

# AQUATIC CENTER POLICIES

## Introduction

The policies outlined are established to enhance the enjoyment and safety of all patrons using MCCA Aquatic Centers. The danger of serious accidents occurring at an Aquatic Center is evident. To maximize the safety of our patrons, we enforce the following policies. Patrons must comply with the policies as outlined. Patrons who do not comply with the policies will be required to leave the Aquatic Center.

Not all rules are posted on the facility rules sign due to space limitations. A copy of all pool policies is available for patron review at the sign-in table. Aquatics management reserves the right to make final determination on facility policies.

All personnel with base access, as well as their authorized guests, are permitted to use MCCA Aquatic Centers for recreation and lap swimming. Specific programs and services may be limited to SOFA status personnel.

## Definitions

Adult: An individual that is 16 years old or older.

Child: An individual that is 15 years old or younger.

Deep Water: Water that is 5 feet deep or deeper or water that is deeper than chest-level.

Non-Swimmer: A child that has not passed the swim test.

Parent/Guardian: An adult that is 18 years old or older that has been appropriately granted responsibility for the child (e.g., parent, guardian, sibling, care provider, friend, etc.). Parent/Guardian also refers to an adult that is 16 or 17 years old if he or she has attended an American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course and has been appropriately granted responsibility for the child.

Shallow Water: Water that is less than 5 feet deep or water that is shallower than chest-level.

Swim Test: The official evaluation of a child's swimming ability and comfort in deep water without parent/guardian assistance or support.

Touch Supervision: Within arm's length of the child being supervised, in the water. If the child is in a wading pool, the guardian may be out of the water, but must remain within arm's length of the child and pay constant attention to what the child is doing without distractions from other activities (e.g., reading, sunbathing, cell phones, sleeping, etc.).

## General

Showers must be taken each time before entering the pool (this includes after sunbathing).\*

All patrons must comply with directions and signals of pool staff.\*

MCCA is not responsible for damaged, lost, stolen or unattended items.

Conversation with the lifeguards "on duty" will be kept to a minimum and will not be of a personal nature.\*

Diapers with fitted plastic/rubber pants or swim diapers are required in all MCCA swimming pools and wading pools.

Persons who have sores, infectious or communicable diseases, small pox vaccination with wound exposure, and bandages will not be permitted in the pool.\*

Alcohol is not authorized in Aquatic Centers. Patrons that are under the suspicion of being intoxicated will be asked to leave the facility.

Food and drink are allowed only in designated areas and only in paper, plastic or aluminum containers.\*

Any patron disrupting or endangering any other patron will be removed from the facility.

Lap lanes are for fitness, instructional swimming, or lap swimming only. Lap lanes will be shared if needed.

Kick boards, flippers, pull buoys, paddles, and other aquatic exercise equipment will only be used for fitness and lap swim use and not as toys or for other recreational purposes.

Snorkeling is only permitted in lap lanes (snorkel, mask and fins) and is not permitted in recreation areas.

Non-swimmers are permitted in shallow water only.\*

Dive bricks or other heavy objects that could result in injury if dropped on a swimmer are not permitted for recreational use. Active duty, lifeguards, and lifeguard course candidates may request use from pool staff.

### **Attire**

All patrons, (i.e., civilians, military, and guests) will abide by Marine Corps Orders in regards to civilian clothing.

Swimmers shall wear clean and appropriate swimwear. Cut-off jeans or pants are not authorized. Additionally, swimwear that is not conservative, or considered inappropriate by Aquatics management personnel, will not be authorized. Physical training shorts are authorized, provided they are not revealing.

Active duty military personnel are authorized to lap swim in appropriate combat utility attire, provided they are behaving safely and not hindering other patrons. Only blouse and trousers are authorized and must be worn over appropriate swimwear. A swimmer so-dressed must shower while clothed prior to entering the pool.

### **Floatation Devices**

Inflatable rings, rafts, air mattresses, or floatation devices that could easily become detached from the user are prohibited.\*

Noodles and aquatic related balls are not considered floatation devices and are permitted throughout the pool.

Baby floats with seats are authorized only if an adult maintains physical contact with the child or float and only in shallow water. All baby floats must be used strictly within the safety parameters listed on the float.

Lifejackets, water wings, or similar personal safety items that strap to the body may be used in shallow water only. Use of these items does not supersede the swim test rules and requirements.\*

### **Admission of Children**

Children between 12 and 15 years of age with an ID card in their possession and have successfully passed the swim test may enter the water without a designated parent/guardian in the Aquatic Center.

Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times regardless of their swimming ability.

Non-swimmers under the age of 16 must remain under touch supervision by a parent/guardian whenever they are in the water. Non-swimmers are not permitted in deep water until they have passed the swim test.

## **Prohibited Activities**

The practice of hyperventilating and extended breath-holding is prohibited in MCCS Aquatic Centers. Swimmers are prohibited from remaining submerged for longer than 15-seconds or from swimming a distance longer than 15 meters without breathing.

No device or clothing may be used by swimmers during non-unit training settings that could result in an unsafe condition.

No unauthorized toys may be used in the pool or on the pool deck. Aquatic style toys will be authorized. Non-aquatic related equipment will be prohibited.

Spitting, urinating, or otherwise contaminating the pool or walkways is prohibited.\*

No diving in areas less than 9-feet deep unless under the guidance of an MCCS Program.

No use of personal electronic devices without headsets (for personal listening).

No plugging into AC outlets on the pool deck (battery-operated items only).

No sitting, standing, or jumping from anyone's shoulders.

No dunking, running, boisterous behavior, fighting, swearing, abusive language, horseplay and/or destruction of MCCS property.\*

No usage of bicycles, roller blades, skateboards, shoes with wheels, scooters or similar items in the pool or on the pool deck.

No animals (except those that are medically necessary).\*

No soiled footwear on the pool deck.

No glass containers in the facility.

No hanging on safety/lane lines.

No use of tobacco products in the facility.\*

No use of vaping products in the facility.

No chewing gum while in the pool.

Climbing on lifeguard towers/stands or using lifesaving equipment for other than emergency use is strictly prohibited.\*

No congregating around or playing on the ladders is allowed. The ladders are for entering and exiting the pool only.

SCUBA gear (Air Tanks, BCD, and Weight Belt) is not authorized in any Aquatic Center except for authorized MCCS Scuba classes.