

Hamlin County Sheriff's Office

Wednesday May 24th, 2023

GOLF CART OWNERS - Golf carts are prohibited on public roads, besides towns where a permit can be granted.

ATTENTION GOLF CART OWNERS!

Golf carts operating on public roads are illegal by state law, except where municipalities have ordinances allowing permits to be issued for operation on city streets only (cannot be driven on state, township, and county roads). Lake Poinsett is NOT a municipality, which means under state law, golf carts cannot be operated on any public road.

Parents, if you allow children to operate golf carts on public roads, you too can be fine.

STATE LAWS:

SDCL 32-14-13. For the purposes of §§ 32-14-14 to 32-14-16, inclusive, the term, golf cart, means a four wheeled vehicle originally and specifically designed and intended to transport one or more individuals and golf clubs for the purpose of playing the game of golf on a golf course.

SDCL 32-14-14. Notwithstanding § 32-14-15, any municipality or township with an unincorporated town may adopt, by ordinance, traffic regulations permitting the use of golf carts on a highway within its platted boundaries. The ordinance shall require that the golf cart is insured and the person operating the golf cart in the municipality or unincorporated town to hold a driver license and to obtain a permit from the authority having jurisdiction. The municipality or township may charge a fee for the permit. The ordinance may also require the golf cart to display a slow-moving vehicle emblem in accordance with § 32-15-20 or a white or amber warning light in accordance § 32-17-46.

SDCL 32-14-15. No person may operate a golf cart on a state or county highway except for crossing from one side of the highway to the other. A golf cart may cross the highway at a right angle, but only after stopping and yielding the right-of-way to all approaching traffic and crossing as closely as possible to an intersection or approach. The operation of a golf cart on a state or county highway in a manner not permitted by this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor and carries a fine over \$130.

SDCL 32-12-72. No person may knowingly authorize or permit a motor vehicle owned by that person or under that person's control to be driven upon any highway by any person who is not authorized under this chapter or in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor and carries a fine over \$130.

SDCL 32-35-113. Every driver or owner of a motor vehicle shall at all times maintain in force one of the forms of financial responsibility on the motor vehicle by one of the following methods:

- (1) Having in force on the motor vehicle an owner's policy of liability insurance as provided in § 32-35-70;
- (2) Having in force a bond as provided in § 32-35-83;
- (3) Having a certificate of deposit of money or securities as provided in § 32-35-87, but in the amount of fifty thousand dollars;
- (4) Having a certificate of self-insurance, as provided in §§ 32-35-90 and 32-35-91, supplemented by an agreement by the self-insurer that, with respect to accidents occurring while the certificate is in force, he will pay the same amounts that an insurer would have been obligated to pay under an owner's motor vehicle liability policy if it had issued such a policy to said self-insurer.

Failure to maintain financial responsibility is a Class 2 misdemeanor and carries fines up to \$500, a loss of a driver's license, and/or 30 days in jail.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Keep unlicensed golf carts off public roads. Golf carts can be on private roads, driveways, golf courses, and on private property.

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300 4th Street, Hayti, SD 57241 Emergency: 9-1-1 Non-emergencies: 605-783-3232