

Meadows Golf Club Golf Cart Information

Golfers need to be at least 17 years old with a NJ state license or ID or out of state license to operate a golf cart, no exceptions. Golfers who pay a cart fee are paying to ride in a golf cart, not paying for a personal cart. Single golfers who are riding in a cart should expect to be paired up with another golfer. Non-golfing guests accompanying a golfer will need to pay the riding fee.

Golf carts should never be driven left of the cart path on the 15th or 16th hole, within hazard boundary lines, within about 10 yards of water hazards, bunkers, tees, or within about 20 yards of greens unless you're on a designated cart path. These areas are especially susceptible to damage by the wheels of golf carts and may be sloped.

Always stay on designated cart paths on par-3 holes. Even if there are no cart restrictions, stay off the grass on par-3s.

Never drive the cart through mud, on or off the fairway.

Never drive through casual water on any part of the golf course unless it's a puddle on a cart path. The wheels of the cart can do serious damage to the turf, including leaving ruts in wet areas.

Do not joyride in the golf cart. Any use of carts is at the golfer's own risk, and any problems or injuries resulting from such use are the golfer's responsibility. For safety reasons, the use of the golf cart on slopes is prohibited. *Meadows Golf Club reserves the right to deny a golf cart to any golfer before or during their round. Golfers who have their carts confiscated forfeit their cart fee. Golfers will be held responsible for any damage to golf carts resulting from collisions or misuse.*

How to Operate a Golf Cart:

Step 1- Check to be sure the parking brake is engaged and switch the drive select lever to either forward or reverse, depending on which direction you want the golf cart to go and make sure there are no obstructions in your path.

Step 2- Turn the key to the golf carts "On" position. If the engine is cold, pull the choke knob out and hold it while starting. You do not need to do this if the engine is already warm.

Step 3- Press down on the accelerator pedal, and the golf cart will move.

Step 4- Release the choke knob.

Common Restrictions & What They Mean:

Cart Path Only

A "cart-path-only rule" is exactly what it sounds like: Keep your golf cart on the designated cart path at all times. Don't drive onto the grass.

Over time, golf carts speed up soil compaction, which can lead to less-than-ideal growing conditions for turfgrasses. And that can lead to less-than-ideal fairways for golfers. For that reason, even when "cart path only" is not in effect, it's a good idea to keep the cart on the designated path as much as possible.

When "Cart Path Only" is in effect, drive the cart on the designated path until you are parallel to where your golf ball rests on the course. Stop the cart, get out, pull a couple clubs (so you'll have some options when you reach your ball), and walk out to the ball.

90-Degree Rule in Effect

The "90-degree rule" means that the golf course is allowing carts onto the grass -- but only at 90-degree angles from the cart path. In other words, don't drive the golf cart up the middle of the fairway from the tee box to your golf ball or drive around looking for your ball. Stay on the cart path until you are level with your golf ball, then make a 90-degree turn off the cart path and drive straight across to the ball.

The "90-degree rule" minimizes the time a golf cart spends rolling over the grass, while still allowing convenience for golfers.

Cart Path Only on a Specific Hole(s)

In this situation, the course's regular golf cart rules apply (remember, ask when checking in), but on the specified holes you are required to keep the cart on the designated cart path. The reason is usually moisture on the specified holes -- they may be too wet for carts -- or ground under repair on the specified holes.

No Carts Beyond This Point

This sign is one you might see in a fairway as you close in on the green. Golf Carts are never allowed near the putting green; the "no carts beyond this point" sign makes sure golfers get that message. Even if you are allowed to drive the cart on the fairway, be sure to observe these signs. When you see one, stop and return to the designated cart path before proceeding forward again.

This sign may also come in the form of an arrow pointing toward the cart path. The meaning is the same: Don't take the cart beyond this point on the fairway; go back to the cart path.

Don't forget to ask about golf cart rules when you check in.

Other Considerations:

Observe common-sense driving rules, just as you do in your car on the road. Be especially careful at any cart-path intersections, areas of limited visibility and in areas where bottlenecks occur.

If you need to drive the cart quickly around the course (maybe you left a club behind a few holes back, maybe you badly need to find a restroom, etc.), be aware of golfers you are passing by. If a golfer is about to swing or attempt a putt, slow down as you approach and stop the cart until the golfer has completed his or her stroke. Carts are noisy. Be courteous.

Along the same lines, many golf carts beep when they are in reverse. If you need to put the cart in reverse, be aware of any golfers close to you and whether they are about to begin a stroke.

When you finish a hole, walk off the green, get into the cart and move on to the next teeing ground before marking the scorecard. In this way, you won't hold up any group behind you that is waiting for the green to clear.