

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 and protection of all facility users to assure the safe operation of the swimming pools 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 may be asked to leave the facility. The Aquatics Superintendent or their designated staff 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 Aquatics Superintendent at (301) 258-6445 or aquatics@gaitersburgmd.gov.

GENERAL RULES AND ADMISSION POLICIES

1. The City assumes no liability for injuries or damages arising from the results of participation. 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. Any injury occurring in the pool area must be reported to pool staff immediately.
3. Entering a City facility when it is not open for public use is prohibited. No one is allowed in the swimming area unless the pool is officially open and a **“Ready-To-Rescue” lifeguard is on duty and present on the pool deck.**
4. Admittance into either City facility (the Aquatic Center and/or Water Park) may be refused when the capacity of the pool has been reached or when otherwise deemed necessary for health, welfare, or safety of its patrons.
5. Admission fees must be paid by all persons ages three (3) years old or older upon entry to the facility (even if swimming is not planned). To receive a discount, a driver's license or other government-issued ID with an address is required at the front desk to verify City of Gaithersburg residency. Persons leaving the pool must pay to re-enter with the exception of membership pass holders and those with an approved wristband for Putt-N- Pool and/or Bohrer Park pavilion rentals.
6. Membership holders should scan their pool passes in lieu of paying daily admission fees. Pool staff reserve the right to see passes at any time. Lost or stolen passes must be reported as soon as possible. A replacement pass costs \$5 per card.
7. During periods of sustained, heavy rain and/or cool weather where the temperature is not expected to be above 70°F, the Water Park will be closed for the day.
8. The outdoor pool will be temporarily cleared during passing thunderstorms, and the entire area will be cleared of patrons depending on the severity of the weather. Because cover is limited, patrons are encouraged to go home. Others may remain within the shelter of the locker rooms, breezeway, or concession pavilion. The pool usually re-opens thirty (30) minutes after the storm has passed. Please see the cashier for more information.
9. Patrons 6 years and older must change in the appropriate locker room or use the unisex bathroom (Water Park) or wing bathroom (Aquatic Center). Children ages 5 years and under may use the locker room of the opposite sex when accompanied by their parent or guardian.
10. Access to locker rooms is permitted based on the gender identity of the patron.
11. In order to enter the facility, children under 14 years old must be cared for by a responsible person 16 years old or older in appropriate swim attire at poolside. Non-swimmers and all children under 6 years old must be directly supervised by and within arm's reach of a responsible person 16 years old or older in appropriate swim attire. **Entering the pool water is prohibited if patrons are not demonstrably Water-Safe or under the Immediate Supervision of a Water-Safe person.**
12. The supervisor-to-child ratio is expected to be a minimum of 1:5 for children under 6 years old, and 1:10 for all other ages. Children must be supervised throughout the complex including locker rooms, grass area, snack bar, mini-golf course, as well as pool and deck areas.
13. Use of the Splash Pool is restricted to children of a height 54 inches or less. All children must be directly supervised and within arm's reach by a responsible person at least 16 years old in appropriate swim attire. Children must not be left unattended.
14. Camps and Daycares MUST email the water park at: waterpark@gaitersburgmd.gov five business days in advance of their desired date to visit the facility. Groups without a reservation risk being turned away.
15. Any group shall not monopolize a particular area of the pool and thereby limit its use or intimidate other patrons. Lawn furniture and pavilions are first come first served.
16. Only City scheduled activities are permitted. No activity for private gain is allowed at any time.
17. 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.
18. The Aquatics Superintendent and their designated staff have the authority to enforce all pool rules. Patrons who violate the rules may be ejected without refund.
19. Chairs and/or any lawn furniture is not permitted within six (6) feet of the poolside. Tents/umbrellas/shade structures and folding tables are not permitted in the facility.
20. 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.
21. Gum chewing is not permitted anywhere in the pool complex.
22. Persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be permitted in the pool complex or surrounding area.
23. Loitering will not be permitted outside the pool complex or in the surrounding area.

24. **Bringing any animal, other than a registered service animal, onto the immediate premises or allowing any animal to enter the pool water is prohibited.**
25. All packages will be checked and approved by the pool staff at the time of admission. No grills, gas or electric cooking devices may be brought into the facility. **Glass containers, knives, any dangerous objects/ material, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.**
26. **Patrons may bring outside food into the Water Park facility (with the exception of crabs); however, food and drinks (with the exception of water) are not permitted to be consumed on the pool deck. No liquids are allowed past the front desk except unopened cans and juice pouches.** All trash must be deposited in designated receptacles.
27. All pool users must wear appropriate swim attire (swimming suits and/or trunks). Swim attire must be colorfast, opaque when wet, and of a lightweight material suitable for swimming such as Lycra, Spandex, or Nylon. Clean, colorfast t-shirts may be worn on top of swimsuits for modesty or medical reasons. Clothing such as cut-off pants and underwear are not permitted as swim attire. Swim attire should not be worn for exercising prior to pool use. See-through and thong bathing suits are prohibited.
28. **Per City Ordinance 15A-8, smoking and vaping are prohibited on City of Gaithersburg property.** This includes the Water Park and adjacent parking lots. Additionally, the use of tobacco products is not allowed inside the Water Park facility.
29. The City is not responsible for personal property left on the pool deck or in the locker rooms. Valuables may not be checked with pool staff. Lockers are available for use at

both the indoor and outdoor facilities. A lock or coin-operated lock is required to secure belongings.

30. Patrons are not permitted to leave locks on lockers overnight or to take keys home. Lockers will be opened when the facility closes, and locker contents will be placed into Lost and Found. Lost and Found items are donated to charity on a weekly basis.
31. Socializing with or distracting pool staff is prohibited.
32. Use of sound-producing devices is prohibited unless accompanied by earbuds, headphones, or like accessories.
33. The office telephone and public address system may only be used by pool staff for official pool business to deliver messages of an emergency nature or to communicate facility information to pool patrons.
34. Only City of Gaithersburg employees or approved contractors are allowed in the cashier booth, lifeguard office, filter room, mechanical room, storage rooms, and offices. All other people are prohibited in these areas.
35. Hours of operation and pool use schedules are posted and available upon request. **The outdoor Water Park swimming pool will be cleared 15 minutes prior to facility closing time.** The Aquatics Superintendent reserves the right to alter any schedule when deemed necessary.
36. Customers must clear the swimming pool when directed by pool staff and are expected to exit the entire complex, including locker rooms, within 15 minutes of the posted pool closing time.

RULES FOR SWIMMERS

1. No Diving is permitted from the side of any pool. Feet-first entry only. The only exception is in deep water (at least five (5) feet deep) under the supervision of a City approved instructor or coach.
2. Non-swimmers must remain in shallow water (chest-deep or less) and must be directly supervised by and within arm's reach of a responsible person 16 years old or older in appropriate swim attire.
3. Any adult or child may not use the pool during and immediately following even a mild case of diarrhea.
4. **Anyone not toilet-trained or incontinent entering the pool must wear a clean swim diaper covered with separate waterproof pants (designed to prevent the introduction of fecal matter into the pool), all of which must fit snugly around the legs and waist and under the swimsuit.** Standard diapers are not permitted.
5. 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 put in a clean swim diaper and clean waterproof pants.
6. Diaper changing is not permitted poolside. Please use the changing tables provided in the locker rooms.

7. Swimmers should remain in areas where they can comfortably stand (chest deep or less). Extended periods of continuous swimming without rest are discouraged to help prevent fatigue and ensure safety.
8. All patrons must take a cleansing soap shower before entering the deck area and swimming pool. Sunbathers should shower before each entrance into the water to rinse off perspiration, lotions, sunscreens, etc. **Introducing dirt, excreta, foaming agents, soap, and other extraneous matter into the water is prohibited.**
9. **Entering the pool water is prohibited if patrons exhibit signs of infection or otherwise shown to be a contamination risk.** 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. Persons having any considerable area of exposed sub-skin tissues, open blisters, cuts, etc. may not use the pool.
10. Spitting, spouting, or swallowing of water, blowing nose, urinating, or defecating in the pool is prohibited.
11. Running, rough play, pushing, acrobatics, dunking, wrestling, splashing, diving or jumping haphazardly, snapping of towels, and improper conduct causing undue disturbances in or about the pool area or **any unsafe acts (both in and out of the water) which would endanger any patron or staff are prohibited.**
12. Competitive and/or repetitive breath holding and prolonged underwater swimming for distance is not permitted.

12. U.S. 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 directly supervised by and within arm's reach of a responsible person 16 years old or older in appropriate swim attire.
13. Inflatable toys, back floats, rafts, inner tubes, and similar objects are not permitted in the pool. Playing close-quartered "catch" or ball throwing with a soft object may be allowed based on the Aquatics staff's discretion. Noodles are only permitted during City programs. **Balloons and piñatas are not allowed.**
14. The use of masks and snorkels by responsible persons age 16 and older are only permitted in the lap lanes.

15. Specialized equipment such as kickboards, fins, or paddles, are only permitted in the lap lanes.
16. Wearing eyeglasses in the pool is discouraged unless absolutely necessary. Non-breakable lenses and frames are recommended.
17. Youth under the age of 16 are not permitted to wear masks covering the nose unless directly supervised by an adult; goggles are a suggested alternative.
18. The pool may be cleared, at the discretion of the pool staff, of all youth 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).

LAP SWIMMING RULES

1. Lap lane space is limited. Persons not actively swimming laps must remain in other areas of the pool. Water Exercise is permitted in general swim areas and only in lap lanes with permission from the Aquatics staff.
2. Several people of similar speeds can effectively share each lane by "circle swimming". Swim counterclockwise near the lane lines and pass in the middle when more than two swimmers are in a lane. Consult the pool staff for assistance.

3. Lane dividers are not weight-bearing; refrain from using them as support.
4. Stop only at the turning walls. Move to the side to allow others to turn and continue.
5. Lap swimmers should arrange themselves according to speed in the lanes.
6. Children who show evidence of being serious lap swimmers may be granted permission by the Aquatics staff to swim laps in the lap lanes during recreational swim or lap swimming only times.

LARGE WATER SLIDE RULES – HIGHER THAN 10 FEET (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.

1. Patrons must be **48 inches tall to ride** the large water slides. No exceptions. Children may not ride with parents or guardians.
2. The line should form against the railing with only one person per step. Only two people will be permitted on the platform at a time. Once at the platform, stand behind the red line until indicated to move forward by the pool staff.
3. Riders must be seated at the top of the slide in the start tub to begin their ride. Only one rider is permitted to enter the water slides at a time. Patrons must wait for the attendant to dispatch the next rider. No running starts.
4. Spitting, spouting, or urinating on or from the slide tower is prohibited and grounds for expulsion from the facility.
5. 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.

6. Goggles, masks, eyeglasses, contact lenses, prosthetic devices, and jewelry (any object that can cause harm to water slides or individuals) should be removed before riding. Valuables may not be checked with pool staff.
7. Swimwear with exposed zippers, buckles, rivets, or metal ornaments are not permitted on the slide.
8. Prohibited activity includes stopping on the slide, launching oneself, or creating "chains" with multiple riders.
9. Riders must go down the slide feet first. Head-first entry is not permitted.
10. 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.
11. Do not block the end of the slide. Follow the instructions of pool staff and exit the receiving pool quickly.
12. Water depth is 3 ½ feet and the current is strong. Use caution.

SPLASH POOL RULES (WATER PARK ONLY)

1. Use of the Splash Pool is restricted to children of a height 54 inches or less. All children must be directly supervised and within arm's reach by a responsible person at least 16 years old in appropriate swim attire. Children must not be left unattended.
2. Slides in the splash pool are designed to be used by children of a height of 54 inches or less; adults are not permitted. Riders should use the slides in a feet-first, seated manner.

8 FT TUBE WATER SLIDE RULES (WATER PARK ONLY)

1. One person is permitted on the slide/ slide stairs at a time. The line should form against the railing with only one person on the steps and platform at a time. The next rider must wait at the bottom of the stairs until the previous rider is clear of the slide and landing area.
2. Riders must be at least 48 inches tall and less than 250 pounds to ride the 8-foot tube slide.
3. Riders must ride in a feet-first position with absolutely no diving, running, standing, kneeling, rotating, tumbling, or stopping in the flume or any other headfirst entry down the slide.
4. Water depth is 4 ½ feet. Riders must be able to swim and recover to a standing position. Use caution.
5. 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.
6. Goggles, masks, eyeglasses, contact lenses, prosthetic devices, and jewelry should be removed before riding. Valuables may not be checked with pool staff.
7. Swimwear with exposed zippers, buckles, rivets, or metal ornaments are not permitted on the slide.

DUAL WATER SLIDE RULES (WATER PARK ONLY)

1. The line should form against the railing with only one person per step. Only two people will be permitted on the platform at a time.
2. Riders must be seated at the top of the slide in the start tub to begin their ride.
3. Riders may not proceed down the slide until the previous rider has exited the slide itself and the landing area.
4. Under no circumstances may any rider proceed down the slide headfirst, in a kneeling position, or while standing.
5. Riders must not walk, crawl, or kneel up or down the slide.
6. Riders may ride the slides side by side with another person, not in the same flume.

FLOATABLE FEATURES RULES (WATER PARK ONLY)

1. No diving off of floatable features.
2. No standing or pushing others off of the floatable features.

DIVING BOARD RULES (AQUATIC CENTER ONLY)

1. Only one person is allowed on the diving apparatus (including the ladder) at a time.
2. Goggles, masks, eyeglasses, and floatation devices may not be worn when going off the diving boards.
3. Divers must dive straight from the end of the board. Cartwheels and handstands off the diving boards are not allowed.
4. Extended dives toward shallow water are prohibited.
5. Divers may not spring more than once on the board.
6. Upon surfacing, the diver shall immediately swim to the nearest ladder. Do not swim under the diving boards at any time.
7. A diver must wait until the preceding diver has surfaced and reached the ladder.
8. Diving board users must be able to swim to the ladder unassisted. Other swimmers are not allowed in the diving well "to catch" or assist the diver in any way.
9. The use of the competitive diving/starting blocks is prohibited, except during City approved activities and/or programs when the participating swimmers are directly supervised by City swim coaches or instructional staff.
10. No general swimming is permitted in the diving area unless the diving boards have been closed by an Aquatics staff member.

Water Park
(outdoor facility)
512 S. Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877



Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY

www.gaithersburgmd.gov
aquatics@gaithersburgmd.gov
(301) 258-6445

Aquatic Center
(indoor facility)
2 Teachers Way
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

SWIM LESSON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Only City staff and contractors who have been authorized by the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department may utilize the pool to provide swimming, coaching, or water exercise instruction. No activity for private gain is permitted at any time.
2. New swim lesson participants should have their skills evaluated prior to registration. Screening is free and only takes a few minutes to clarify which level is appropriate. Call 301-258-6445 to confirm open hours of operation and remember to bring the participant's bathing suit.
3. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and begins at 8:00 am on the determined dates. Register early because classes fill quickly. City resident registration is held before open registration. Nonresidents are invited to register during Open Registration and will pay a slightly higher fee for programs. Current aquatic members (even those who are not City residents) are invited to register with Resident registration as a benefit of membership and pay a slightly lower fee. The City's online RecXpress system is the recommended registration method (www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recxpress). However, registrations are accepted in person, by fax, and by mail.
4. Swim Lessons meet six times for a half, hour each. See program flyers for details.
5. The Aquatics staff reserves the right to consolidate or cancel a class if registration is not sufficient.
6. When classes are full, participants should ask to be put on the waitlist. The waitlist is managed electronically and guarantees a spot if someone withdraws. Waitlists provide pool management with the necessary information to consider adding classes if space permits.
7. By signing up for a class, the participant gives consent to the City to use any program photographs or video tapes.
8. During inclement weather, call the location of the swim lesson to speak with a cashier or hear a recorded message. If swim lessons are canceled, a notice will be posted on the City website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. Participants will not receive an individual phone call or email notification.
9. Patrons should arrive on time, dressed, and ready for class to maximize the benefits of instruction and to minimize distractions to other participants. Encourage young children to use the bathroom before class begins. **Parents must remain on-site to assist their children in using the bathroom during class time or in case of an emergency.**
10. During instruction, parents, siblings, or friends should remain in designated areas away from the swimming pool and off the pool deck, unless otherwise stated in the course description. Experience has shown that children are easily distracted when their full attention is not on the instructor.
11. The program fee does not include daily admission to utilize the facility outside class times; it is recommended that frequent pool users purchase a money-saving pool membership.
12. Participants or their parents are encouraged to discuss individual progress with instructors directly before or after swim lessons, especially to determine future course placement.
13. It is common for participants to repeat a course multiple times before being recommended for the next level. It is beneficial to all parties involved to ensure every skill is mastered before participants move to the next level.
14. Refunds will not be issued for reasons of weather or discomfort due to water or air temperatures. Please keep in mind your child's sensitivity to the sun and/or water temperatures when deciding to sign up for swimming lessons at the outdoor Water Park.
15. Thunderstorms are possible interruptions to summer swim lessons held at the outdoor Water Park. Therefore, one make-up date has been planned for each class. There will be no refunds or rescheduling of classes if a class exceeds its allotted make-up times.
16. Program make-up classes are only scheduled when the City determines the facility must be closed; make-up classes are not permitted based on individual schedules; missed classes are forfeited. Please check your schedule prior to registration.
17. CREDIT/REFUND POLICY: Students withdrawn by Aquatic staff on the first day of lessons due to the wrong level will be issued a full refund or credit to be used at a later date without a written request. All other refund requests must be submitted in writing to the attention of the Aquatics Superintendent. Withdrawal/refund requests received before the start of the program will be refunded less a \$10 processing fee. Requests received on or after the start date will be prorated based on the date the request is received and a \$10 processing fee will be charged. The refund will be issued in the form of a check or charge depending on the original payment method. Please allow 10-15 business days for processing. No refund or credit requests will be considered if received after the last scheduled date of the course, no exception.