

GNFA Off-Road Motorized Vehicle Usage Policy

Objective:

To establish the procedure of regulating and permitting off-road motorized vehicle usage on the Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter (GNFA) campus.

Purpose:

This policy establishes the procedure for the usage and permitting of off-road motorized vehicles with the GNFA campus. This policy will ensure safety, efficiency, and compliance with GNFA regulations.

Definitions:

For GNFA purposes, an off-road motorized vehicle will fall into two (2) categories: a golf cart or an off-road vehicle e.g., UTV/ side-by-side (SxS).

As per OCGA 40-1-1(17.2) a **golf cart** is defined as:

"Golf car" or "golf cart" means any motorized vehicle designed for the purpose and exclusive use of conveying one or more persons and equipment to play the game of golf in an area designated as a golf course. For such a vehicle to be considered a golf car or golf cart, its average speed shall be less than 15 miles per hour (24 kilometers per hour) on a level road surface with a 0.5% grade (0.3 degrees) comprising a straight course composed of a concrete or asphalt surface that is dry and free from loose material or surface contamination with a minimum coefficient of friction of 0.8 between tire and surface.

As per OCGA 40-7-3 an **off-road vehicle** is defined as:

The term 'off-road vehicle' means any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain and not intended for use predominantly on public roads. It includes, but is not limited to, four-wheel drive or low-pressure tire vehicles, two-wheel vehicles, amphibious machines, ground effect or air cushion vehicles, and any other means of transportation deriving power from any source other than muscle or wind, except that such term shall exclude any motorboat; any military, fire, or law enforcement vehicle; any vehicles used exclusively on airports; all farm machinery, farm tractors, and other self-propelled equipment for harvesting and transportation of forest products, for clearing land for planting, for utility services and maintenance, for earth moving, construction, or mining; and self-propelled lawnmowers, snowblowers, garden or lawn tractors, or golf carts, while such vehicles are being used exclusively for their designed purposes.

Off-Road Motorized Usage Facility:

The GNFA campus operates as a golf cart and UTV/SxS facility for its guests and visitors. This means guests and visitors' exclusive mode of motorized personal transportation will be golf carts and UTV/SxS. Exceptions will apply for authorized maintenance vehicles, emergency response vehicles, and any ADA exception approved by GNFA Public Safety. Guests and visitors are allowed to bring their personal golf carts, and UTV/SxS but they must be permitted through Mike's Golf Cart Rentals.

The following modes of transportation are not permitted:

- Roller skates, roller blades & skateboards
- Minibikes
- Go-carts
- Four-wheelers
- Unpermitted golf carts and SxS
- Hoverboards, Segway and any Segway similar mechanical equipment

Authorized Use:

Only authorized GNFA personnel and permitted guests with a valid permit are permitted to operate golf carts and UTV/SxS on the GNFA campus. Authorized GNFA personnel include but are not limited to staff, contractors, board members, and volunteers.

Safety Measures:**Operator Requirements:**

- Golf cart and UTV/SxS operators must be 16 or older with a valid driver's license.
- All passengers must remain seated while the golf cart is in motion.
- There should be one person per seat.
- No one may sit in the driver's lap while the golf cart is in motion. This includes children.

Golf Cart and SxS Vehicle Requirements:

To operate a golf cart or SxS on the GNFA campus the vehicles must be stock with no aftermarket modifications. This includes but is not limited to any modifications to the suspension, wheels/tires, exhaust, roll cage, lights, tie-rods, and the addition of LED light bars

Golf carts and SxS will also be required to have the following equipment:

- Headlights
- Brake Lights
- Taillights
- Rearview Mirror

Safe Driving Requirements:

- Hands and feet must be inside the golf cart or UTV/SxS while the cart is in motion.
- Golf carts or UTV/SxS driven at night must be equipped with functional headlights and taillights.
- Golf carts or UTV/SxS must yield to pedestrians and other vehicles.
- Golf carts and UTV/SxS must follow the observed rules of the road and must obey all traffic control devices.
- Golf cart and UTV/SxS speeds must be limited to the pace of pedestrian traffic.
- Reckless driving, including speeding, swerving, or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited.
- No racing of any form.
- No blocking access ways or designated vehicle parking spots.
- Golf cart and UTV/SxS operators may not use any electronic communication device to send or read text messages, emails or any other written communication while operating the vehicle.

Registration:

- All golf carts and SxS brought onto the GNFA campus must be registered and permitted through Mike's Golf Cart Rentals.
- Guests must provide proof of insurance and must adhere to GNFA policy regarding speed and number of occupants.
- All carts will be given a permit sticker by Mike's Golf Cart Rental applied to the lower passenger side of the cart windshield and have a permit number.

ADA Accessibility and Application Process:

The Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter (GNFA) currently occupies almost 1,100 acres. While our campus is vast and our buildings universally accessible, we understand people with mobility, circulatory, respiratory, or neurological disabilities use many kinds of devices for mobility. In recent years people with mobility issues have begun using less traditional mobility devices such as golf carts or Segways. These devices are called "other power-driven mobility device (OPDMD)". While people with disabilities have the right to choose whatever mobility device best fits their needs, GNFA reserves the right to assess each OPDMD device on a case-by-case basis and make an informed judgement about whether to allow the device. GNFA will consider the following factors:

- the type, size, weight, dimensions, and speed of the device.
- the facility's volume of pedestrian traffic (which may vary at different times of the day, week, month, or year).
- the facility's design and operational characteristics (e.g., whether its business is conducted indoors or outdoors, its square footage, the density and placement of furniture and other stationary devices, and the availability of storage for the OPDMD if needed and requested by the user).

- whether legitimate safety requirements (such as limiting speed to the pace of pedestrian traffic or prohibiting use in certain buildings) can be established to permit the safe operation of the OPDMD in the specific facility.

If you request to use an OPDMD, that request must be made in writing through the Public Safety Office on East Gate Blvd. north of the East Gate. You may also make your request to the Public Safety Director by email. Those requesting to use an OPDMD should be prepared to provide credible assurance in the following forms:

- A valid, state-issued disability parking placard
- State-issued proof of disability.

GNFA reserves the right to remove the OPDMD from our campus if the person is observed running and jumping or any other type of activity that would be evidence that contradicts that person's assertion of a mobility disability.

Once the device is approved by the Public Safety Director the device will need to be permitted by Mike's Golf Cart Rentals. There is no charge for this permit.

Violations & Penalties:

- Violations of this policy may result in fines, suspension of golf cart and/or UTV/SxS privileges, or removal from the GNFA campus.
- Violations including reckless driving, underage operation, and any behavior deemed a dangerous situation should be reported to GNFA Department of Public Safety (478-988-6411). If calling to make a complaint a permit number should be obtained whenever possible.
- Repeat offenders may face further disciplinary action, including a lifetime ban from the GNFA campus.

Enforcement:

- **1st violation:** verbal warning
- **2nd violation:** \$200 fine. This fine can be paid at the Public Safety Building. If the fine is not paid, the violator cannot purchase a permit until the outstanding fine is paid.
- **3rd violation:** loss of cart and permitting privileges.
- Security personnel, designated GNFA staff members and designated show superintendents are authorized to enforce this policy.
- Some larger shows and events require GNFA to supplement their staff with off-duty law enforcement. They are also authorized to enforce this policy.

GNFA and its Department of Public Safety reserve the right to amend this policy without notice. This policy will be amended to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with the laws of the State of Georgia.