
Okinawa MCCS Aquatics Program Frequently Asked Questions

Facility

Q: Where can I find Aquatic facility hours and phone numbers?

A: Our facility hours and phone numbers are posted on-line at: www.mccsokinawa.com/aquatics

Q: Why are the seasonal pools not open now?

A: Because the seasonal pools are not heated pools and will be too cold to swim in until late May.

Q: What facilities have a baby pool?

A: The Kinser, McTureous, Courtney and Plaza pools

Q: Why is there no high dives?

A: Facilities must meet specific depth requirements to ensure patron safety, and not all of our pools meet those needed to have a low or a high diving board.

Q: Why are pools hours reduced during the Spring and late Summer/Fall?

A: Most of your lifeguard staff are high school students. Once school resumes, they are no longer available to staff our pools on a full-time basis, so we must reduce our operating hours.

Q: Why do some pools taste salty?

A: Our chemical supplier uses a brand of chlorine that results in a slightly salty tasting pool.

Sign-In

Q: Is there a fee to enter the pool?

A: No.

Q: Can we use the lap swim equipment? (I.e kick boards, flippers, etc.)

A: Yes, as long as you use them for lap swim only.

Q: Do you have goggles?

A: No, but we often have a pile of lost-and-found goggles available at the sign-in table.

Rules

Q: Why is there a swim test?

A: We must ensure the safety of our patrons, and part of this involves determining the swimming ability of those patrons. Those with better swimming skills are deemed less likely to have a problem in water that is over their head, and those that are less skilled are deemed more likely to have problems when swimming in deep water, increasing the chances of an in-water emergency. To reduce that risk, those that do not pass the full swim test each year are not allowed (unaccompanied) into the deeper areas of the pool, thus decreasing the chances of in-water emergencies for those swimmers.

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Q: Why do I need to pass a swim test to use a slide or diving board?

A: Slides and diving boards must be installed in an area of the pool that meets specific depth requirements, in the deeper water of a pool. For safety reasons, swimmers using a slide or diving board must be unaccompanied; additionally, swimmers must pass the swim test to use the deep end of the pool. If a swimmer has not passed the swim test, they cannot use the deep end of the pool, and they cannot use the slides or diving boards.

Q: Can I dive in the pool?

A: Yes, but only past the 9ft mark in the deep end and from designated areas. These designated areas depend on the facility's structure.

Q: What are your diving board and slide rules?

A:

- To use a slide or diving board, a child (under the age of 16) must have passed the swim test.
- Goggles or other swim items are not allowed on slides or boards.
- You must go down the slide feet first on your back.
- When waiting in line for the slide, you must wait at the bottom of the stairs until the lifeguard signals you to go up the stairs.

Q: Can lanes be shared during lap swim?

A: Yes. We recommend swimmers to "circle swim" by swimming on the right side of the lane to avoid collision.

Lifeguard Courses

Q: Where can I find the Lifeguard Course Schedule?

A: View the course schedule online at: www.mccsokinawa.com/lifeguard

Q: How do I sign up for a lifeguard course? A: Once there is a scheduled class in place, you may either call either the Aquatics Main Office (645-3180), the pool that the course will be held at, or email aquatics@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org.

Provide the following information:

- Course Type (e.g. Full Course, Review Course)
- Course Month (e.g. April, May, etc.)
- Participant's Last Name
- Participant's First Name
- Date of Birth (Day Month Year)
- PSC Mailing Address
- E-mail Address
- Primary Phone #
- Secondary Phone #

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Swim Tests

Q: What is the swim test?

A: Any child under the age of 16 may take a swim test that allows them more privileges at the pool. To pass the test, swimmers must complete a 25-meter swim with a recognizable stroke (as described by the American Red Cross) and must complete a 1-minute float or tread in deep water, keeping their face above water. Swimmers 16 years old and older do not need to take a swim test.

Q: How does the swim test work?

Age	Pass Swim test?	Bracelet Color	Adult/Guardian in Facility?	In Water Without Adult?	Distance from Adult?	Shallow Water?	Deep Water?	Adult Supervision When out of Out of the Water?	May act as an Adult?
Under 12	No	None	Required	No	Touch Supervision / Arm's Length	Yes	No	Periodic Face-to-Face Contact	No
Under 12	Yes	Orange	Required	Yes	Constant supervision	Yes	Yes	Periodic Face-to-Face Contact	No
12 to 15	No	None	Required if Swimmer is in Water	No	Touch Supervision / Arm's Length	Yes	No	Periodic Face-to-Face Contact	No
12 to 15	Yes	Green	Not Required	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Periodic Face-to-Face Contact	No
16 to 17	N/A	None	Not Required	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Not Required	Yes
18 and Older	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes

References: III MEF/MCIPACO 5800.1 Ch 1 (10 MAY 2013) Child Supervision Requirements
MCO P1700.29 Semper Fit Manual (1999 - under revision)

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Q: What if my child does not have a swim test band?

A: Any child under the age of 16 that does not pass any of the swim tests must remain within arm's reach of an adult, and the adult must be in the water whenever the child is in the water.

Swim Team

Q: Where can I find information on the Okinawa Dolphin Swim Team?

A: www.mccsokinawa.com/swimteam

Swim Lessons

Q: Where and when can I register for swim lessons?

A: Visit www.mccsokinawa.com/learntoswim for full information on our lesson program.

Online Registration Starts: 2-weeks before lessons start.

Walk in Registration Starts:

Sessions I & II: 1-week before the first day of Session I

Sessions III & IV: 1-week before the first day of Session III

Q: How much do swim lessons cost?

A: Parent and Child- \$50 per session. All other Lessons- \$75 per session.

Q: What pools offer swim lessons?

A: We will offer our Summer Learn to Swim program at Kinser 50m Pool, Foster 50m Pool, and McTureous 25m Pool.

Q: How do I know what level my child is in?

A: Patrons may utilize the flowchart found on the www.mccsokinawa.com/learntoswim website. Level placement will be held for anyone interested in enrolling in the Learn to Swim program prior to the start of the Summer Learn to Swim season.

Pool Parties

Q: How do I reserve the pool for a private pool party?

A: Private pool party reservations may be made before or after pool operation hours. Contact the facility manager to make a reservation. The price of the private pool party will depend on the number of participants and the length of the party. By providing your name, number, email and preferred date of the pool party, the manager will be able to give you the estimated cost of the party and date availability.