

Swimming Pool Safety Rules

Swimming pools present unique risks and liabilities to your facility. To keep patrons and staff safe at your swimming pool, there should be rules for your staff to ensure that health and safety are top of mind and for patrons to follow to reduce liability exposures.

Consider implementing these regulations at your facility to ensure the health and safety of patrons and staff:

- Any person with a visible infectious disease should not be permitted to use the pool.
- Individuals who excrete bodily fluids in the pool should be asked to leave immediately, and the pool should be closed for disinfecting as required by state regulations.
- Provide lifeguards for the establishment during all hours of operation to supervise and observe swimmers. The lifeguards should:
 - Be capable swimmers and able to perform lifeguarding tasks as authorized by their certifications
 - Be responsible for the safety of swimmers within their designated zone
 - Have a clear view of the bottom of the pool and all areas that they are responsible for supervising
 - Be wearing a uniform that properly identifies them as a lifeguard on duty for patrons and other staff members

- Be prepared to immediately enter the water for a rescue
- Not conduct swim instruction or coaching while also on duty as a lifeguard
- Always have a rescue tube and a CPR pocket mask on their person while on duty

In order to maintain the health and safety of everyone in your facility, rules and regulations should be in place for both patrons and staff.

- Have a valid lifeguard certification from the American Red Cross, YMCA, Boy Scouts of America or other organization with comparable training
- Possess valid certification for infant, child and adult CPR, including pocket mask, bag valve and two-person CPR
- Possess valid certification for first aid
- Staff additional lifeguards during special events when the number of swimmers increases beyond a typical day's attendance.
- Have a lifeguard stationed at every slide in the facility whose only responsibility is that area of the pool.

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- Provide first aid equipment in an accessible location for use by lifeguards and patrons. As a minimum, the kit should include unused disposable gloves and sufficient materials to stop bleeding and clean and bandage minor wounds.
- Have at least one backboard on-site for use during spinal injuries. These boards must have straps and head immobilizers.
- Place a telephone within 500 feet of the swimming pool with emergency phone numbers clearly posted next to the phone.
- Ensure that all chemicals used for the pool operation are stored properly in labeled containers.
- Keep a daily record of all injuries and operational data, including fecal accidents, chemical levels, water temperature, water clarity and any chemicals added throughout the day – record this data every four hours during operation.
- Use a diethyl-p-phenylenediamine (DPD) testing kit for measuring the concentration levels of chlorine or bromine, pH, total alkalinity, cyanuric acid and water temperature in the pool.
- Ensure that pool water is circulated continuously 24 hours a day during the time of year that the pool is in operation.
- Ensure that the pool water temperature does not exceed 90° F.
- Conduct a manual test of chlorine and pH at the beginning of each shift before swimmers enter the pool.

Rules for Patrons

- Just like the rules implemented at your facility to maintain health and safety, the rules provided for swimmers will also reduce the risk of accidents and will increase the enjoyment of all who frequent your

establishment. Implement the following rules for your patrons:

- The rules and requests made by lifeguards should always be respected and followed.
- Always walk, not run, on a pool deck and around the facility.
- Children shorter than 4 feet tall should be accompanied by an adult at all times while in the water or on the grounds of the facility. While in the water, the adult should be within an arm's length of the child.
- Children who are not potty-trained will only be allowed in the pool if they are wearing an approved swim diaper and a swimming suit. Cloth or disposable diapers are not appropriate attire.
- Acceptable swimming attire must be worn by all patrons when entering the water.
- Animals are not allowed in the pool area or on the grounds with the exception of guide dogs; however, guide dogs should never be allowed in the water.
- Patrons who appear to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will be asked to leave the facility immediately.
- Food and beverages will only be allowed in designated areas.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the grounds.
- The use of flotation devices must be approved by a lifeguard.
- All swimmers must shower before entering the pool. Those patrons with open sores, cuts and infected eyes will not be allowed to enter the pool.
- All swimmers must pass a facility swim test to enter the deep end of the pool.

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- Diving in the shallow end is strictly prohibited.
- Back dives, somersaults and dangerous jumps (as determined by the lifeguard) are not permitted.
- Swimmers must leave the pool area immediately when advised by staff due to inclement weather, a chemical emergency or bodily fluids in the pool.
- Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated or accepted at the facility.
- Patrons who are verbally warned by a lifeguard of unacceptable behavior will be asked to leave the facility if a second offense occurs.

Use these suggestions as a starting point, but also take your facility's individual risks and exposures into consideration when crafting policies and rules for your swimming pool. Bankers Insurance, LLC can help you evaluate your unique risks and advise you on strategies to reduce those risks. Contact us at (800) 541-1419 today.