

11.2.21 SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

PURPOSE:

This document sets forth guidelines to provide a safe environment to enjoy recreational swimming on campus property.

SCOPE:

This document applies to all persons (full or part time employees, students, or visitors) using campus swimming facilities. This document applies to all pools, spas, and other swimming areas on campus property.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Patron Responsibilities:

- A. A valid Baylor ID is required for entrance to all Baylor University swimming facilities. (A Baylor ID is not transferable.)
- B. Guests (without valid Baylor ID) must be accompanied by an employee, spouse, student, etc. with a valid Baylor ID and registered upon entrance to the facility.
- C. Guests and participants under 16 years of age are permitted during family hours only and must be accompanied by parent or guardian at all times. Visit the McLane Student Life Center web site at <http://www.baylor.edu/campusrec/index.php?id=18152> for family and other operating hours.
- D. Guests under the age of 18 must have a liability waiver completed by their parent or guardian.
- E. Participation is always at your own risk.
- F. No smoking, chewing tobacco, or alcohol is allowed on Baylor University property.
- G. Consumption of alcohol, intoxication, or the appearance/smell of intoxication, will be reason for immediate removal from the premises.
- H. No food, gum, or beverages are allowed in the pool or spa areas, except water in a sealable, unbreakable container.
- I. No glass or metal containers are allowed in the swimming or spa areas.
- J. Beverages in plastic containers with re-sealable caps are allowed, but must be kept away from the swimming or spa areas.
- K. All accidents must be reported to the Front Desk or the appropriate supervisor and the Department of Risk Management at 710-4586 immediately.
- L. Participants are encouraged to report any maintenance/repair needs to the Front Desk or the appropriate supervisor or directly to Baylor Facility Services at 710-1361 immediately.

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- M. Entrance and exit of the facility must be through the designated main entrances and exits.
- N. Patrons are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not distract from or disrupt the recreational pursuits of others. Should a staff member determine that a patron's conduct is distracting or disruptive, the staff member may impose the patron's immediate removal from the facility until the patron can conduct himself or herself in an appropriate manner. If the staff member is unable to obtain the cooperation of the patron, the staff member will contact the Baylor University Police Department at 710-2222, and the patron may be referred for disciplinary action.
- O. All users must shower before entering.
- P. Diving is not permitted.
- Q. People with open wounds or infectious diseases are not permitted in pools or spas.
- R. Gum and adhesive bandages are not allowed in the pool area.
- S. Training equipment must be used in the manner for which it was intended (i.e. kickboards for lap swimming only).
- T. Lap lanes are for lap swimming only.
- U. All swimmers should circle swim when sharing a lane with others. Swim on the right side of the lane.
- V. All persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied and closely supervised by an adult (age 18 or over) at all times.
- W. Linger in the slide receiving pool is not permitted.
- X. Running, pushing, and horseplay are strictly prohibited; failure to abide by this standard of conduct may result in immediate dismissal from the facility.
- Y. Minimum height requirement for patrons using slides is 48 inches.
- Z. Enter and exit slowly and cautiously.
- AA. People with heart disease, abnormal blood pressure, epilepsy, or emotional disorders should not use the hot tub or sauna, as it may place them in physical danger.
- BB. Pregnant women should not use the spa.
- CC. Children under the age of 5 are not allowed to use the spa, and all other persons under age 16 must be accompanied and closely supervised by an adult (age 18 or over) while in spa.
- DD. Lifeguards have the authority to require patrons to leave for failure to abide by any facility policy.

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EE. Failure to abide by the policies outlined herein may result in the permanent loss of facility privileges.

Safety Features:

The following safety features and equipment are to be maintained at all times at all campus swimming facilities. Specific requirements as to the construction of some of these features may be found in the Texas Department of Health document *Standards for Swimming Pools and Spas*.

- A. A handhold shall be provided around the perimeter in areas where depths exceed 42 inches and there is no seat bench, swim-out, or lunge area below the perimeter area in question.
- B. Float lines, floor markings, and depth markers shall be used to mark and separate areas of varying depths where appropriate.
- C. "NO DIVING" signs with at least one inch lettering and the international no diving symbol shall be placed at least every 25 feet around the pool where the water depth is 6 feet or less.
- D. For pools where no lifeguard service is required, a warning sign shall be placed in plain view and shall state "WARNING-NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY" with clearly legible letters at least 4 inches high. In addition, the sign shall also state in letters at least 2 inches high "CHILDREN SHOULD NOT USE POOL WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION."
- E. For specific lifeguard requirements see the Baylor University Department of Campus Recreation Lifeguard Staff Handbook.
- F. Pool Safety Equipment
 - 1. A reaching pole that is light, strong, non-telescoping, at least 12 feet long, and made of non-conducting material
 - 2. A throwing rope that is 1/4-inch to 3/8-inch diameter, with a length at least two-thirds the maximum width of the pool; A ring buoy that is approved by the United States Coast Guard and has an outside diameter of 15 to 24 inches shall be attached to the throwing rope.
 - 3. If the pool has between 2,000 and 4,000 square feet of water surface area, an additional reaching pole and throwing rope with ring buoy, as described in subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this section shall be provided. If the pool has over 4,000 square feet of water surface area, an additional reaching pole and throwing rope with ring buoy as described in subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this section shall be provided for each 6,000 square feet of water surface area or portion thereof over 4,000 square feet. All such lifesaving equipment shall be mounted in conspicuous places around the pool deck within 20 feet of the pool. All lifesaving equipment shall be kept in good repair and ready condition.
 - 4. Pools that have a diving board, slide, or lifeguard shall have one or more backboards with a minimum of 3 tie down straps and head immobilizer for back and neck injuries.

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5. Pools with lifeguards shall be equipped with a first aid kit. First aid kits shall be a standard 24-unit kit and housed in a durable weather resistant container and kept filled and ready for use (including disease transmission barriers and cleansing kits). For more specific information on First Aid and Accident Injury Prevention and reporting at Baylor University, visit http://www.baylor.edu/risk_management/index.php?id=8158.
6. Pools and spas shall have a telephone that is capable of immediately summoning emergency service (BUPD) and that is readily accessible within 200 feet from the pool or spa water.
- H. Lighting shall be of sufficient strength and spacing to provide illumination to all portions of the deck and water surface areas. The bottom of the pool must be readily seen without glare.
- I. Pools and spas shall be enclosed by a fence, a portion of a building, wall, or other durable enclosure.
- J. Each facility is equipped with lightning detection equipment that can detect lightning up to 40 miles away. As recommended by the National Lightning Safety Institute, all pool and spa facilities will immediately be evacuated and closed as soon as notification is received of lightning within a ten mile radius of the facility. Staff members and lifeguards will be responsible for the safe and orderly evacuation of all patrons. Pool activities should remain suspended until thirty minutes after the last thunder is heard.

Operational Requirements:

- A. **Required operator certification.** Class A or B pools and Class D pools operated in conjunction with a Class A or B pools shall be maintained under the supervision and direction of a properly trained and certified operator who is responsible for the sanitation, safety, and proper maintenance of the pool or spa, and for maintaining all physical and mechanical equipment and records. Training and certification can be obtained by completion of one of the following courses or their equivalent:
 1. the NRPA, "Aquatic Facility Operator" (A.F.O.);
 2. the NSPF, "Certified Pool-Spa Operator" (C.P.O.);
 3. YMCA, "Pool Operator on Location" (P.O.O.L.);
 4. the NSPI, "Professional Pool & Spa Operator" (P.P.S.O.); or
 5. the ASPSA, "Licensed Aquatic Facility Technician" (L.A.F.T.).
- B. **Water clarity standards.** Areas of a pool or spa shall be opened for use only if the pool or spa bottom and/or main drains are clearly visible. Possible visual occlusion by sediment or other matter shall be checked before opening a pool and periodically, as necessary, while the pool is in use. To check the pool or spa when in use, bathers shall exit and the pool or spa water shall be allowed to calm. Clarity shall be observed between 1 to 5 minutes after users have exited. The pool or spa shall be opened for use only if the bottom and/or main drains are

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clearly visible. Sediment or other matter that may cause visual occlusion shall be vacuumed, filtered or otherwise removed as needed prior to pool use.

- C. **Equipment for water clarity.** When a pool or spa is open for use, filtration, circulation systems, chemical/disinfectant feeders, slurry feeders, heaters, etc., that are dependent upon circulation pump flow shall be operating, plus any additional time necessary to ensure continuous water clarity and chemical distribution.
1. The pool and spa shall be operated to maintain the turnover rates as stated in the Texas Department of Health Standards for Swimming Pools and Spas Section 265.187(b)(1) (relating to Circulation Systems for Post-10/01/99 Pools and Spas) and §265.187(c).
 2. Circulation pumps shall run continuously 24 hours a day year round and not be throttled to reduce circulation below the design flow rate, except that a pool pump may run less than 24 hours a day if:
 - a. a “Pool Closed” sign, with letters at least 1-inch tall, is posted on the exterior side of each entry gate into the pool yard;
 - b. the pump runs a sufficient number of hours needed to keep the water at required clarity and disinfectant levels; and
 - c. the pump runs the same number of hours each day.
- D. **Off season water clarity.** When an outdoor pool or spa is not in use for an extended period of time (such as off season), clarity shall be maintained and algae growth shall be prevented; however, other water quality parameters as required in §265.204(a) (relating to Water Quality for Post-10/01/99 and Pre-10/01/99 Pools and Spas) do not need to be maintained. Other methods may be used to maintain pools and spas during extended periods of non-use if the methods are approved by local authorities in writing and water clarity is maintained.
- E. **Off season safety.** When a pool or spa is not in use after seasonal operation, while under construction or renovation, or for any other reason, the facility shall not be allowed to give off objectionable odors, become a breeding site for insects, or create any other nuisance situation or safety hazard.
- F. **Domestic animals prohibited.** Animals shall not be allowed within a pool or spa enclosure area, except that service animals shall be allowed on the deck and within the pool enclosure but not in the pool.
- G. **Actual water level.** Actual water level in a pool or spa shall be maintained within the operating water level range of the system’s rim or weir device.
- H. **Protection from chemicals.** Personnel in charge of maintaining a pool or a spa shall be properly trained in accordance with §265.197(a) (5) (relating to Disinfectant Equipment and Chemical Feeders at Post-10/01/99 and Pre-10/01/99 Pools and Spas). All chemical storage areas shall be appropriately labeled as to the specific contents and their hazards.

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- I. **Maximum load limits.** The maximum load limits for a post-10/01/99 pool and spa shall be calculated and posted. Load limits are indicated in §265.184(n) (relating to General Construction and Design for Post-10/01/99 Pools and Spas).
- J. **Use of life jackets.** No person shall be prohibited from the use of a life jacket in a pool or spa.
- K. **Proper use of chemicals.** Use of chemicals at pools and spas shall be according to the chemical manufacturer's directions. No chemical shall be used in a way that violates the manufacturer's instructions for the chemical feed system or the ANSI/NSFI 50 - 1996 certification of the chemical feed system.
- L. **Use of registered products.** In pools and spas, only chemicals registered and labeled for use in pools and spas by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency shall be used.
- M. **Required water quality.** Water quality for a pool or a spa shall meet the following criteria when the pool or spa is open for use. The water quality parameters in the following table apply to both pools and spas unless otherwise indicated.

Figure: 25 TAC §265.204(a)

Disinfectant Levels	Minimum	Ideal	Maximum
Free Chlorine – pools	1.0 ppm	2.0 – 3.0 ppm	8.0 ppm
Free Chlorine – spas	2.0 ppm	3.0 – 5.0 ppm	8.0 ppm
Combined Chlorine	None	None	None
Bromine – pools	2.5 ppm	2.5 – 6.0 ppm	12.0 ppm
Bromine – spas	4.5 ppm	5.5 – 7.5 ppm	12.0 ppm

pH Levels	Minimum	Ideal	Maximum
pH	Not less than 7.0	7.4 – 7.6	7.8

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Water Clarity	Minimum	Ideal	Maximum
Water turbidity	Bottom and main drain shall be clearly visible at the deepest part of the pool or spa (Section 265.203(c))	Bottom and main drain shall be clearly visible at the deepest part of the pool or spa (Section 265.203(c))	Bottom and main drain shall be clearly visible at the deepest part of the pool or spa (Section 265.203(c))

Spa Temperature	Minimum	Ideal	Maximum
Temperature °F	N/A	102°F or less	104°F (40°C)

N. **Water quality testing.** A reliable means of testing for pH, free and total chlorine or total bromine residuals shall be maintained. The test method shall be capable of measuring chemical ranges as detailed in subsection (A) of this section.

1. Free available chlorine residual shall be determined by the use of the DPD method or its equivalent.
2. Test reagents shall be properly stored and changed at frequencies recommended by the manufacturer to assure accuracy of the tests.

O. **Testing frequency.** When a Class A or B pool is open for use or when a Class D pool operated in conjunction with a Class A or B pool or spa is open for use, a test for disinfectant level and pH shall be conducted at least every 2 hours to assure compliance with subsection (M) of this section relating to required water quality parameters. In lieu of the above testing frequency, if a system is used to automatically control disinfectant and pH, testing for disinfectant level and pH shall be made at least once per day. If necessary, tests shall be conducted more frequently to assure proper disinfectant level and pH.

P. **Other required tests.** Test(s) for total chlorine, alkalinity and hardness shall be conducted as necessary to assure proper chemical control.

Q. **Operational records.** When tests are required, under this section, operational records of the tests shall be kept for two years and be made available during an audit.

For any other questions or comments on this policy, contact the Department of Risk Management at Baylor University at 710-4586.

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[Signature on File] _____

Warren A. Ricks, CRM
Chairman, Risk Management Committee
Assistant Vice President and Chief Risk Management Officer

Date

[Signature on File] _____

Charles D. Beckenhauer
General Counsel

Date

[Signature on File] _____

Dr. Reagan Ramsower
Vice President for Finance and Administration

Date