

Quiet Efficiency

Yamaha imported more new golf cars into South Africa than any other brand last year and the "Yammies" are continuing to earn favour among fleet owners and private individuals.

Yamaha's latest offering is a fuel-injected golf car which promises to be the last word in the petrol-powered sector. The new petrol model from Yamaha claims to be 25 per cent more fuel-efficient than its predecessors (figures produced by the Japan Automobile Research Institute), and, with the added benefits of improved cold weather starting (this engine does not require a choke), as well as being noticeably quieter, it is sure to find many devotees in the market.

Yamaha has always pointed out that it is the only manufacturer of golf cars that produces its own engines and these legendary power plants are known for their longevity and reliability.

Most golf clubs (particularly estate courses) prefer battery-powered cars for the simple reason that they are quieter, but with high Eskom bills becoming a major issue (and the high cost of battery replacement), a few clubs are considering a switch to petrol-powered cars.

The benefit of the petrol models include the fact that they are considerably lighter, causing less compaction to the turf, they can be confidently sent out twice a day, and they do not require a special storage area equipped with an electrical supply and expensive chargers.

Yamaha also claims that the new fuel-injection model, and industry first, is up to 38 per cent more fuel-efficient that its opposition.

Smoother acceleration is guaranteed and the research and development department at Yamaha promises that the 357 cc engine (which produces 11.4 horsepower) is almost vibration free. Another advantage of this model is that it does not require special, high altitude re-jetting.

There is still some debate about the carbon footprints of petrol versus battery-powered cars, but Yamaha is confident that this petrol model is far more eco friendly than those produces by its opposition.

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YAMAHA Golf Cars

We might not be able to improve your game, but we will definitely improve your drive! You'll have a driving experience that will make your day. In the game of golf, the champions are the ones who sweat the small stuff. Nothing is unimportant; everything is worthy of painstaking work. This is Yamaha's approach to designing the finest golf car.

Deep in the DNA of our golf cars is everything we've learned from our motorcycles, ATV's and watercraft, including the ability to build with fewer parts, which leads to lighter weight, which leads to superior hill-climbing ability, a 100% greaseless chassis and the lowest maintenance costs in the industry.

Golf Car Etiquette

- Never drive the car within hazard boundary lines, or within about 10m of water hazards or bunkers, or within about 50m of greens (unless you're on a designated cart path, of course). These areas are especially susceptible to damage by the wheels of golf cars
- Never drive onto or close to tee boxes, either, unless on the cart path.
- Never drive the car through mud, on or off the fairway.
- Never drive through casual water on any part of the golf course (unless it's a little bit of water over a paved cart path). The wheels of the car can do serious damage to the turf, including leaving ruts, in wet areas.
- Never go joyriding in the golf car. In other words, don't act stupid! People do get injured in golf car accidents.

Now, as mentioned above, golf courses may post notices about specific golf car rules depending on conditions at the course that day. These notices may be posted in the clubhouse; sometimes courses uses small signs they stick in the ground alongside the car path on the route to the first tee.

CAR PATH ONLY

A "car-path-only rule" is exactly what it sounds like: Keep your car on the designated car path at all times. When "car path only" is in effect, drive the car on the designated path until you are parallel to where your golf ball rests on the course. Stop the car, 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 cars onto the grass - but only at 90-degree angles from the car path. In other words, don't drive the golf car up the middle of the fairway from the tee box to your golf ball. The "90-degree rule" minimizes the time a golf car spends rolling over the grass, while still allowing convenience for golfers.

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CAR PATH ONLY ON HOLES X AND X

The reason is usually moisture on the specified holes - they may be too wet for golf cars - or ground under repair on the specified holes.

NO GOLF CARS BEYOND THIS POINT

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

So, those are the signs golfers are most likely to see on a golf course regarding golf car usage. Observe the signs - and don't forget to ask about golf car rules when you check in.

A FEW MORE BITS OF GOLF CAR ETIQUETTE:

- Always stay on designated car paths on par-3 holes.
 Even if the course allows cars onto the fairways on par-4s and par-5s, stay off the grass on par-3s.
- Observe common-sense driving rules, just as you do in your car on the road. Be especially careful at any car-path intersections and in areas where bottlenecks occur.
- If you need to drive the car quickly around the course be aware of golfers you are passing by. Golf cars are noisy. Be courteous. You wouldn't want someone else making noise during your backswing, don't do it to others with your car.
- Along the same lines, many golf cars beep when they are in reverse. So if you need to put the car 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 car 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.

Golf Cart Rules and Etiquette: Observe the Rules of the Cart Paths By Brent Kelley from www.about.com

Maintenance



Did you know that Rudamans Bike & Marine can also assist with the maintenance and repair of your Golf Car? Our professional team can get you on the green again soon!