

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Please note the following Pool Rules and Regulations designed to insure that your trip to a Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) pool is a pleasant one. Please note: Failure to obey a lifeguard on duty may result in immediate removal from the premises by law enforcement.

HPARD Pool Rules and Regulations

1. Non-Service Animals Prohibited
 2. Changing diapers within 6 feet of water feature is prohibited
 3. Use of water feature if ill with a contagious disease is prohibited
 4. Do not drink water from water feature
 5. Use of water feature when ill with diarrhea is prohibited
 6. Appropriate swim-wear required – No cut-offs, shorts, T-shirts, or thongs Swim diapers are required for infants and babies
 7. Shower with soap and water before entering pool
 8. Children under 8 must be accompanied in the pool by a parent or an adult
 9. No diving permitted
 10. Walk, don't run, in and around the pool
 11. No rowdy, reckless, or objectionable behavior permitted
 12. No smoking, eating, or drinking, except in designated areas
 13. No beverages or alcohol in glass containers permitted
 14. No profanity, vulgar remarks, or abusive language permitted
 15. Only USA Coast Guard-approved life preserve wear is permitted
 16. No flotation devices, such as floaties and inflatables, are permitted
 17. No guests allowed in office or mechanical areas, except in emergencies
 18. No group activities allowed for day camps, private lessons, or swim teams without prior approval from the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department or designee
 19. Organized groups must provide at least one adult chaperone for every 8 swimmers
 20. Aquatic staff is not responsible for lost, misplaced, or personal items
 21. Pool closes immediately at first sign of thunder or lightning and re-opens 30 minutes after thunder and lightning have ended
 22. No excessively loud music permitted
 23. No open swimming in deep end or diving wells
 24. Swim lanes are recommended for circle lap swimming
 25. Only one user on water slide at a time, with immediate entry into pool
- Respect others and enjoy your visit!

Deep Water Slide Rules and Regulations (For Patrons)

1. A person must be at minimum 42" in height and able to swim unassisted to use water slides and tread water where applicable for 30 seconds to qualify.
2. No free swim allowed in the diving well.
3. One person on the water slide at a time, with an immediate entry into the water.
4. Wait for previous water slide guest to reach the ladder before descending into the water.
5. Swim directly to ladder and exit.
6. Guests using water slide are not allowed to:
 - a. Stand directly under or in front of the ladder
 - b. Run off the slide
 - c. Do hand stands or cartwheels off the slide
 - d. Wear personal flotation devices
 - e. No hanging from water slide
 - f. No hanging on the side of diving well or sitting around the deck of diving well
 - g. Parents and/or private instructors may not slide with the child from the water slide or wait in the water in front of the water slide for the child to descend
 - h. Slide head first
7. Lifeguards enforce all rules for the safety of all guests using the water slides.
8. Use caution when using the water slides.

Deep Water Swim Test Policy

The deep water swim test consists of jumping feet first from the side of the pool at the deep end, coming up treading water for 30 seconds, leveling off and swimming any stroke across the pool and back on the surface of the water.



A CAPRA Accredited Agency

Day Care and Special Use Groups Swimming Pool Use Agreement

Special use groups: Any social or unscheduled function that arrives to use the pool during operational hours that will affect the pool-bathing load (i.e., day care groups, church groups, Boy & Girls Scouts, etc.)

1. All pool rules and regulations, which apply to the public, must be observed.
2. A ratio of one (1) adult chaperone per (8) children 7 years and younger in the water.
 - Example:
Up to 8 students = 1 Adult
9 to 16 students = 2 Adults
17 to 24 students = 3 Adults
 - Youth between 8 and 12 years of age – 1 adult for each 8 youth
 - Youth older than 12 years of age – 1 adult for each 8 youth
 - Youth older than 12 years of age – guests can swim without adult supervision
3. Use of the facility must be restricted to the main pool area. The wading pool is not available for group functions.
4. All adults must be attired in swimwear and be supervising in the water at all times.
5. Transportation must be readily available for removal at anytime.
6. Each group will be restricted to no more than two visits per week, and each visit may not exceed two hours.
 - Example:
If a daycare center has more than one group of students, each group will be allowed use of the facilities but not on the same day.

People With Disabilities

A parent, guardian or responsible person should accompany all swimmers with special needs on a one-to-one basis in and around the pool area. Non-Swimmers will be required to remain in the shallow areas of the pool. Any swimmer who needs assistance or cannot yet complete the swim test must wear a life jacket. All people with disabilities who are not supervised on a one to one basis, i.e., (groups) must be referred to the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray, 713.284.1973.

Citizen Comment and Complaint Procedures

In the event a guest has a comment or complain. The personnel in-charge will try to satisfy the guest without any conflict. The guest must be given the opportunity to complete a Comment Form. The Comment Form will be given to the Region Manager and the Manager will contact the guest concerning the incident.

Public Telephone Usage

Public telephone usage should be limited to 1 minute for non-emergency calls.

Lost and Found

Items left at the pool should be placed in a designated area for lost items. When after three (3) days the item(s) are not claimed the item(s) may then be disposed of.

T-Shirt Policy

The safety of all guests using the City's swimming pool is the foremost concern of the Parks and Recreation Department. To that end we follow the most stringent safety guidelines for aquatic facilities as endorsed by the American Red Cross and the National Recreation and Park Association's National Aquatic Program. The City of Houston's policy prohibits the wearing of T-shirts in swimming pools unless an exemption letter has been accepted and filed in our Aquatics Office. Exemptions are granted based on medical and/or religious reasons, for the wearing of plain white T-shirts only.

Guests wearing T-shirts in pools are at a higher risk of drowning or being injured. The primary reasons for this risk are as follows:

Lifeguards are trained to scan zones while paying strict attention to detail. It is extremely important for the faces of guests to be clearly visible at all times whether they are submerged or not. T-shirts tend to "balloon up" thereby covering the face of the guest; thus, the lifeguard cannot see the guest's facial expressions, and sudden change of facial expressions is among the first signs of guests experiencing distress in swimming pools.

In addition, guests wearing T-shirts can be grabbed, either intentionally or inadvertently, causing possible strangulation. If this occurs while the guest is underwater, the guest will ingest some water (the beginning stage of drowning).

The reason for only allowing the use of plain white T-shirts (with no writing) as opposed to T-shirts with print or other colors is to avoid offending anyone with the various statements, pictures and phrases some people wear on their T-shirts. More importantly, colors are affiliated with gangs and gang activity and we want to avoid the kind of serious problems other municipalities have experienced at their pools with gangs. In addition, the dye in colored T-shirts causes the need to increase the amount of chemicals it normally takes to maintain water quality.

If guests have a medical condition that a physician deems necessary to wear protective clothing when exposed to direct sunlight or the guests' religious affiliations require cover, our staff will work with the guests to ensure their total comfort at our pools. With safety as our primary concern, we are confident that the precautions we take with the T-shirt policy are warranted to avoid the potential for danger to guests using the City's swimming pools.

Swim Wear Exemption Requirements for swimming in City Of Houston Swimming Pools:

White T-shirts are accepted only if they are clean with no writing and legal exemption is on file. Each case will be judged by merit. All exemptions must be on file at 6200 Wheeler Houston, TX 77023 / Houston Parks & Recreation Department and at a pool site. Guests with exemptions will be responsible for keeping their copy of approved form and presenting it at time of entrance to any facility operated by the City of Houston Aquatics Section.

Exemption letters must be completed by an adult (18 years or older).