



SWIMMING POOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

City of Gaithersburg Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

The following rules and regulations have been established for the benefit of all users of the pool to assure the safe operation of the pool facilities and to provide enjoyable recreation for all. Patrons are requested to cooperate in observing these rules and to obey the instructions of the Aquatics staff. Patrons violating swimming rules are subject to the revocation of their swimming privileges. The Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department reserves the right to refuse admittance into either City facility (the Aquatic Center

and/or Water Park) when the capacity of the pool has been reached or when otherwise deemed necessary for health, welfare, or safety of its patrons. The Aquatic Director or their designated assistants (such as Facility Managers, Pool Operators, Lifeguards, and Cashiers) are responsible for the operation of the pools. Their instruction must be followed at all times. Should a disagreement arise, patrons are advised to contact the Aquatic Director at (301) 258-6445.

GENERAL RULES AND ADMISSION POLICIES

1. The City assumes **no liability for injuries** or damages arising from the results of participation unless due to willful or gross negligence on the part of the City. Due to the strenuous nature of some activities, the participant is advised to consult his/her physician concerning fitness to participate. All activities present certain inherent risks and hazards which the participant assumes.
2. No one will be allowed in the swimming area unless the pool is officially open and a **lifeguard is on duty**. Entry upon the pool premises when it is not open for public use is punishable by fines or imprisonment or both. Customers are expected to exit the pool complex, including locker rooms, within 15 minutes of the posted pool closing time.
3. All children under 6 years old and children who are non-swimmers entering the water must be directly supervised at poolside by an adult in swim suit attire. There must be at least one adult for every 5 children (6-17 years old).
4. **Children under 10** entering the pool facility must be accompanied and cared for at poolside by a responsible person 16 years old or older in swim attire.
5. Use of the Tot Pool (Water Park only) is restricted to children five (5) years old and under. Each child must be supervised poolside by a person at least 16 years old. **Children must not be left unattended.**
6. **No person within the pool complex shall behave in such a manner as to jeopardize the safety and health of himself/herself or others.** Such behavior, including abusive or profane language, shall be grounds for expulsion.
7. Before entering the pool complex, any patron requiring **special accommodations** must inform the Pool Manager of his/her needs. Such a person must provide any required additional assistance.
8. **Lifeguards and Pool Staff have the authority** to enforce all pool rules. Patrons who repeatedly violate the rules may be ejected by the Manager.
9. Any **injury** occurring in the pool area must be reported to pool staff immediately.
10. **Admission fees must be paid** by all persons over the ages of one (1) upon entry to the pool complex. A driver's license or other government issued ID is required at the admission counter to verify City residency to receive the City discount.
11. **Rain checks** may be issued at the discretion of the Pool Manager to those admitted within 30 minutes of an unexpected closure due to mechanical failure or sudden & sustaining weather changes.
12. During storms, the outdoor pool will be closed and the entire area cleared of patrons depending on the severity of the weather. Because cover is limited, patrons are encouraged to go home. Others must remain within the shelter of the bathhouse, breezeway, concession pavilion, or their car. The pool will normally open thirty (30) minutes after the storm has passed. **Please see the Weather Policy flyer for more detailed information.**
13. The **use of cameras**, video cameras, or any device containing camera equipment of any kind is prohibited in all locker rooms, bathrooms, and changing facilities.
14. All pool users **must wear swimming suits** or swimming trunks upon entry to the pool. Clothing such as cut-offs, and underwear is not permitted as swimwear. Swimwear should not have been worn for exercising immediately prior to pool use and must be colorfast, opaque when wet and of a lightweight material suitable for swimwear such as Lycra, Spandex, or Nylon. Clean, colorfast t-shirts may be worn on top of swimsuits for modesty or medical reasons. Thong bathing suits are prohibited.
15. **Food or refreshments** may be consumed only under the snack pavilion or other prescribed areas. Food and drinks are not permitted on the concrete pool decks. All trash must be deposited in designated receptacles.
16. Picnic baskets or coolers are permitted. **All packages will be checked** and approved by the pool staff at admission. No grills, gas or electric cooking devices may be brought into the pool complex.
17. **Glass containers, knives, alcoholic beverages, drugs and pets** are not permitted in the pool complex. Service Animals are permitted in the pool complex.
18. **Persons under the influence** of drugs or alcohol will not be permitted in the pool complex or surrounding area.
19. **Leave valuables at home.** The City is not responsible for personal property left on the pool deck or in the locker room. Lost & Found will be disposed of weekly. Pool patrons are responsible for their own valuables; valuables may **not** be checked with pool staff.

20. **Loitering** will not be permitted on the pool grounds or within any of its facilities.
21. The **office telephone and public address system** may be used only for official pool business and/or in emergencies.

22. **Employees are the only persons allowed** in the guard room, filter room, mechanical room, storage rooms, and offices.

RULES FOR SWIMMERS

1. **Non-swimmers** must remain in shallow water (chest-deep or less) and be **directly supervised at poolside** by a responsible person at least 16 years old in swim suit attire. There must be at least one adult for every 5 children (6-15 years old).
2. Fecal accidents are a concern and an inconvenience to both pool operators and patrons. Those who swim when ill with diarrhea place other swimmers at significant risk for getting sick. Any adult or child may not use the pool during and immediately following even a mild case of diarrhea.
3. **Anyone not toilet-trained** (incontinent) who wishes to enter the pool must wear a **clean swim diaper covered with separate rubber/vinyl pants**, all of which must fit snugly around the legs & waist and under the swim suit.
4. **Check diapers often.** If the diaper becomes soiled, the person must leave the pool immediately and may not return until s/he has taken or been given a soap shower and has been recovered with a clean swim diaper and rubber/vinyl pants.
5. **Diaper changing** is not permitted poolside. Please use the changing tables provided in the locker rooms.
6. All patrons must take a **cleansing soap shower** before entering the deck area. Sun bathers should shower before each entrance into the water in order to rinse off perspiration, lotions, sunscreens, etc.
7. **Any person having a skin disease**, sore or inflamed eyes, cold, nasal or ear discharge, communicable disease, or who is wearing any kind of bandage or band-aid will not be permitted in the pool.
8. **Persons having any considerable area of exposed sub-skin tissues**, open blisters, cuts, etc. are warned that these are likely to become infected. Such persons may not use the pool.
9. **Spitting**, spouting, or swallowing of water, blowing nose, urinating, or defecating in the pool is prohibited.

10. Running, boisterous or rough play, pushing, acrobatics, dunking, wrestling, splashing, use of profanity, diving or jumping haphazardly, snapping of towels, improper conduct causing undue disturbances in or about the pool area or any **acts which would endanger any patron or staff are prohibited.**
11. **Prolonged underwater** swimming for distance is not permitted for safety reasons. Competitive and/or repetitive **breath holding is not permitted.**
12. **Inflatable toys, rafts, inner tubes and similar objects** are not permitted in the pool. **Balloons** are not permitted in the GAC natatorium. Playing close quartered "catch" or ball throwing with a soft object may be allowed based upon the Pool Manager's discretion.
13. **Smoking** is not permitted anywhere in the indoor pool facility. At the outdoor pool, smoking is permitted only in the grass area at the perimeter fence line beside the main pool water slides. Smokers are responsible for safe disposal of filters.
14. The pool may be cleared, at the discretion of the management, of all youths under the age of sixteen (16) for fifteen minutes at the top of the hour for a **Safety Break** (rest period and bathroom visit for young children).
15. **Gum chewing** is not permitted anywhere in the pool facility for health and safety reasons.
16. **Chairs** are not permitted within six (6) feet of the pool side.
17. Wearing **eyeglasses** in the pool is discouraged unless absolutely necessary. Non-breakable lenses and frames are recommended for safety.
18. **Single groups shall not monopolize** a particular area of the pool and thereby limit its use by or intimidate other patrons.
19. Only City scheduled activities are permitted. **No activity for private gain** is allowed at any time.

SPECIAL POLICIES

1. **NO DIVING is permitted from the side of any pool.** Feet-first entry only. The only exception will be at the Aquatic Center in deep (over five (5) feet) water under the supervision of an instructor or coach.
2. Coast Guard approved and labeled personal flotation devices or properly fitting personal flotation devices designed to provide vertical support and to keep the head above the surface of the water, may be worn **provided each non-swimmer is accompanied by an adult in the pool, within arm's reach.**

3. Back floats, **rafts, inner tubes and similar** air-inflated devices are not permitted.
4. During periods of cool weather, the outdoor pool will not open when the temperature is **below 70°F.**
5. Youths under the age of 14 are not permitted to wear **masks covering the nose** unless directly supervised by an adult; goggles are a suggested alternative.

- The use of **snorkels and fins** by adults (18 and older) is only permitted in the lap lanes at the Aquatic Center.
- Headphones must** be worn when listening to radios, "boom" boxes, CD players, etc.

- Children 6 years of age and older must change in the **appropriate sex locker room** or use the family bathroom (Water Park) or wing bathroom (Aquatic Center).
- Patrons are not permitted to **leave locks on lockers or to take home keys overnight**. Lockers will be opened and locker contents will be placed into Lost and Found. Lost and Found is donated to charity on a weekly basis.

RULES FOR DIVERS (AQUATIC CENTER ONLY)

- Only **one person** is allowed on the diving apparatus (including ladder) at a time.
- Divers must dive **straight from the end of the board**.
- Extended dives** toward shallow water are prohibited.
- Divers may not spring **more than once** on the board.
- Upon surfacing, immediately swim to the **nearest ladder**. Do not swim under the boards at any time.
- A **diver must wait** until the preceding diver has surfaced and reached the ladder.

- Diving board users **must be able to swim** to the ladder unassisted.
- The use of the **competitive diving blocks** is prohibited except during structured activities when the participating swimmers are directly supervised by swim coaches or instructional staff.
- No general swimming** is permitted in the diving area unless the diving boards have been closed by a Manager.

LAP SWIMMING (AQUATIC CENTER ONLY)

Lap lane space is limited. Therefore, it is expected that persons not swimming laps must remain in other areas of the pool. Several people of similar speeds can effectively share each lane by "circle swimming". To do this:

- Swim counterclockwise near the lane lines and pass in the middle when more than two swimmers are in a lane.**
- Stop only at the turning walls to rest.** Move to the side to allow others to turn and continue.

- Lap swimmers should **arrange themselves** according to speed in the lanes.
- Please keep off lane dividers.**
- Youths** who show evidence of being serious lap swimmers may be granted permission by the Manager to swim laps in the lap lanes during recreational swim or lap swimming only times.

WATER SLIDE RULES (WATER PARK ONLY)

WARNING: Failure to follow all rules and instructions can cause serious injury to yourself and others and may be cause for removal from the park.

- You must be **48 inches tall** to ride. **No exceptions.** Smaller children may not ride with a parent or guardian.
- Water slides are **not recommended** for pregnant women, persons with heart conditions, or back problems, people on some medications, those with a fear of heights or claustrophobia, or if you have physical limitations, impairments, or are under doctor's care.
- Wait for the attendant** to tell you when to go. No running starts.
- Only **one rider** is permitted to enter the flume at a time. **Stopping** on the slide, "**launching**" oneself, and "**chains**" are all prohibited.
- Riders must go down the slide **feet first**. Head first entry is not permitted.

- Riders should** lie down on their back, cross their feet, and cross their arms over the chest. Do not attempt to slow down, stop, kneel, stand, run, dive, or rotate your body.
- Do not block the end of the slide. Follow the instructions of splash pool attendant and **exit quickly**.
- Water depth** is 3 ½ feet and the current is strong. Use caution.
- Eyeglasses, contact lenses, prosthetic devices, and jewelry should be removed before riding.
- Swim wear with exposed zippers, buckles, rivets, or metal ornaments are **not permitted on slide**.
- Spitting, spouting or urinating on or from the slide tower is prohibited.