Golf Cart Regulations

Golf carts must be registered with the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles in order to be driven on public streets. A DMV permit and insurance are required.

- Only licensed drivers, age 16 or older, may operate a golf cart on public streets.
- Golf carts may be driven during daylight hours only, on secondary roads where the speed limit is 35 m.p.h. or less, and only up to four miles from the registered address. Driving after dark is prohibited.
- Golf carts may not be driven on Kings Highway, US 501 or US 17.
- Golf carts must be parked legally, one to a space. You must pay for parking, if it is a paid space.
- Golf carts may not be driven on bike paths, sidewalks or multi-purpose paths.
- Golf carts may not be driven on the beach.

Beach-Going Wheelchairs

The city offers free beach-going wheelchairs on a first-come, first-served basis. The supply is limited. For more information, call 843-918-1488.

Swimming Safety Tips

1. Swim in lifeguard areas.
2. Swim with a buddy.
3. Swim sober.
4. Don’t fight the current (signal for help).
5. Don’t float where you can’t swim.
7. Don’t dive into surf (protect your neck).
8. Leash your boogie or surfboard.
9. Ask a lifeguard about ocean conditions.
10. Look for, read and obey all safety flags about beach conditions.

Rip Current Warnings

Often called undertows, these powerful currents are formed when the ocean water rushes back to sea in a narrow path. Rip currents can pull even experienced swimmers away from the shore. They may vary in duration, width and speed.

Rip currents may be visible as a difference in water color or in the waves. A rip current may have choppier waves or an offshore area of turbid water, along with foam or objects moving steadily seaward.

If you’re caught in a rip current, don’t panic or try to swim against the current. Swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current. If you can’t break out of the current, float calmly until it fades, then swim diagonally back to shore.
Beach Laws and Regulations

• Alcohol is NOT allowed on the beach.
• Glass containers and bottles are NOT allowed on the beach.
• It is illegal to disturb or damage the dunes, the sand fencing or the sea grass and sea oats. Stay on the boardwalks and marked paths!
• Metal detecting is allowed on the public beach, but NOT in the dunes, the street ends or any other public property.
• Littering is illegal. Please use the trash and recycling containers provided.
• It is illegal to discharge, sell, store or possess fireworks within the city, including the beach. Fireworks displays by pyrotechnic professionals may be approved if permitted and supervised.
• All fires are prohibited on the beach, including barbecues and bonfires.
• Commercial activity is prohibited on the public beach. Non-commercial weddings (where no one is being paid) are allowed without a permit. Commercial weddings are not allowed.
• From May 1 through Labor Day, dogs are allowed on the beach only before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. From the day after Labor Day to April 30 each year, dogs are allowed on the beach at any time of day.

• Dogs and bicycles are allowed on the boardwalk only between 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. from May 1 through Labor Day. From the day after Labor Day to April 30 each year, dogs and bicycles are allowed on the boardwalk at any time.
• At all times, dogs must be on a leash seven feet or shorter, and you must pick up and properly dispose of droppings.
• From Memorial Day through Labor Day, only circular umbrellas, up to seven-and-a-half feet in diameter, are allowed. From the day after Labor Day until Memorial Day, tents and canopies up to 12-by-12 square feet are allowed. Umbrellas must be in line with or behind the lifeguards’ line of umbrellas or landward of the mean high tide line. Tents and canopies, when allowed, must be 10 feet behind the umbrella line.
• Items may not be set up on the beach before 8:00 a.m. and must be removed from the beach by 7:00 p.m., daily.
• “Thong” style bathing suits are not allowed on the beach or in public.
• Violations of these ordinances are misdemeanors, subject to a fine of up to $500 and/or 30 days in jail, upon conviction.

Parking Enforcement

Payment for parking is required where indicated. For more information, call 843-626-7275. Tickets for overtime or improper parking are $30 and increase by an additional $30 if unpaid after 30 days. Vehicles with a valid handicapped placard or Handicapped, Disabled American Veterans, Purple Heart or Medal of Honor license plate may park free at the public pay spaces.

Surf Fishing Rules

A South Carolina fishing license is required for surf fishing, but no license is needed to fish from a public fishing pier. Daytime surf fishing may be restricted or prohibited during peak visitor periods.