



Pool Policies

Swim Test Policy

The YMCA of Delaware requires that all children 14 years of age or younger be swim tested before being permitted to use our swimming pools. Once a swim test has been completed, the swimmers age, birth date and wristband color may be logged at that location for easy issue of swim bands for future visits. During each YMCA visit swimmers may pick up a wristband prior to entering the pool for the day.

4 Years of Age & Younger

- Those swimmers 4 years of age and younger whose parents do not choose for them to take the swim test will be issued a Red Swim Band and expected to follow the YMCA of Delaware policies for children in a Red Swim Band.

15 Years of Age and Older

- Those swimmers 15 years of age or older are not required to be swim tested when visiting any YMCA of Delaware pool, however all swimmers are reminded that the YMCA of Delaware is committed to Aquatic Safety and lifeguard staff may restrict swimming areas to members in the interest of their safety.

Swim Test Requirements

Green Swim Test / Swim Bands

- Swimmer must demonstrate the ability to swim one length of the pool on their belly without a flotation device while demonstrating horizontal movement and their face in the water as frequently as possible. Goggles are encouraged.
- Swimmer must demonstrate the ability to tread water for 30 seconds without touching a side wall to rest.

Green Swim Band Policies

Those 11 years of age or younger

- Parent/Guardian must be on the pool deck area while the child is in and around the pools.
- Swimmers with an interest to swim laps may do so at the lifeguards discretion if there are not any adult members currently swimming laps in that specific lane. The child must show a maturity and ability for swimming consistently.
- Swimmers may use any YMCA of Delaware slide regardless of the swimmers height

For those 12 to 14 years of age the following applies

- Swimmers may use any recreational swim area of our facilities without a parent/guardian on YMCA Property

Yellow Swim Test / Swim Bands

- Swimmer must demonstrate the ability to swim ½ length of the pool on their belly without a flotation device while demonstrating horizontal movement. Goggles are encouraged.
- Swimmer must demonstrate the ability to float on their back for 30 seconds and stand up comfortably to place their feet on the pool bottom.

Yellow Swim Band Policies

Those 11 years of age or younger

- Parent/Guardian must be in the pool or on the pool deck area while the child remains in shoulder deep water or less. If the child wants to swim in water greater than shoulder height, they must be within arms reach of a parent/guardian at all times.
- Swimmers are permitted to use any YMCA of Delaware slide that exits into 3FT 6IN as long as the swimmer is 48 inches or taller
- Swimmers are not permitted to use any YMCA of Delaware slide that exits into a water depth of 4FT or greater

For those 12 to 14 years of age the following applies

- Swimmers may use any pool without parent/guardian present as long as they stay in water shoulder height or less at all times
- Swimmers must remain in water that is shoulder height or less.

Red Swim Test / Swim Bands

- Swimmer who does not want to take a swim test
- Swimmer who is 4 years of age or younger
- Swimmer who is unable to demonstrate any of the above mentioned green or yellow swim tests

Red Swim Band Policies

Those 11 years of age or younger

- Swimmers who will be swimming in shoulder deep water or less do not need to wear a coast guard approved flotation device
- The Parent/Guardian, who is 18 years of age or older, must be sitting along the pool edge of the pool in which the child is swimming.
- If the child wants to swim in water greater than shoulder height, a parent/guardian must be within arms reach at all times while the child is in a Coast Guard approved flotation device. **Lifeguards have the final discretion and may request parent/guardian to swim with the child in the shallow end only.**
- Swimmers are not permitted to use any YMCA of Delaware water slide.

For those 12 to 14 years of age the following applies

- Swimmer must remain in shoulder deep water or less at all times.
- Swimmers may use any pool without parent/guardian present as long as they remain in water shoulder height or less at all times

Other Pool Policies

Toys & Flotation Devices

Inflatable Devices

- Inflatable devices used for support, rafts, inner tubes, or other style inflatable devices need to be left at home. These devices are unsafe in our pool and create blind spots for lifeguards.

Coast Guard Approved Flotation Devices

- Members are only permitted to use coast guard approved flotation devices for swimmers needing flotation assistance while swimming. Lifejackets are provided at our facilities or may be brought from home. If you have any questions about coast guard approved flotation device please contact your local Aquatic Director.

Kickboards & Pull Buoys

- Kickboards and pull buoys are not allowed during family or recreational swim times.

Noodles & Toys

- Toys and noodles may be brought from home and used at the facilities discretion. During heavy bather load times families may be asked to refrain from the use of the items due to their potential for creating blind spots for lifeguards as well as the enjoyment of other families. Water pistols & cannons are not permitted in any YMCA of Delaware swimming pool.

Pool Closings

- Make sure to contact your local YMCA and learn how your YMCA will inform you of any pool closings. YMCA of Delaware branches may post information about closings in any/all of the following ways:
 - YMCA of Delaware Website
 - Twitter
 - Facebook
 - Telephone Hotline
 - Member Service Desk

Weather

- In case of thunder or lightning all indoor and outdoor pools must remain closed for a period of 30 minutes until after the last sight of lightning or the last sound of thunder which causes a potential threat to the facility and a supervisor deems it safe to re-open the facilities.
 - Members using outdoor facilities when lightning is present must exit the pool yard to their vehicle or into our main facilities
 - Members using outdoor facilities when thunder is present must exit the pools but may remain within the pool yard until the pool(s) re-open or lightning is seen
- In case of a heavy rain and the bottom of the pool is unable to be seen, all activities will be immediately suspended and the pool will be closed until visibility returns for the lifeguards.

Clarity

- If the pool clarity becomes impossible for a lifeguard to see the bottom of a pool, that section of the pool will be closed until the clarity returns to normal.

Contaminations

- In the event that any of our pools are contaminated, the pool will close immediately while YMCA of Delaware follows all State of Delaware Health Department Code for proper cleaning.
 - Indoor Pool Contaminations
 - All indoor pool areas will be closed while the YMCA of Delaware staff clean up the incident
 - Outdoor Pool Contaminations
 - All outdoor pool grounds will remain open for members, however the pool itself will close immediately while YMCA of Delaware staff clean up the incident.
 - If an incident will require an outdoor pool to remain closed for a long period of time, that facility may require members to exit the facility while the incident is cleaned.

Special Events:

- In some cases the YMCA of Delaware will have special events at their facilities. When these occur, you will find information about the pool closing at the pool entrances, our website, Twitter or Facebook, Telephone Hotline or through our Member Services Department.