City of Joplin  
Swimming Pool Operations Code  
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STANDARDS FOR SWIMMING POOL OPERATION

A. DEFINITION AND SPECIAL POOL FEATURES OR USES

A.1 DEFINITION - The term "swimming pool" as used in these standards shall mean any artificial basin of water constructed, installed, modified or improved for the purpose of swimming, wading, diving, recreation or instruction. Public pools are defined as any pool that is open to use by the general public for which a fee may or may not be required for daily usage and where no membership is required. Semipublic pools are defined as any swimming pool not classified as public or private included or not limited to: pools serving communities, subdivisions, apartment complexes, condominiums, clubs, camps, schools, institutions, manufactured home parks, hotels, motels. These standards are not intended for application to private single-family residence pools which are used strictly for recreational purposes by the occupants and their guests.

A.2 SPECIAL POOL FEATURES OR USES - Standards for unique features of spas, wave pools, zero-depth pools and water slides are provided in separate sections. Any pools used for other special purposes, such as therapy or competition, or those used by physically or mentally handicapped persons, require additional design consideration and should be handled on an individual basis. Design features that are not specifically covered by these standards shall be permitted only where it is demonstrated that adequate safety and water quality can be maintained, based on current technology and the best information available at the time. Where such design features may affect safety of users, they should be allowed only where continuous direct supervision is provided. Fountains, sprays, or similar features shall be permitted only in water depths not exceeding 2 feet (0.6 m). Such features shall be of a non-climbable design, unless specifically manufactured and marketed as a climbing structure.

1.0 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

1.1 DISINFECTION - Swimming pool water shall be automatically and continuously disinfected. All disinfecting materials and methods shall:

   a) Be used only with the approval of the regulatory agency;
   b) Not create an undue safety hazard when handled, stored, and used according to label directions;
   c) Be compatible for use with other chemicals normally used in pool water treatment, or be clearly identified as having a use limitation;
   d) Not impart toxic properties to the water when used according to direction, and
   e) Provide an effective residual which can be easily and accurately measured by a field test procedure.

1.1.1 Chlorine - When chlorine is the disinfectant, a free residual of at least 1.0 mg/l for a pH of 7.2 shall be maintained throughout the pool. For higher pH values, higher free chlorine residuals of at least 0.2 mg/l for each 0.2 pH unit increase shall be maintained up to a maximum of 5.0 mg/l. Ideal chlorine level should be between 2.0 mg/l & 4.0 mg/l.

1.1.2 Bromine - When bromine is the disinfectant, a residual of at least 2.0 mg/l shall be maintained throughout the pool for pH below 7.8 with a maximum of 10.0 mg/l. Ideal bromine level should be between 4.0 mg/l & 6.0 mg/l.

1.1.3 Other Disinfectants - Another disinfecting material or method may be used when it has been demonstrated to provide a satisfactory residual which is easily measured and is as effective under conditions of use as the chlorine concentrations required herein.
1.1.4 Cyanuric Acid - When a chlorinated isocyanurate is used as the disinfectant, a free chlorine residual of at least 1.0 mg/L for a pH of 7.2 shall be maintained throughout the pool. For higher pH values, higher free chlorine residuals of at least 0.4 mg/L for each 0.2 pH unit increase shall be maintained. The cyanuric acid concentration in the pool water shall not exceed 100 mg/L.

1.1.5 Special Purpose Pools - The regulatory agency may require a higher disinfectant residual than stated in 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.4 for slide pools, spas, or other special-purpose pools.

1.2 pH AND ALKALINITY
1.2.1 The swimming pool water pH shall be maintained at a level between 7.2 and 7.8.

1.2.2 Alkalinity - The alkalinity of the water should be maintained at a level between 60 mg/l & 180 mg/l as calcium carbonate.

1.3 CLARITY - The water shall have sufficient clarity that the main drain of standard size is readily visible at the deepest point of the swimming pool and viewed from the side of the swimming pool.

1.4 BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY
1.4.1 Sample Collection and Analysis - Water samples for bacteriological examination shall be collected while the swimming pool is in use. The residual disinfectant in the sample shall be deactivated, and the samples shall be examined in accordance with procedures acceptable to the regulatory agency. The latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater should be used (APHA, AWWA and WPCF).

1.4.2 Standards - A water sample shall not contain more than 200 colonies per 1 milliliter of water, as determined by the Standard Plate Count, or show a positive test (confirmed test) for coliform organisms. When the bacteriological standard is exceeded, the pool shall be superchlorinated and immediately retested. The cause of the unsatisfactory sample(s) shall be investigated, and corrective action initiated if appropriate.

1.4.3 Additional Standards - In addition to the standards in 1.4.2, the regulatory agency may use the following for a more complete analysis of pool water quality: a) The heterotrophic plate count (HPC) shall not exceed 100 colonies per 1 milliliter of water. b) The standard procedure for the isolation of staphylococcus aureus organisms shall indicate not more than 50 organisms per 100 milliliters of water.

1.5 ALGAE CONTROL - An algicide may be used provided it complies with Section 1.1, a. through d. and is used in accordance with the directions on the label.

1.6 SUPERCHLORINATION OR SUPEROXIDATION - If the concentration of combined residual chlorine is greater than 0.5 mg/l, the swimming pool water should be superchlorinated to reduce the concentration of combined residual chlorine.

1.6.1 Chlorine Residual - During superchlorination, the free chlorine residual should be raised to a level of at least ten times the combined chlorine level present.

1.6.2 Pool Use - Swimmers shall not be allowed in the swimming pool during superchlorination. They may be allowed in the pool when the free chlorine residual is less than 5 mg/L.

1.6.3 Isocyanurates - Isocyanurates shall not be used for superchlorination.
1.6.4 Other Oxidizers - Persulfate compounds may be used for superoxidation if used according to manufacturer's instructions.

1.7 TEMPERATURE - The pool water temperature should be maintained between 72 degrees Fahrenheit (22°C) and 85 degrees Fahrenheit (29°C), except for special purpose therapy pools or spa pools. Spa water temperature shall be maintained below 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40°C). The air temperature for an indoor swimming pool should be maintained from 2 degrees Fahrenheit (1°C) to 5 degrees Fahrenheit (3°C) above the pool water temperature.

2.0 ROUTINE OPERATIONS

2.1 POOL CLEANING - The swimming pool and deck areas shall be cleaned, the pool water surface skimmed, and the pool walls and bottom vacuumed or brushed, all on a daily basis during off-use hours.

2.2 TOILET, SHOWER AND LOCKER FACILITIES - The facilities, including the floors, showers, and toilet facilities, shall be cleaned and disinfected daily. Public lockers shall be inspected and be cleaned as necessary. All fixtures and equipment shall be maintained in an operable condition. Liquid soap dispensers shall be filled daily.

2.3 WATER ANALYSES - Water quality analyses shall be performed at a frequency and at locations as established by the regulatory authority. Test kits and/or testing equipment shall be properly maintained. Reagents or test strips shall be renewed at least annually or more frequent as specified by manufacturer instructions. Water quality analyses shall be performed at a frequency and at locations as established by the regulatory authority. Test kits shall be properly maintained. Reagents shall be renewed at least annually or more frequent as specified by manufacturer instructions.

2.4 MECHANICAL SYSTEM - All items of mechanical equipment and all parts of the mechanical system shall be inspected daily. Necessary repairs to assure proper operation shall be made.

2.5 RECIRCULATION SYSTEM - The recirculation system shall be inspected daily and maintained in proper operation.
  2.5.1 Overflow Systems - Surface skimmers and perimeter overflow systems shall be cleaned daily and shall be adjusted as necessary to assure effective skimming.
  2.5.2 Main Drains - Broken main drain grates shall be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. If the main drain grate is severely damaged or missing, the pool shall be closed until an approved main drain grate is properly installed.
  2.5.3 Inlets - Inlet flow rates and directions shall be checked and shall be adjusted as necessary to assure circulation in all areas of the pool.
  2.5.4 Surge Tanks - Surge tank controls shall be adjusted as necessary to maintain the water level in the proper operating range. Surge tanks shall be drained and cleaned at least annually.

2.6 WATER LEVEL - Water shall be added as needed to keep the pool water at a level needed to assure effective skimming.

2.7 OTHER EQUIPMENT - All safety equipment, deck equipment, and signs shall be checked daily to assure compliance with the appropriate sections of these standards.

2.8 RECORDS - Daily operating records shall be maintained by the owner or operator on forms acceptable to the regulatory agency. They shall be submitted to the regulatory agency when requested.
The records should contain such information as disinfectant residual, pH, results of any other chemistry or bacterial imbalances, water temperature, amount of chemicals used, filter backwashing, equipment breakdowns, amount of makeup water, fecal accidents, and unusual problems or occurrences. Daily operating records shall be retained, and shall be available for on-site inspection, for at least six months. Unusual problems or occurrences should also be reported immediately to the regulatory agency.

2.9 CHEMICALS - All chemicals shall be handled in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations. Chemical containers shall be labeled with chemical name and appropriate hazard designation. Material safety data sheets shall be available on site for all chemicals used.

3.0 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

3.1 EQUIPMENT OPERATION

3.1.1 Instructions - All equipment shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. A manual of operation provided by the consultant, and manufacturers' instructions for the operation and maintenance of the equipment, shall be maintained and kept available. When such instructions are not available, the regulatory agency should be contacted for advice and consultation.

3.1.2 Continuous Operation - Pumps, filters, disinfectant feeders, flow indicators, gauges, and all related components of the pool water recirculation system shall be kept in continuous operation, 24 hours a day.

3.2 RECIRCULATION PUMPS - The pump and motor shall be checked at regular intervals. The pump shall not be throttled on the suction side during normal operation.

3.3 FILTERS

3.3.1 Sand Filters

3.3.1.1 Air Release - The filter air release valve shall be opened daily, or more frequently if necessary, to remove air which collects in the filter.

3.3.1.2 Backwash - Filters shall be backwashed at a proper flow rate in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Filters should be backwashed before the pressure differential exceeds 8 pounds per square inch (55kPa), or whatever pressure differential is recommended by the manufacturer, or if the flow rate drops below the minimum required flow rate.

3.3.1.3 Internal Components - Inspection of the internal components of pressure filters shall be conducted annually, or at any time the filters fail to produce clear effluent. Deficiencies shall be corrected.

3.3.2 Diatomaceous Earth Filters

3.3.2.1 Precoat Amount - The amount of diatomaceous earth precoat shall be at least 0.1 pound per square foot (.49 kg/m²) of element surface area and should be at least .15 pounds per square foot (.73 kg/m²).

3.3.2.2 Precoat Operation - During precoating, the filter effluent shall be recirculated through the filter until the effluent is clear, or the initial filter effluent shall be discharged to waste until clear water is produced.
3.3.2.3 Body Feed - When continuous body feed is used, it should be applied at a rate of 0.5 to 1.5 ounces per square foot (.15 to .46 kg/m²) of surface area per day, or as needed to extend filter cycles.

3.3.2.4 Backwash - Pressure filters shall be backwashed when the pressure differential between the filter influent and effluent lines reaches the manufacturer's recommended maximum pressure differential, or when the rate of flow drops below the minimum required flow rate, whichever occurs earlier. When the recirculation pump stops or is shut off, the filter shall be backwashed. The elements shall be precoated before placing the pump back into operation. Vacuum filters shall be washed when the pump suction gauge reaches the manufacturer's recommended maximum vacuum, or the flow rate drops below the minimum required flow rate, whichever occurs first.

3.3.2.5 Internal Components - A pressure filter shall be opened for inspection at least once a year, and whenever it fails to produce a clear effluent. Deficiencies shall be corrected.

3.3.2.6 Extra Supplies - An extra supply of septa and at least two weeks' supply of diatomaceous earth should be available.

3.3.3 Cartridge Filters
3.3.3.1 Cleaning and Replacement - Cartridge filter elements shall be cleaned, disinfected, and replaced as recommended by the manufacturer of the filter.

3.3.3.2 Extra Elements - At least one extra set of filter elements shall be available.

3.4 STRAINERS - Strainer baskets shall be removed and replaced by clean baskets frequently. The pump shall be stopped before a strainer is opened. In the case of a diatomaceous earth filter, the dirty strainer basket should be replaced with a clean one when the filter is backwashed.

3.5 VALVES - Valves shall be operated through their entire operation range occasionally to prevent corrosion and dirt from sealing them. Valve stem packing glands shall be tightened or repacked as necessary to prevent leakage.

3.6 FLOW METERS - Flow meters shall be maintained in an accurate operating condition. The glass and the connecting tubes shall be kept clean.

3.7 GAUGES - The lines leading to gauges shall be bled occasionally to prevent blockage. Gauges shall be inspected periodically to assure proper operation and shall be maintained in operating condition.

3.8 POSITIVE DISPLACEMENT FEEDERS
3.8.1 Inspection - Positive displacement feeders shall be periodically inspected and serviced.

3.8.2 Intake - The suction intake should be suspended at least 6 inches (15 cm) above any sludge layer in the solution tank.

3.8.3 Cleaning - Feeder, tubing, and valves shall be periodically cleaned or replaced in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

3.9 EROSION FEEDERS
3.9.1 Inspection - Erosion feeders shall be periodically inspected and serviced.
3.9.2 Chemicals - Only chemicals recommended by the feeder manufacturer shall be used in the feeder.

3.9.3 Cleaning - Connecting tubes shall be periodically cleaned or replaced to permit continuous free circulation.

3.10 GAS CHLORINATORS

3.10.1 Servicing - Gas chlorinators shall be serviced or repaired only by trained qualified personnel.

3.10.2 Gas Leak - In the event of a chlorine gas leak, evacuation procedures established in the emergency plan must be followed, and the fire department or an agency trained in handling chlorine leaks must be immediately contacted.

3.11 POOL STRUCTURE AND DECKS

3.11.1 Cracks - Cracks in the pool walls, floors, perimeter overflow systems and decks shall be repaired as soon as possible. Seasonal-use pools shall have all repairs completed prior to annual reopening.

3.11.2 Painting - The pool walls, floor, and deck equipment shall be painted as often as necessary to keep them in good condition and free of corrosion. Paint for the pool structure shall be white or a light color. Steps, or at least the front edge of the step treads which lead into a pool should be painted to contrast with the rest of the pool.

3.12 ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

3.12.1 Electrician - Periodic inspections should be made by a licensed or certified electrician. Repairs to any electrical system shall be made only by a licensed or certified electrician.

3.12.2 Lights - Defective underwater and overhead lights, including their lenses, shall be immediately repaired or replaced.

4.0 PATRONS, SPECTATORS, AND STAFF

4.1 PATRONS

4.1.1 Disease - A person having an infectious disease, communicable via water shall not be permitted in a swimming pool. Examples are persons with diarrhea or open, infected wounds.

4.1.2 Showers - A person using a swimming pool should shower before entering the pool. A person should shower after using the toilet before returning to the pool for swimming activities.

4.1.3 Apparel - Only clean swimwear shall be worn in a swimming pool.

4.2 PATRON LOAD LIMIT - The number of patrons within the swimming pool enclosure shall not exceed the approved design capacity. A sign shall be conspicuously posted in the pool area stating the maximum number of bathers who may use the swimming pool at one time.

4.3 SPECTATORS

4.3.1 Street Clothes – Entry of persons in street clothes or shoes should be minimized to prevent contamination on the swimming pool deck or the pool.
4.3.2 Food and Drink – Glass shall not be permitted, other items, such as food, gum and tobacco should be minimized at the pool deck to prevent contamination of the pool deck or the pool.

4.4 STAFF

4.4.1 Operator - A person knowledgeable in poolside testing of the water and in operating the water treatment equipment shall be on premise or immediately accessible whenever the pool is open for use. Additional staff shall be on site at the facility as needed for correct operations or as required by 4.4.2.1 of the code.

4.4.2 Lifeguards

4.4.2.1 Number - A lifeguard and chair shall be provided for each 2,000 square feet of water surface area of a public pool. If a semipublic pool chooses to provide lifeguards these standards shall be followed and/or the anticipated usage and design characteristics. A recognized organization for the determination of such standards should be consulted. In addition, the regulatory agency should be consulted.

4.4.2.2 Certification – each lifeguard shall have a valid and current lifesaving or lifeguarding certificate from the American National Red Cross, National Y.M.C.A., or equivalent, as determined by the regulatory agency.

4.4.2.3 Dress – Each lifeguard on duty shall be appropriately dressed and identifiable.

4.4.2.4 Attention – A lifeguard on duty shall not engage in activities which would distract his or her attention from the lifeguard duties.

4.4.3 Attendants

4.4.3.1 Drop Slides – Attendants shall be stationed at a point where they can control patrons entering the slide. An attendant may supervise no more than two drop slides. Slides shall be located and constructed to allow easy supervision.

4.4.3.2 Exemption – Slides meeting the construction criteria may be exempt from the lifeguard and attendant requirement if they meet all of the criteria below.
   a) They are 6 feet or less in height from slide entrance to slide exit.
   b) The discharge is 6 inches or less above the water surface.
   c) The user has clear view of the landing area from all locations on the slide.
   d) The slide cannot be a tube or be covered to restrict the view of the landing area.

4.4.3.3 Flume Water Slides – All flume water slides must be directly supervised, with attendants at top and bottom areas.

5.0 SWIMMING POOL CLOSURE

5.1 HEALTH OR SAFETY HAZARDS - Any of the following conditions shall constitute sufficient grounds to order a swimming pool closed:

5.1.1 Disinfectant Residual – The pool shall be closed immediately if the required disinfectant residual falls below the minimum required in Section 1.1. If the chlorine or bromine level exceeds a residual level above 10 mg/l or other disinfecting materials exceed the safe residual recommended by the manufacturer, the pool shall be closed immediately. Immediate action shall be taken if the chlorine residual is above 5 mg/l and below 10 mg/l.
5.1.2 Water Clarity - Failure to comply with the water clarity requirement established in Section 1.3.

5.1.3 Treatment Equipment - Inoperable pump, filter, or disinfectant feeder.

5.1.4 Electrical Safety - Presence of bare electrical wires or other obvious electrical deficiency.

5.1.5 Supervision - If the operator is not on premise, or not immediately accessible, or in the absence of a required lifeguard.

5.1.6 Fence and Other Conditions – Enclosure does not comply with prevailing building code or the existence of any condition creating an immediate danger to the health or safety of the pool patrons or its personnel.

5.2 ALL TIMES WHEN THE POOL IS CLOSED FOR ANY REASON ALL ENTRY/EXIT POINTS SHALL BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND SECURED AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY, AND A SIGN SAYING "DANGER - POOL CLOSED" SHALL BE PROVIDED.

5.3 COVERS

5.3.1 Cleaning - Pool covers must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition to preclude contamination of the pool water.

5.3.2 Safety Cover - If the deck area is accessible when the pool is covered, a fully secured safety cover should be used.

5.3.3 Seasonal Closure - It is recommended that an outdoor pool which is closed for the season, but allowed to retain water, be provided with a safety-type cover able to support the weight of a person.

6.0 SAFETY

6.1 ACCIDENT PREVENTION

6.1.1 Decks - Decks shall be kept slip-resistant and in good repair, without litter, obstructions, tripping hazards, or sharp edges.

6.1.2 Deck Equipment - Ladders, handrails, diving apparatus, lifeguard chairs, slides, and other deck equipment shall be kept secured and in good repair, without sharp edges.

6.1.3 Depth Markings - Depth markings shall be maintained to be plainly visible.

6.1.4 Entrances - Doors and gates at pool entrances shall be kept closed when not in use, and locked when the pool is not open for use.

6.1.5 Glass Objects - Glass objects shall not be permitted in a swimming pool enclosure.

6.1.6 Horseplay - Horseplay and running shall not be permitted.
6.2 SAFETY EQUIPMENT

6.2.1 Lifesaving Equipment - The lifesaving equipment shall be kept in good repair and ready condition. It shall be kept in its established location and shall be used only for the intended purpose.

6.2.2 Life Lines - Life lines separating shallow and deep areas shall be kept in good repair. They should be kept in place unless swimming pool is in use for special purpose as defined in prevailing building code.

6.2.3 Breathing Apparatus - Self-contained breathing apparatus, where required or provided, shall be kept in good repair and in a ready condition.

6.3 STARTING BLOCKS - Starting blocks shall be removed or made inaccessible, except when competitive swimming or supervised training for competitive swimming is taking place.

6.4 EMERGENCY PLAN - A plan of action for emergencies shall be prepared, put in writing, made known to the staff, and practiced. It should include coordination with the local emergency response provider and instructions regarding proper use of equipment. Where chlorine gas is used, the emergency plan should also include provisions to comply with the Code of Federal Regulations for respiratory protection (29CFR 1910.134), and procedures for evacuation and contacting emergency responders in the event of a leak.