

CAMP & PRIVATE GROUP RULES

Due to issues arising from private camps/groups and their use of the outdoor pool, we have instituted some new policies, and we will be more strictly enforcing past policies and pool rules for all camps/private groups. Many of these rules are due to inappropriate behavior of campers and the inattention of their counselors. These problems are not specific to any one camp/group, but they can be attributed to many groups that come and use the pool. Our goal is to make the pool a safe and friendly environment for all who attend. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- Any group (eight or more plus a counselor/chaperone) wishing to use the pool must contact the pool at a minimum of 24 hours prior to arrival. We have many groups seeking access to the pool, and we must ensure that the general public has access to the pool as well. As such, we reserve the right to limit the number of camps/groups on any given day. Prior to our opening date of 24 June 2019, you can reach us at outdoorpool@cityofportsmouth.com. On or after our opening date, please contact us at (603) 433-0039.
- We have a recommended counselor to camper ratio of 12:1.
- Please ensure that your area is picked up of clothing and trash when you leave.
- There is no playing with balls or toys on the deck or in the pool.
- Pool deck chairs may not be used by campers, and counselors are limited to no more than three chairs or one table, depending on their group size. There have been complaints by patrons who could not use a chair because several dozen campers from various camps were using the chairs.
- Deck chairs may not be used to make tents or forts.
- Counselors are required to participate in the monitoring of their campers while they are in the pool or on the deck. Many counselors are sitting on the deck with their back to the pool or sitting far away in the corner, ignoring their campers. Too often, we must speak to campers several times about improper behavior/breaking rules, and there is no counselor close by to hear and help enforce the rules or intervene when a problem is encountered. Additionally, counselors need to help enforce rules that they see are being broken and support lifeguards as they enforce the rules with their campers. For example, a common problem (but not the only one): running is out of control. There is no running, even on the grass.
- Many times, lifeguards are giving the deep-water test to campers who can barely make it half way across the pool. These campers, usually the younger children, should demonstrate their ability to the counselor prior to attempting the deep-water test. We can reduce the lines for testing, which gets your campers in the water faster and keeps

our lifeguards ensuring patron safety by watching the pool, by providing some prescreening of a swimmer's ability. Also, many campers take the test every day; this practice should not be encouraged. If counselors know that a swimmer has no chance at passing, which is suggested by a previous demonstration during a deep-water test, then they should not be taking the test. Counselors know the swimmers who have taken the test, and these swimmers should be monitored more closely. These swimmers, who continuously fail the deep-water test, should be encouraged by their counselor to practice in the shallow end until such time as they have a realistic chance of passing the test.

- Camps that continue to break rules may be asked to leave for the day or they may find their ability to attend on future dates to be limited.