimes employ temporary restrictions due to weather, construction or other factors.
- When used improperly, golf cars can cause serious damage to the course. More importantly, unsafe operation can lead to accidents and injuries.
- If you “drive friendly,” your golf car won’t impede the play of others.
- Golf course superintendents only put restrictions such as “Path Only” rules in place when they feel it’s necessary to protect the turf from damage.

The rules for safe operation are simple:

- Golf cars should only be operated from the driver’s side.
- Never carry more than two occupants or allow riders on the back of the car.
- Be sure your passenger is fully seated and check for obstructions before moving.
- Keep your entire body – particularly your feet – inside the car when moving.
- Drive slowly through turns and drive straight and slowly up and down slopes.
- Set the brake when coming to a complete stop.
- Use extra care when operating a golf car in reverse, or on hills, wet turf, loose surfaces or rough terrain.
- Remove the key when the golf car is not in use.
- Never operate a golf car when impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- Golf cars do not provide protection from lightning – seek appropriate shelter if lightning is present.

For the sake of your golf course, remember that golf car traffic can cause damage to the golf course that is both unsightly and expensive to repair. Tire ruts in soft, wet areas can take weeks to heal. Compaction caused by heavy traffic can ruin the playing surface. As a result, most courses have a standard golf car policy and sometimes employ temporary restrictions due to weather, construction or other factors.

If you “drive friendly,” your golf car won’t impede the play of others:

- Park your car behind or beside the green – never in front – to allow players behind you to hit sooner after you’ve finished the hole (You should generally always avoid driving a golf into the “approach” area 20 to 30 yards in front of the green.)
- Stop your vehicle to avoid distracting a nearby player who is preparing to hit a shot.
- Never drive into yards or neighboring properties.

Golf course superintendents only put restrictions such as “Path Only” rules in place when they feel it’s necessary to protect the turf from damage. On the other hand, there are some everyday guidelines that golfers can follow to maximize their golf experience and protect the turf.

“Superintendents know golf cars have become an important part of golf,” said GCSAA President Mark J. Woodward, certified golf course superintendent. “But golfers can be a big help in reducing the potential for damage to the turf from carts by simply following a few common-sense guidelines.”

- Never drive a golf car through standing water or on any obviously wet turf.
- Never drive onto a green, collar, tee or any marked hazard.
- Never drive into any area that has been recently seeded or sodded.
- Avoid abrupt stops and sharp turns that cause skidding.
- Spread out wear-and-tear by avoiding compacted areas.
- Watch for signs or other markers that direct traffic.
- Avoid driving over sprinkler heads and yardage markers.
- Don’t drive cars into out-of-play areas that may be environmentally sensitive (such as wildflower patches, native grass plantings and marshes).
- Keep all four tires on the path whenever possible. Do not park with tires off the path.
- Golfers with disabilities may be allowed access to areas not normally open to golf car traffic. Their cars are usually marked with a flag.

Golf courses located in residential areas frequently have cart paths that cross city streets. Golfers can minimize the risk of serious injury by remembering three things when crossing residential roads in their golf cars:

- Golf cars can be hard for automobile drivers to see.
- A person in a golf car is extremely vulnerable in an accident
 - It is a golfer’s responsibility to watch for oncoming traffic.

Motorized golf cars aren’t the only means for carrying golf bags. The USGA says the popularity of two-wheel and three-wheel pull carts is on the rise, especially as interest in health and fitness grows.

If your club permits pull carts – more than half of all private clubs allow them – are they being adequately controlled to protect the golf course? Pull carts are far lighter than motorized golf cars, but this does not mean pull carts do not damage turf. Because they are more maneuverable, golfers are more inclined to take them onto areas they would not normally drive golf cars.

Although many courses enforce the same rules for pull carts as for motorized golf cars, alternative policies can be developed. Pull carts should:

- have wide wheels (three to four inches) or air-filled tires,
- be kept 15 to 30 feet from the edges of tees and greens,
- be directed around green-side bunkers and not be taken into the narrow gaps between greens and bunkers,
- never be taken across excessively wet areas, and
- not be used following periods of heavy rainfall or under persistently wet conditions.



I, the undersigned, acknowledge the receipt of the notice of the Annual Meeting to be held Monday, January 23, 2006, at The Napa Valley Country Club, Napa, California, and I hereby appoint _____ as my proxy with full authority to cast my vote in accordance with my desires as I have indicated below:

PRESIDENT	Write In
<input type="checkbox"/> Gill Stiles	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
VICE PRESIDENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Green	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
SECRETARY/TREASURER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Mains	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Netz, CGCS	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

DIRECTOR	
Vote for one (1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Troy Flanagan	<input type="checkbox"/> James Prusa
<input type="checkbox"/> Clifford Peterson	

Any voting member who executes and delivers a proxy has the right to revoke said proxy at anytime, before it is exercised, by filing with the Secretary Treasurer, Jason Green. Any proxy may also be revoked by attendance at the meeting and a decision to vote in person. All votes represented by a properly executed proxy received in time for the meeting will be voted by the proxy holder in accordance with the instructions on the proxy unless revoked as outlined above. Only proxy form completed by a voting member as the Appointee is considered a valid proxy.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____ CLASS _____
 PRINT NAME _____

IF THE PROXY IS NOT COMPLETED CORRECTLY IT WILL BE VOIDED. BE SURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES Vote for only one (1) officer in each category: President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer; Vote for one () Director; The Proxy is good for only the slate of candidates as listed. Nominations from the floor will not entitle the proxy bearer to vote other than is indicated on the proxy. In case of a runoff or tie vote, the Proxy is good only if candidate (s) involved were voted for on this original Proxy. **PROXY MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 20, 2006**

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Annual Meeting January 23, 2006
Napa Valley Country Club, Napa, California

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Changes are underlined in green

Golf Course Superintendent Association of Northern California
Constitution and By-laws Adopted April 1932
Amended 1972, 1987, 1990, 1996, 2000, 20001, 2002

Current Membership Classification of Class B shall be changed to "Superintendent Member" in all sections of the bylaws

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership at the annual election of this Association in January of each year. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be Class A or Superintendent Members of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and hold office for one year. A majority of the board of directors shall be GCSAA Class A or Superintendent Member members. There shall also be five (5) Directors, one directorship to be held by the Past-President, and the other four (4) to be elected by majority vote of the membership, two (2) to be elected by majority vote of the Affiliate membership. In addition to the Officers, two (2) of the directorships which may include the Past-President shall be Class A or Superintendent Members of GCSAA. Two (2) of the Directorships will be held by Affiliate Members of the Association. The elected Directors shall hold office for two (2) years, with two (2) Directors being elected each year. Each member of the Board of Directors shall be entitled to vote at the meetings there of. A quorum for transaction of business at a Board of Directors meeting shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

INACTIVE MEMBERS – CLASS A, Superintendent Member or Class C members who no longer fulfill all the requirements for Class A, Superintendent Member or Class C membership, due to a position change will be eligible to keep their status for resumes, interviews, applications, etc., for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) months, providing they are actively seeking employment as a Golf Course Superintendent or Assistant. Members in this classification will continue to pay regular dues during this period, and retain all rights and privileges of the Association, except that of running for office. ~~Any A/Superintendent/CInactive exceeding twenty-four (24) months will automatically placed in the appropriate membership classification, or deleted from the Association.~~ After the 24-month period, if the individual remains unemployed, he/she will be required to reclassify to an appropriate membership class. Extensions may be granted by petition to the membership committee in cases of illness or disability. Class A, Superintendent Member and C members shall be granted a six-month grace period before reclassification to inactive status is required.

YES THESE BYLAWS **SHALL** BE AMENDED AS INDICATED ABOVE

NO THESE BYLAWS **SHALL NOT** BE AMENDED AS INDICATED ABOVE

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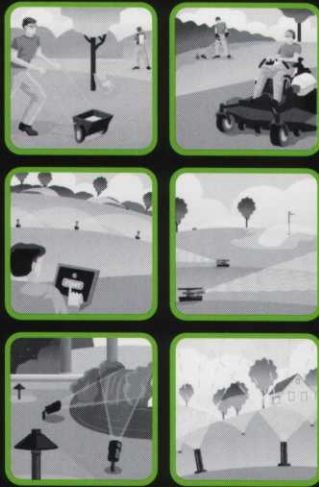
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