



## YMCA SOUTHCOAST & COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AQUATIC SAFETY PROCEDURES

- Pool will only be open when a certified lifeguard is on duty.
- All persons using the swimming pool must take a cleansing shower before entering the pool.
- Any person having an infectious, communicable disease or open wound is prohibited from using a public pool.
- Appropriate, clean swimwear is required.
- Contamination of any surfaces with bodily fluids in the pool area or locker rooms is strictly prohibited.
- Infants and incontinent individuals must wear rubber pants or swim diapers.
- Long hair must be braided, worn in a ponytail(s) or restrained under a swim cap.
- No glass containers, food or street shoes permitted in pool area.
- Instructional floatation equipment /toys/objects may not be used without permission from the aquatic staff or under special supervision by a YMCA employee. Use of USCG approved floatation devices encouraged.
- Please walk in pool area – only clean, appropriate indoor footwear allowed on deck.
- Jumping and Diving ONLY permitted during supervised swim programs.
- No extended breath-holding. Swimmers must surface to breathe at a distance of every 3 body lengths.
- All children will be tested and marked according to swim ability. Aquatic staff reserve the right to deep water test any adult and/or deny any adult with a child, entry into deep water.
- Children 0 – 5 years of age MUST be accompanied by an adult (over 18) IN THE WATER and stay within an arm's reach AT ALL TIMES.
- Children 6–7 years & 48" tall are eligible for shallow water test; if child passes, adult does not have to accompany child in water, but MUST REMAIN IN POOL AREA IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE CHILD.
- Children 8 + years & 48" tall are eligible for deep water test; if child passes, adult does not have to accompany child in water, but MUST REMAIN IN POOL AREA TO SUPERVISE if the child is 8–9 years.
- If a child is 10–11 years and passes either test, adult MUST REMAIN IN THE BUILDING, but is not required on pool deck.
- Any child of 6+ years that doesn't meet the 48" height requirement or is unable to pass the shallow water test (regardless of their age), will be considered a non-swimmer and a parent will be required IN THE WATER with them within arm's reach AT ALL TIMES.
- See lifeguard on duty for test requirements.
- A parent may not be responsible for more than 4 children in the pool at one time. Of the maximum of 4 children, NO MORE THAN 2 can be non-swimmers (0–5 years or unable to pass shallow/deep water tests).
- Rough-housing and horseplay are not acceptable pool behaviors.
- Breaking rules will result either in 1 warning and then suspension OR immediate suspension from the pool area depending upon the severity of the action/inaction.
- The lifeguard is the final authority on all actions and discipline within the pool area to ensure and maintain a safe environment.
  - OPEN SWIM – For individuals/families of all ages to enjoy unstructured activities in the pool.
  - PARENT/TOT – For families with children 0–5 years of age to enjoy unstructured activities in the pool.
  - INCLUSIVE SWIM – For individuals having special physical/cognitive needs requiring a quieter environment.
  - LAP SWIM – For individuals swimming lengths/laps for exercise – must be 10+ years and deep-water test qualified.