



To: All High School/Junior High National Directors/Secretaries.

Please make this known to your membership as you get closer to your state/province finals.

Re: Golf Carts-2024 NHSFR and NJHFR

Golf carts have become a major issue and safety concern over the past few finals. It stems from reckless/dangerous driving, too many persons on a cart, speeding and adjustments to the cart's speed regulator. The numbers were so numerous in 2023, the rental companies hesitated when asked about carts for the 2024 finals.

At our 2024 mid-winter board meeting there was much discussion on how to solve this problem so we can make carts available to our attendees in the future. We do have suppliers for our 2024 finals, but we had to make some hard, and I am sure to be un-popular decisions on how to address the problem. The Board has made the following policies that will be put in place and enforced.


- 1) No contestant may drive the cart. All drivers, (parents/guardians), must be 21 years of age and older.
- 2) If a contestant is caught driving a cart, no questions will be asked, and the contestant will be sent home.
- 3) If any driver is caught driving a cart dangerously, speeding, or too many passengers, the contestant assigned to the cart will be sent home.
- 4) In addition to the rental carts supplied by the rental company, (550) they have agreed to an additional vendor supplying 200 possibly 250 carts and we will allow for 100 personal carts. The same requirement applies to personal carts, proof of ownership and proof of liability insurance, carts will be supplied with a tag.
- 5) Any carts caught without the proper tags/registration will be impounded on site until time of departure.
- 6) When the cart companies have rented all their carts, there is no need to call the office, there is nothing we can do.
- 7) Plans are to add additional security for golf cart patrols.
- 8) NO privately owned ATV, UTV, Motorcycles, Mini-Bikes, Go Carts or Scooters. Exception to this is Vendors, Venue Staff and Stock Contractors.

We sincerely wish that it had not come to this, but at some point we must put in procedures due to fear of someone getting severely injured or worse. Every year we have a need for medical attention to contestants or family members due to a golf cart incident.

We truly desire for this to succeed, if not the next step would be to not allow any carts except for host site and rodeo personnel.

Another point of concern and cause of injury is water balloons, especially the frozen ones; we had some injuries because of these. Please have fun but be considerate of the outcome of your actions.

Thank you for your understanding and good luck to all for the rest of our 2024 rodeo season.

Sincerely,  
  
James Higginbotham  
Executive Director