

TOWNSHIP OF OVID  
COUNTY OF BRANCH, STATE OF MICHIGAN  
ORDINANCE NO. 33

ADOPTED: JUNE 10, 2024  
EFFECTIVE: JULY 19, 2024

Whereas Ovid Township believes it is in the best interest of its citizens to adopt this ordinance which establishes processes and regulations for the use of Golf Carts in the Township.

THE TOWNSHIP OF OVID  
BRANCH COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ORDAINS:

SECTION I  
TITLE

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Township of Ovid Regulation of Golf Carts Ordinance".

SECTION II  
DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms and phrases when used in this Ordinance shall have the following meanings:

1. "*County*", means Branch County, Michigan.
2. "*Township*", means Ovid Township, Branch County, Michigan.
3. "*Direct Supervision*", means the direct visual observation of the operator with the unaided or normally correct eye, where the observer is able to come to the immediate aid of the operator.
4. "*Driver's License*" means any driving privileges, license, temporary instruction permit, or temporary license issued under the laws of any state, territory, or possession of the United States, Indian country as defined in 18 USC 1151, the District of Columbia, and the Dominion of Canada pertaining to the licensing of persons to operate motor vehicles.
5. "*Highway*", means any roads, streets, or highways as described in MCL 257.64
6. "*Street*", means any roads, streets, or highways as described in MCL 257.64.
7. "*State Trunk Line Highway*" means any roads, streets, or highways as described in MCL 247.651.
8. "*Operate*", means to ride in or on and be in actual physical control of the operation of a Golf Cart.
9. "*Operator*", means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of the operation of a Golf Cart.
10. "*Golf Cart*", means a vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf.
11. "*Safety Belt*", means a device installed and manufactured for the purpose of restraining an individual while occupying a seat of a Golf Cart.

SECTION III  
GOLF CART OPERATIONS

1. Ovid Township hereby authorizes the operation of Golf Carts within the Township subject to MCL 257.657a as amended and with the following restrictions:
  - a. A Golf Cart shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour and shall not be

- operated on a state trunk line highway, a highway, or a street with a speed limit of more than 30 miles per hour except to cross that state trunk line highway, highway, or street.
- b. A person shall not operate a golf cart on any street unless:
    - i. The person is at least 16 years old, and
    - ii. The person is licensed to operate a motor vehicle.
  - c. A person shall carry their state issued license to operate a motor vehicle at all times while operating a golf cart.
  - d. A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway. This subsection does not prohibit a person from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart on a Township Street, using the most direct line of crossing.
  - e. A golf cart shall not be operated on a state trunk line highway or the streets of a city, village, or township during the time period from 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise.
  - f. A Golf Cart shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians or on or across cemetery property except on vehicular pathways.
  - g. Where a usable and designated path for golf carts is provided adjacent to a highway or street, a person operating a golf cart shall be required to use the path.
  - h. A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
  - i. A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a two-way street or on the left or right of traffic in the case of a one-way street, in an unoccupied lane.
  - j. This ordinance does not apply to a police officer operating a golf cart in the performance of his or her official duties.
  - k. Any individual, under 16 years of age, occupying a rear facing seat shall be seated and restrained by a safety belt at all times during the operation of the Golf Cart.
  - l. While a Golf Cart is in operation, any and all individuals occupying the Golf Cart shall be solely seated in a single seat of the Golf Cart.
  - m. The number of individuals occupying a Golf Cart shall not exceed the Golf Cart's manufacturer established seating capacity at any time while the Golf Cart is in operation.
  - n. No person shall operate a Golf Cart as provided under this Ordinance with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of .08 or greater.
  - o. No person shall operate a Golf Cart as provided under this Ordinance under the influence of drugs/marijuana.

**SECTION IV**  
**PENALTY**

1. Violation of any of the provisions of this Section shall be penalized as a civil infraction as defined by Michigan statute and shall be punishable by a civil fine determined in accordance with the following schedule:
  - a) 1<sup>st</sup> Offense .....\$100.00
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense .....\$300.00
  - c) 3<sup>rd</sup> or Subsequent Offense.....\$500.00

Additionally, the violator shall pay costs which may include all expenses, direct and indirect, which the Township has incurred in connection with the municipal civil infraction.

2. Any person or entity who violates, disobeys, neglects, or refuses to comply with any provision of this Ordinance, or any order issued under the Ordinance, including any conditions imposed

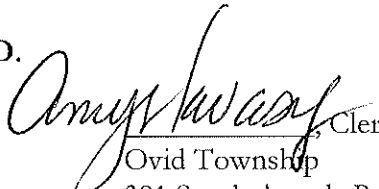
thereon, or who causes, allows, or consents to any of same, shall be deemed to be responsible for a violation of this Ordinance.

3. Any person or entity responsible for a violation of this Ordinance, whether as an occupant, owner, licensee, agent, contractor, servant, employee, or otherwise, shall be liable as a principal. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.
4. Any violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a basis for such judgment, writ, or order necessary to compel compliance with the Ordinance and/or to restrain and prohibit continuation of the violation, or other appropriate relief in any court of competent jurisdiction, in addition to any other relief or sanction herein set forth or allowed by law.

**SECTION V**  
**ENFORCEMENT/GOLF CART FUND**

1. This ordinance shall be administered and enforced by the Branch County Sheriff's Office.
2. The County Treasurer shall deposit all fines and damages collected under this ordinance into a fund to be designated as the Golf Cart Fund. The Branch County Board of Commissioners shall appropriate revenue in the Golf Cart Fund as follows:
  - a. Fifty percent to the Branch County Sheriff for Golf Cart enforcement and training.
  - b. Fifty percent to the Branch County Prosecutor's office for prosecution.

**ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.**

  
Clerk  
Ovid Township  
381 South Angola Road  
Coldwater, MI 49036