

The need for driver safety

With ever-increasing golf car traffic, drivers must be made to heed the "rules of the road."

by Harold K. Howe

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Certainly no one wants accidents, neither the course management, nor the golf car manufacturers and not even the users themselves. With over 135,000 golf cars currently in use on golf courses in the United States and Canada, the first and most important facet of the safer operation of golf cars is "User Education."

The golfer has his mind on his game and it is not easy to get through to him with a safety message. So the message must be *brief*—for almost instant comprehension. And it must be placed before him so he sees and absorbs the message almost without knowing it. The best places for such messages are:

- On the golf car itself.
- At significant points on the course.
- In the pro shop.
- In locker rooms.
- At point of delivery of golf cars.
- At the "19th hole."

The rules for safer use of golf cars are generally based on common sense—things we all know but forget to practice. Here are some of the most significant rules. You might call them the "Ten Commandments" of safer golf car operations:

1. Be sure you know the controls and operation of the car before you take it out on the course. All cars are not the same. Improvements are constantly being made by the manufacturers. If in doubt, check with the man in charge of the cars.

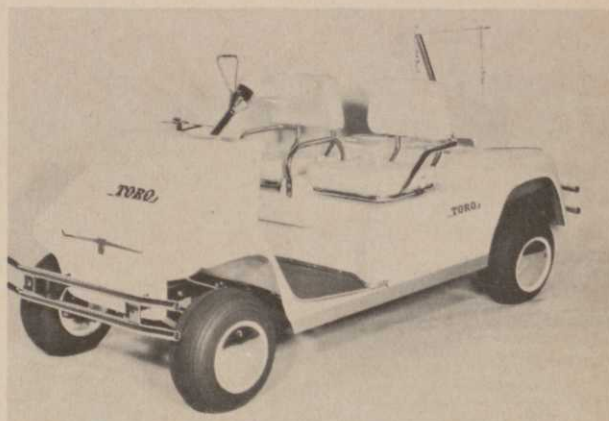
2. Try the brakes before leaving the first tee. All cars should be in good safe condition before being turned over to the golfer, but mistakes sometimes happen. It only takes a minute to check the brake action.

3. Do not carry more than two passengers in a two passenger car, nor more than one passenger in a single passenger car. The golf car is designed with the proper stability and center of gravity for one or two passengers. More than two passengers will change the center of gravity and crowding may make it difficult to operate the car properly.

4. Keep both feet inside the car. A dragging foot with spiked shoes can catch the turf and result in painful and serious injuries.

5. Put golf clubs in golf bags when riding in golf cars. Some places on every course are rough and bumpy to golf car riders and loose clubs can give you some pretty bad jabs.

6. When driving always avoid sharp quick turns. While golf cars are designed to make sharp short



Above, Toro's electric golf car. The Golfmaster measures 92" x 44½" and weighs 937 pounds. It features adjustable seats and 4-wheel suspension.

turns, your passenger may not be expecting them and be thrown out of the car.

7. Always drive slowly and carefully, on hills and slopes, and especially when going down inclines. More accidents happen from fast careless driving on inclines than from any other careless act.

8. Be sure to set the brake before leaving car, especially if parking on slopes. Actually, cars should be parked on as level a place as possible, so there is no chance of them rolling onto greens or into traps or water hazards.

9. Do not allow children to operate cars on the course. Club management should set minimum age limits for teenagers to operate cars.

10. The Golden Rule—Be Courteous, Considerate, and Careful! Always observe the etiquette of the wonderful game of golf. Be as careful of the course as if it were your own. Be as considerate of the other golfer as if you yourself were playing his shot. Drive carefully and follow the routes marked for golf cars.

There are many other factors, of course, that are important in the safe operation of golf cars—proper maintenance of the cars, careful routing on the course to avoid potential danger areas, landscaping by course superintendents and golf course architects to eliminate hazards of terrain and, of course, the design of the golf cars themselves. But above all else, it is the golfer who drives the golf car who is the single most important factor in the safe operation of golf cars. □