



Fines for Speeding in DC Ranch

FAQs

(Last revised 5-5-2021)

Q. What is excessive speeding?

Pursuant to the Community Standards for Conduct DCR-24, excessive speeding is defined as follows:

- *Driving more than 20 MPH over the posted speed limit.*
- *Driving 11 MPH or more over the posted speed limit on streets adjacent to park areas*

Q. How much is the fine for excessive speeding in the community?

A \$300 fine is levied for excessive speeding, and that amount can be increased by the Board for multiple infractions. Gate transponders can also be suspended for multiple infractions (DCR-24).

Q. Are there warning signs?

There are warning signs posted at the entrance of every gate.

Q. How many photo speed cameras are there and how much did they cost?

There are two photo speed cameras, and they are rotated around the community about every two weeks. The devices cost about \$26,000 each.

Q. How does this technology work? How accurate is it?

Our speed cameras are manufactured by TrafficLogix. The speed cameras are known as Enforcer cameras and work using a time-distance parallax which monitors how fast a vehicle moves past the camera. The camera utilizes a virtual space where it places several boxes across the street and monitors how fast the vehicle enters and exits each box. To verify the accuracy of the camera, DC Ranch Association staff perform calibration tests to confirm accuracy after a camera is moved, repaired, or inspected. Association staff also partnered with Scottsdale Police Department to perform several high-speed tests which confirmed that the camera is accurate at a higher rate of speed.

Q. How were/are speed limits set?

The Association Board approved speed limits after three years of meetings, resident surveys, a traffic engineer study and data collection, all of which culminated in a 2016 decision.

Q. When did this fining program start?

The program was approved by the Board in 2017 after more than three years of research, review, and committee involvement.

Speeding was first brought to the attention of the Association's Board in 2013 following a Community Council resident survey. The Board responded by forming a Safety and Security Committee to review the situation and make recommendations to the full board.

The Committee conducted two data verification projects: random hand-held radar gun spot checks and an additional resident survey focused on safety issues. Both projects validated that speeding was the number one concern among residents.

Next, the Committee examined the speed control methods used by other Scottsdale communities. The committee also met twice with Scottsdale Police regarding best practices for establishing reasonable, enforceable speed limits.

In 2014, a major communication plan was executed. Additionally, the Association invested in three electronic speed signs to help remind drivers of their speed and to provide data indicating the speeding problem areas. The speed on major arterials in the Country Club and Silverleaf Villages had already been established at 25 mph years before. The Board voted to set 15 mph as the limit for all residential streets due to the proximity to parks, trails, and driveway access. A handful of "feeder" streets including Cattle Whip, Lariat, and Saguaro were set at 20 mph.

From 2014 to 2016, electronic sign data was collected that confirmed numerous instances of excessive speeding which supported fining on the first offense for speeds more than 20 mph over the posted limit on residential roads. The Standards for Conduct were written and approved in March 2016. In March 2019, the Board revised DCR-24 to include first offense fines for driving 11 mph or more on streets adjacent to parks and approved purchase of a second speed camera.

Q. Does the Board have the authority to approve and implement a program like this?

Pursuant to Section 3.2(a) of the Association's CC&Rs "the Board may modify, cancel, limit, create exceptions to, or expand the Use Restrictions and Rules..." Additionally legal counsel for the Association participated in the program's development.

Q. How does the Association communicate this program?

The Association routinely communicates this program to residents and owners using all DC Ranch media e.g., Ranch News, Ranch Round Up, DC Ranch.com, neighborhood newsletters, Ranch-wide mails, and at open board meetings.

Q. Why not just a warning instead of a fine?

Pursuant to DCR-24, warnings are not applicable for "excessive speeding." The rule provides for an immediate fine of \$300 for the first event and subsequent events. The Board can escalate that fine in its sole discretion.

Q. Suppose I just do not pay the fine?

After the fine is 90 days late you are notified that the fine needs to be paid or your transponders and key fobs will be suspended until the fine is paid.

Q. If I do not want to pay the fine, what options are available to me?

You can appeal to the Board of Directors and the Arizona Department of Real Estate.

Q. The fine seems excessive.

The fine is reasonable compared with local governmental speeding fines. It should be noted that 1) the speeding infraction is not reported to the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division and 2) driving more than 20 mph over the posted speed limit in Scottsdale is classified as criminal speeding (a felony).

Q. I was not driving the vehicle, why am I responsible?

Pursuant to the CC&Rs Section 7.5 "Every owner and occupant shall comply with the Ranch Governing Documents. In the event any occupant, guest, or invitee violates the Ranch Governing Documents and a fine is imposed, the fine shall first be assessed against the violator. If the fine is not paid by the violator within the stated time-period, the owner shall pay the fine."

Q. What if one of my service providers is caught speeding, am I also responsible?

CC&R Section 7.5 applies here as well. We attempt to collect the fine first from the service provider, and in most cases we are successful. If we are not successful, the owner remains responsible.

Q. I received multiple tickets for excessive speeding, but I did not know about the first one and then received other letters after the first speeding infraction. Why should I pay the others?

All owners and residents are responsible to follow the community rules, especially where speeding is concerned. Every excessive speeding infraction triggers an immediate \$300 fine.

Q. Why do roads adjacent to the park areas only have a variance of 11 miles over vs. 20 miles over for other community roads?

Parks are an area devoted to a specified purpose, a place for recreation. Parks are where families with children, and animals can go to play and relax and enjoy the outdoors. Safety in these areas is paramount.

Q. What is a park?

A park is any public green space that can be used for recreation. It is a place where children, and families can play and run no matter the lot size.

DCR-24 Speeding

All persons traveling on DC Ranch Private Roads system must obey the speed limit. The DC Ranch speed limit is **15 MPH** unless posted otherwise.

RE: Board Policy, Adopted 03/4/2019

Enforcement

First violation: 10 to 20 MPH over the posted speed limit may be issued a written courtesy letter and an email notification

Second violation: 10 to 20 MPH over the posted speed limit may be issued a Final Reminder letter and an email notification

Third violation: 10 to 20 MPH over the posted speed limit may be issued a Notice of Fine of a minimum of \$300

Excessive speed is defined as follows:

- 1) Driving more than 20 MPH** over the posted speed limit.
- 2) Driving 11 MPH** or more over the posted speed limit on streets adjacent to park areas.

Each of the foregoing are subject to a minimum fine of \$300 upon the first offense. Each subsequent offense will result in a fine of a minimum of \$300, escalated as determined by the Board in its sole discretion.

Pursuant to the CC&Rs at Article VII, Section 7.5., every owner and occupant shall comply with the Ranch Governing Documents. In the event any occupant, guest or invitee violates the Ranch Governing Documents and a fine is imposed, the fine shall first be assessed against the violator. If the fine is not paid by the violator within the stated time-period, the owner shall pay the fine.