

## **CHAPTER 15 ORDINANCE NO.15.05**

### **TOWN OF LYONS**

#### **Ordinance to Regulate the Operation of a Golf Cart on Public Roads**

The Town Board of the Town of Lyons, Walworth County, Wisconsin, does ordain Town of Lyons Ordinance No.15.05 as follows:

#### **Section 1.**

##### **Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a means of travel that is not only convenient, but conserves resources and protects the environment. Golf carts, if properly used, are an effective way to travel for short distances within the Town and area subdivisions. However, to ensure public safety and welfare, the operation of golf carts must comply within the regulations established in this ordinance.

#### **Section 2.**

##### **Operational Provisions.**

1. All golf carts must be equipped with and maintained with features as designed by the manufacturer as applicable, i.e. brakes, lights, seat belts, turn signals, etc. Golf carts that have been modified to exceed a speed of 25 miles per hour, or modified in any way that creates a hazard, do not meet the requirements of this ordinance. Golf carts that cannot maintain a speed of 25 mph must display a Low-Speed Vehicle (LSV) emblem as required by Section 347.245(1) Wis. Statutes.
2. No person under the age of 16 may operate any golf cart on any public roads. All legal operators will be required to have a valid driver's license. For the purposes of this ordinance, learner's permits, temporary, revoked, suspended or expired licenses are prohibited.
3. Golf Cart usage is only allowed on Town of Lyons roads with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour or lower except as further provided herein. Usage is prohibited on County and State Highways or any other public road with a posted speed limit exceeding 25 miles per hour. Golf carts may only cross over County Highways, State Highways and/or public roads in locations where the highway or road does not exceed 35 mph.
4. Golf carts shall not be operated on any sidewalk, pedestrian walkway, bicycle path or trail, except for official police business and by Town personnel for Town business
5. No golf cart may be operated on Town public roads before sunrise or after sunset. Golf carts may not be operated when fog, smog, smoke or other conditions reduce visibility so that the golf cart is not visible for a distance of 250 feet, nor in weather conditions that compromise effective travel, i.e. heavy rain, ice, snow or other hazardous conditions.
6. Golf cart capacity. The seating capacity shall not be exceeded beyond that of the manufacturer's recommendation. No child is allowed on a golf cart operated on any public road if a child restraint (car seat) is required by state or federal regulations for said child if said child was a passenger in an automobile (Must meet both requirements: child must be at minimum of 4 years and 40 lbs.)

7. Cart operators shall obey all posted road signs, i.e. Stop, Yield and Speed limit signs. Operators shall be subject to Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 346 "Rules of the Road" applicable to automobiles. Golf Carts shall be operated on the extreme right side of the improved roadway and travel with the flow of traffic. Golf Carts shall be operated in single file. Forfeitures for violations will be determined by those in effect for automobiles. The operator must be sober, open alcohol is not allowed on the cart, and all riders must be seated.

8. Golf carts must be parked in the same manner and at the same spaces designated for the parking of motor vehicles. The stopping, standing or parking of golf carts in an area where parking is not allowed or impedes the flow of traffic, pedestrian walkways or a passageway is prohibited. No unattended golf cart is permitted on any public roadway while the motor is running or with the key in the ignition.

### **Section 3.**

#### **Enforcement.**

Operators violating any of the above restrictions will be subject to citations and fines based on Wisconsin State Rules of the Road, Chapter 346. Any violations of child seat safety laws outlined in this ordinance will be subject to fines in correlation with the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation offense and fee structure.

### **Section 4.**

#### **Disclaimer and Liability**

Golf carts are not designed for, nor manufactured, to be used on public streets and the Town neither advocates nor endorses the golf cart as a safe means of travel on public streets, roads and highways. The Town in no way shall be liable for accidents, injuries or death involving the operation of a golf cart.

Assumption of risk. Any person who owns, operates or rides upon a golf cart on a public street, road or highway within the Town does so at his or her own risk and peril and assumes all liability resulting from the operation of the golf cart.

**This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the Town Board, and publication or posting as required by law.**

**ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025.**

Karla Hill, Clerk