

SWIMMING POOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

CITY OF EL PASO PARKS AND RECREATION

The following rules and regulations have been established for the benefit of all users of the swimming 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 and Recreation Department reserves the right to refuse admittance into any City of El Paso swimming facility when the capacity of the pool has been reached or when otherwise deemed necessary for the health, welfare or safety of patrons.

The Pool Manager or designee is responsible for the operation of the pool. Their instruction must be followed at all times. Should a disagreement arise, patrons are advised to contact the Pool Manager.

GENERAL RULES/ADMISSION POLICIES

1. No one will be allowed in the swimming area unless the pool is officially open and a lifeguard is on duty. Entering upon the pool premises when it is not open for public use is punishable by fines or imprisonment or both.
2. Anyone that wears a disposable under garment and wishes to enter the pool must wear a disposable under garment that is designed for swim use, which must fit snugly around the legs and waist. If the diaper becomes soiled, this person must leave the pool immediately, and may not return until he/she has taken or been given a soap shower and has been recovered by a new diaper.
3. 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.
4. Admission fees must be paid by all persons to include infants and spectators upon each entry/session to the pool facility.
5. Rain checks may be issued when the facility must be closed due to weather conditions or equipment malfunction. They will only be issued to patrons admitted within 30 minutes of the closure.
6. All patrons within the pool area must be attired in swimming apparel. The swimming pool and decks must be maintained in a sanitary manner for the protection of bathers.
7. Children 12 and under entering the pool facility must be escorted and directly supervised by an adult or responsible person 18 years old.
8. Children 6 years and younger must be accompanied and directly supervised, within arms reach of an adult at all times in the water and within the facility. Children 6 and under, who pass the swim test, are not required to have an adult in the water.
9. Groups of children 6 or more and ages 6-17 entering the pool must be directly supervised at poolsides by an adult in swim attire. There must be one adult for every six children. Groups must contact pool management before coming to facility. Groups with children under 6 years of age must provide 1 adult per child in the water.
10. Food or refreshments may be consumed only in designated eating areas. All refuse and waste papers must be deposited in designated receptacles. Food is not permitted in locker rooms.
11. Picnic baskets and coolers are permitted in the grass or patio area of the pool facilities. No grills, gas or electric cooking devices may be brought into the pool facility/grounds.
12. Glass containers, alcoholic beverages, drugs and pets are not permitted in the pool facilities. An exception will be made for service animals.
13. Leave valuables at home. The city assumes no liability for personal property or valuables at any time. Mini-lockers are available at some of the pools. Valuables may not be checked with the attendant or pool staff.
14. Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted in the pool facility or in the surrounding area.
15. No person within the pool grounds shall behave in such a manner as to jeopardize the safety and health of him/her and others. Such behavior, including abusive or profane language, shall be grounds for expulsion.
16. Loitering will not be permitted on the pool grounds or within any of its facilities.
17. Prior to entering the pool facility, any patron requiring reasonable accommodations for a disability must inform staff of his/her needs. Such a person may provide a personal care attendant at no additional charge.
18. Any injury occurring in the pool area must be reported to the pool staff immediately.
19. The office telephone and public address equipment may only be used by staff to deliver messages of an emergency nature or facility information to persons at the pool.
20. Patrons are not allowed in the guard room, filter room, mechanical room, storage room or offices.
21. The use of cameras, video cameras or any device containing camera equipment of any kind is prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms and changing facilities.

RULES FOR SWIMMERS

1. Pool users must wear swimming suits or swimming trunks upon entry into the pool. Clothing such as cut-offs, underwear, and under garments is not permitted as swimwear. Swimwear should not have been worn for exercising immediately prior to pool use and must be colorfast and of a lightweight material suitable for swimwear, such as Lycra, Spandex, or nylon. Clean T-shirts (grey or white) may be worn for modesty or medical reasons but first must be sanctioned by the Pool Manager.
2. Lifeguards have authority to enforce all pool rules. Patrons who repeatedly violate the rules may be ejected by staff.
3. 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, and sunscreens.
4. Any person having a skin disease, sore or inflamed eyes, cold, nasal or ear discharge, communicable disease, or who is wearing any kind of adhesive bandage or band-aid will not be permitted in the pool. Persons having any considerable area of exposed sub-skin tissues, open blisters, cuts, are warned that these are likely to become infected. Such persons may not use the pool.
5. Any person who is experiencing diarrhea may not use the pool.
6. Running, boisterous or rough play, pushing, acrobatics, dunking, wrestling, splashing, yelling, 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 are prohibited.
7. Spitting, spouting of water, blowing nose or urinating in the pool are prohibited.
8. Prolonged underwater swimming for distance is not permitted.
9. Non-swimmers must remain in shallow water (chest deep or less).
10. Soft inflatable beach balls are permitted in the main pools or tot pool. Toys, water guns, balls, inner tubes, inflated boats, and rafts are not permitted in the main pools or tot pool. In the event of overcrowding, beach balls will be restricted as a safety measure.
11. Food and drinks are not permitted on the pool decks.
12. Gum chewing is not permitted anywhere in the pool facility for health and safety reasons.
13. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the indoor and outdoor pool facilities. As the individual enters the premise, Smokers are responsible for safe disposal of filters.
14. Private groups shall not monopolize a particular area of the pool and thereby limit its use by other patrons except Parks and Recreation Aquatics scheduled classes, team activities, or rental groups are permitted. Private group uses are not permitted during a Recreation Swim period and must be scheduled as a private rental.
15. Patrons are not allowed to provide instructional activity for private gain.
16. Wearing eyeglasses in the pool is discouraged. If necessary, Non-breakable lenses and frames are allowed.
17. Chairs are not permitted on the pool deck.
18. Only dive in designated area.
19. No flips, back jumps, or back dives from the sides of the pool.
20. No playing on or congregating around the pool ladders.

RULES FOR DIVERS

1. Only one person is allowed on the diving apparatus (including ladder) at a time.
2. Divers must dive straight from the front end of the board.
3. Divers may not spring more than once on the board.
4. Upon surfacing, immediately swim to the nearest ladder. Do not swim toward or under the boards at any time.
5. A diver must wait until the preceding diver has surfaced and reached the ladder.
6. No general swimming is permitted in the diving area, unless the diving boards are closed by pool staff.
7. Extended dives, or dives for distance from the one-meter boards toward shallow water are prohibited.
8. Diving board users must be able to swim to the ladder unassisted.

LAP SWIMMING

****Please Keep Off Lane Dividers****

1. Periodically, lanes will be roped off for those persons wishing to swim lengths undisturbed. Persons not in swimming lengths should remain in other pool areas. Swimmers should swim counterclockwise near the lane markers and pass in the middle when more than 2 swimmers are in a lane.
2. Lanes in the pool may be roped off for adults (18 and older) to swim laps. Adults not swimming laps should remain in other areas of the pool.
3. Youth who show evidence of being serious lap swimmers may be granted permission by the Pool Manager to swim laps in the lap lanes during general swim or lap swimming times.
4. Lap swimmers should arrange themselves by speed in the lanes. Consult the directions posted or ask a lifeguard for assistance.
5. Stop only at the turning walls. Move to the side to allow others to turn and continue.
6. See Swimming Guidelines for proper etiquette of lap and open lanes.

SPECIAL POLICIES

1. Coast Guard approved and labeled personal flotation devices, such as vests designed to provide vertical support, may be worn with permission of the Pool Manager. Each individual 12 and younger wearing a personal flotation device must be accompanied by an adult in the pool, within arms reach. No water wings, back floats, bubbles, rings, or one-sided flotation devices are permitted.
2. During storms outdoor pools will be closed and the entire area cleared of patrons at the discretion of the Pool Manager. Due to limited cover, patrons are encouraged to go home. Others must remain within the shelter of the bathhouse or their car. The pool will normally open thirty (30) minutes after the storm has passed or following the last occurrence of thunder or lightning.
3. Headphones must be worn when listening to musical or entertainment devices.
4. If the overhead pool lights go off, the pool will be cleared immediately and not reopened until the light is fully restored.
5. Patrons are not permitted to leave locks on lockers overnight. Locks will be cut off and locker contents will be placed into Lost and Found.
6. The use of masks and snorkels by patrons 14 and older in the lap lanes may be permitted at the discretion of the Pool Manager. Youth 13 years and younger, accompanied by an adult, may use masks and snorkels in a non-lap lane area, at the discretion of the Pool Manager.
7. Swimming under the bulkhead is prohibited. Patrons may not walk on the bulkhead.
8. Children 6 years of age or older must change in the appropriate gender locker room or see the Pool Manager for special arrangements.
9. During periods of cool weather, outdoor pools will not open when the temperature is below 70° except for heated pools. While the pool is open and the temperature falls below 70° the pool will stay open unless conditions merit closing for safety reasons.

WATER SLIDE RULES – 10 FEET OR HIGHER SLIDES

1. All sliders must be at least 48 inches tall and ride independently.
2. Children that are less than 48 inches may not ride with their guardian or other person.
3. Only one person on the slide at a time.
4. Slide feet first only, on back. Keep hands inside slide.
5. No stopping, turning, standing, kneeling or rotating.
6. Goggles and glasses are prohibited.
7. Start slide when directed by slide attendant
8. Exit receiving pool immediately.
9. Only two persons are permitted on the tower at one time – one on the bottom landing and one at the top.
10. Keep the line against the wall.
11. Patrons are not allowed to save a position in line, shove, push or to cut in line.
12. If the water slides rules are not followed, the patron will be denied its use by the slide attendant staff.

LESSON RULES

1. Parents, in order to assist us in offering a quality program for your child, we ask that you do not remain at the pool side. Observation is allowed from designated areas ONLY. At some facilities, clear observation may not be possible.
2. The program fee is only for the lesson and no other use of the facility.
3. Participants may enter the pool area no earlier than 10 minutes before the start of the class.
4. Lesson questions should be directed to the facility where you wish to attend the class.
5. Participants may not enter the pool until the Instructor is on deck and gives verbal instruction to enter the water safely.