

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is a foot scooter?

A foot scooter is a device with handlebars designed to sit or stand on that has either

- (a) no more than two ten-inch or smaller diameter wheels or
- (b) an engine or motor that is capable of a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour.

## What are the foot scooter laws and regulations?

The following laws and regulations are now in effect:

- The minimum age to operate a foot scooter is 12 years old
- All riders under the age of 18 are required to wear a helmet
- There cannot be more than one person on the scooter at a time
- Foot scooters are not allowed on sidewalks, unless necessary to enter or leave adjacent property
- Scooters must ride as close to the right side of the street or curb as possible and walk the foot scooter across the road when making a left turn
- Scooters may operate on a bicycle path, lane, trail or bikeway that is not reserved for the exclusive use of non-motorized traffic
- If operated after dusk, foot scooters must have a headlight and taillight
- No license or license plates are required for foot scooters

All of the above laws and regulations are enforced by the New Ulm Police Department. Violators can be ticketed or fined.

## What is not considered a foot scooter?

There has been some confusion about what is or is not considered a foot scooter. The following are NOT considered foot scooters:

- Electric personal assistive mobility device
- A motorized bicycle
- An electric-assisted bicycle
- A motorcycle is not a motorized foot scooter

Because these are not considered foot scooters, different laws apply to their use than those detailed above.

Type	Roadways	Sidewalk	Parks/Trails	Private Property	Other Restrictions
Motorized Foot Scooters (Gas or Electric)	Yes SS 169.225	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No one under 12</li> <li>12-17 yrs old - helmet required</li> <li>Right side only then walk across road to turn left</li> <li>Under 15mph</li> <li>No sidewalks or bike paths</li> </ul>
Power Boards or Dirt Surfers	No	No	No	Yes	Noise Issues
Go Karts	No	No	No	Yes	Noise Issues
Mini Motorcycles (Pocket Bikes)	No	No	No	Yes	Noise Issues
Mopeds & Motorized Bicycles	Yes SS 169.01 (4a) Needs a license or permit	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No one under 12</li> <li>12-17 yrs old - helmet is required</li> <li>Headlight required</li> </ul>
Segways Mobility / Medical Reason	No * SS 169.01 (90) 169.212 No license required	Yes	Yes	Yes	* Personal Mobility Devices - under some circumstances can be driven on the street SS 169.212
Golf Carts	No	No	No	Yes	Only allowed on private property

# What are Recreational Vehicles & Off-Road Vehicles?



## Motorized Foot Scooter (Gas)

- Legal on local streets  
(as of Aug. 1, 2005)  
SS 169.225
- Minimum age is 12 &  
ages 12 to 17 must  
wear a helmet
- Under 15 mph
- Right side of roadway & must walk across  
the road for a left turn
- Illegal on sidewalks & parks

# Motorized Foot Scooter (Electric)



- Electric Scooters are legal on local streets (as of Aug. 1, 2005) SS 169.225
- Minimum age is 12 & ages 12 to 17 must wear a helmet
  - Under 15 mph
  - Right side of roadway & must walk across the road for a left turn
- Prohibited on sidewalks and in parks SS 169.225

# Power Boards or Dirt Surfers



- Gas or Electric Powered
  - 22 to 30 mph
  - No light or safety features
- Defined as a Recreational Vehicle and prohibited on roads, sidewalks & in parks

# Go Karts



- Gas powered
- No safety lighting or signals
  - 5 hp motors
- Speeds to 25 mph

- Illegal on streets and in parks

## Mini Motorcycles (Pocket Bikes)



- 50 to 80 cc engines
- Speeds up to 35 mph
- Off-road use only
- Prohibited on streets, sidewalks & in parks

# Mopeds



- Can be street legal
  - Up to 30 mph
- Can be licensed and drivers issued moped permits
  - Has safety features
- Are not Recreational Vehicles - have transportation aspect



- Drivers need to follow traffic laws

## Motorized Bicycles



- Legal - not Recreational Vehicles
- Have pedals and can be self-propelled
  - Two tandem wheels
  - Motor less than 50 cc
  - Maximum speed 30 mph
    - Allowed on streets
- Prohibited on sidewalks or in parks

- License or permit required

## **Segways: Personal Assistive Mobility Devices**



- Legal on sidewalks and in parks
- Under some circumstances, can be on the streets (SS 169.212)

# Mobility Scooters - Disability Needs



- Legal - not a Recreational Vehicle

**City Ordinance**  
**Recreational / Off-Road**  
**Vehicles**

- **For use on private property with permission**
  
- **No use on school property, parks or playgrounds**
  
- **Prohibited on sidewalks, pedestrian trails or walkways**
  
- **Prohibited on streets or highways (unless licensed or are scooters)**
  
- **Review other prohibitions**