



Simpkins Family Swim Center Pool Rules & Explanations

Pool Deck Rules

No Running

- Water on the pool deck increases the chances of slipping and falling on the pool deck. To prevent injury, walking on the pool deck should be enforced in an assertive voice. Remember to be polite when asking someone to walk and avoid yelling “Hey!” to get the runners’ attention.

Keep Walkways Clear

- All walkways around the pool deck should be kept clear of patrons, clothes, chairs, and all equipment. These walkways need to remain clear at all times for lifeguards, emergency personnel and handicapped access. All stairways, ramps, handrails and handicapped access points need to remain accessible at all times.

No Bicycles, Skateboards, Roller Blades Ect. On Pool Deck

- Bike racks are located outside each entrance to the swim facility. Bikes, skateboards, and roller blades create unnecessary obstacles on the pool deck. Riding bikes on the deck endangers other patrons and there is a risk of falling on the deck or into the pool. Skateboards and roller blades should be stored in a bag if brought onto the pool deck.

No Changing clothes on the deck

- There are two designated indoor changing areas available. Changing under a towel is insufficient because the towel might fall off or be blown away. Other patrons, especially families, may be offended by an accidental exposure. There are changing tables for infants and small children located in all restrooms in the handicapped stalls.

No Fighting

- Fighting, even “play” fighting, creates situations that are dangerous not only to the patrons involved, but to other patrons that are in the surrounding areas. We aim to promote constructive water fun and injury prevention.

No Swearing or Offensive language

- Swearing and the use of offensive language is disrespectful and offensive to other patrons.

Food and Drinks Permitted in the Food Court Area Only

- The Food court is the designated area for food and drink consumption. This is the area that contains the picnic tables with umbrellas near the water slide. This area should help to contain trash and spills to keep the pool areas clean.

No Glass Containers

- Glass can easily be broken and the fragments are sharp. Glass fragments are dangerous on the deck and glass shards in the pool are difficult to detect. There are no glass containers allowed anywhere on the deck or food court areas.

No Gum Chewing

- Chewing gum while swimming can be a choking hazard. If permitted on the deck, gum could create a mess if it were to get stuck on the deck.

Swimming Rules

Young Children

- For safety reasons, young children need supervision. In case of an emergency a responsible person may be needed to direct care, answer questions, provide information, or supervise the child out of water. Children 6 and under must be accompanied by someone 13 or older who can be responsible for the child in and out of the water. Children not yet toilet trained must wear swim diapers or plastic swim pants over their diapers at all times.

No Swimming without a lifeguard on duty

- In the event of an emergency, a lifeguard needs to be present to respond. No patrons should be on the pool deck with out a lifeguard on the deck or in the tower.

Floation Devices

- Personal floation devises are not allowed in any pool with the exception of supervised programs for persons with disabilities. Some inflatable toys can be unsafe for children. Floation devices are not licensed life saving devices and

children and parents should not rely on unapproved floatation for support. Swimmers that use floatation toys give a mixed message to non-swimmers who rely on them for support. We do not want anyone to rely on floatation devices to keep them afloat; non-swimmers should always be accompanied by an adult.

Fins, snorkels and Other Swim Equipment

- Use of these types of equipment is prohibited during recreation swim times. Recreation swim gets too crowded for people to use the equipment. Someone could be injured by the plastic components of the swim equipment if used improperly. Swim equipment can be used by adults during lap swim programs only.

No Hanging on the Lane lines and Swim Ropes

- The ropes are there to define pool use and to mark where the water gets deeper. Swimmers could become entangled in a loose line or become injured on the connection points.

No Diving

- American Red Cross recommends diving in water of 9 feet or deeper. Our pool is only 8 feet at its' deepest. Under coaches supervision, swim teams, water polo players and adult fitness swimmers may dive into the pool but only on the deeper side of the pool usually marked by the bulkhead. Swimmers should make sure the area is clear of other swimmers before they dive into the water.

Look Before You Leap/ Jumping Into Pool

- When a swimmer jumps in the water they need to be facing forward until they enter the water; no spinning. There are no cannonballs allowed in the warm water pool or in any pool if deemed unsafe by the lifeguard. Patrons need to be careful of where they enter the water because other swimmers may change positions in the water at any time. If the jumper were to land on the swimmer they could suffer a head or neck injury or become injured. If a weak swimmer was forced under water by the impact they could be held under or severely injured.

No Gathering at the top or bottom of the ladders

- Ladders are for entering and exiting the pool, and if people cluster near them access can be restricted. Only one person on the ladders at a time.

No Sitting, walking or climbing on the peninsula of the Warm Water Pool

- Children may not realize that the water is deep on one side of the peninsula and shallow on the other. The peninsula is very narrow, slippery when wet and it is not level. The peninsula needs to be clear of patrons so the lifeguards are able to see any patrons that may be on the other side.

No Piggyback rides and riding on others' shoulders

- When an adult has a child on his or her back, they are unable to see the child's face, thus unable to tell if the child is able to keep their head above water. When a child has another child on their back, they may not be strong enough to hold the weight of the other child. When a swimmer is on another swimmer's shoulders, the rider could fall off and land on another swimmer or hit the side of the pool. These situations pose a drowning threat. It is important that all swimmers rely on their own ability to swim and remain within their limitations.

Faking drowning

- Faking drowning distracts lifeguards from other patrons and could cause an unnecessary rescue attempt.

Open wounds or rashes

- Wounds carry germs and rashes can be contagious. If you are uncertain about the severity of a wound or rash contact your supervisor. Severely open wounds need to be covered.

No Roughhousing

- Aggressive behavior jeopardizes the safety of all patrons. Rough play is not conducive to the safe, enjoyable environment that we like to maintain at this facility.

Water Slide Rules

Water slide riders must be at least 4 feet tall

- In order to touch the bottom of the splashdown pool at the depth of 3'6", riders must be at least 48" (4 ft.) tall. This is the manufacturer's specification.

Wait for lifeguard instructions

- Patrons need to wait for lifeguard instructions so they can be informed of the rules and avoid unsafe acts. The rules are posted on the banister of the second level.

One person at a time on the water slide, 300 pound maximum

- The slide manufacturers recommend that only one person rides the slide at a time. If a rider fails to wait they could run into someone on the slide, in the splashdown pool, or potentially land into the middle of a rescue. The slide is designed for riders up to 300 lbs.

Go feet first, on your back and keep your hands inside.

- Losing control while executing any of these actions could result in head injury or other serious injuries. The manufacturers have determined this is the safest way to ride the slide. Do not stop yourself during the ride. The water moves very fast and striking the wall of the slide or something outside could cause injury.

Parents may not catch children at the bottom of the splashdown pool

- Riders come out of the slide with more force than a waiting parent may expect. Standing in the path of an oncoming patron is unsafe.

Only enter splashdown pool from the slide

- The pool needs to be kept clear of swimmers to avoid a collision between someone swimming and someone entering from the slide. Exception: sometimes swim lessons are held in the splash down pool. During these times the slide is not in operation.

Exit the water immediately

- This is necessary in order for the next rider to go down the slide. To be safe, the water needs to be clear of other swimmers.