

Town of Somerset Swimming Pool Rules

Welcome to the Somerset Pool. So that all of our residents, from infants to centenarians, may enjoy a safe, pleasant time, the Town Swimming Pool Committee has designed these rules for pool use. Please inform your families and guests of these rules and the necessity to follow them and the instructions of the pool manager and staff. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Pool Committee Chair or place your comments in the suggestion box at the pool.

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I. GENERAL

1. (a) The pool is the property of the Town of Somerset. For that reason, unless an exception is otherwise authorized by the Town Council, only persons residing in the Town of Somerset (or who have binding contracts to purchase a residence within the Town, or who have purchased a house in the Town but have yet to move in) and Town employees are eligible to register to use the pool. Town employee members have the same rights and responsibilities as residents. All users of the pool must be registered or present a guest pass, according to these pool rules.

(b) The following persons shall not be eligible to register to use the pool, or to use the pool as a guest: (1) any person required to register as a sex offender according to Maryland law; or (ii) any person who has been permanently suspended or banned from use of the pool.

All users of the pool and their guests shall comply with these pool rules at all times, abide by the instructions and directives of pool staff, and otherwise conduct themselves in an appropriate manner toward staff, and other users, while at the pool.

(c) All users of the pool and their guests shall comply with these pool rules at all times, abide by the instructions and directives of pool staff, and otherwise conduct themselves in an appropriate manner toward staff, and other users, while at the pool.

2. The Swimming Pool Committee is appointed and authorized by the Mayor and the Town Council to supervise the operation and management of the pool and to sponsor activities at the pool.
3. The pool manager on duty is in full charge at all times.
4. All comments/complaints about the management of the pool should be made to the Swimming Pool Committee Chair.
5. The legal capacity of the Somerset Pool enclosure is 375 persons. The pool management will limit admissions to meet this requirement.
6. Guest passes may be purchased at the Town Hall or on the Town website. Guest passes may also be purchased at the pool office by check only.
7. Cars may be parked only in the upper parking lot, except for those transporting individuals with disabilities. Vehicles are not permitted beyond the bridge except for disabled persons, delivery, repair and emergency personnel. Do not cross the bridge to drop off or pick up swimmers, except for disabled persons.
8. Valuables are brought to the pool at your own risk.

II. DEFINITIONS

1. The “deep end” of the main pool is the 25 meter length of the pool including the diving board. The “shallow end” of the pool is that portion of the pool at a right angle to the deep end. The “wading pool” is the shallow pool separate from the main pool.
2. The “pool enclosure” is the area bordered by the fences and the pool side of the bathhouse.
3. The designated picnic areas is are: the picnic grove (grassy area), the upper brick walkway patio and the patio adjacent to the pool house. The “pool deck” is composed of the concrete slabs contiguous to the pools.

III. POOL HOURS

1. The pool is open daily from the weekend before Memorial Day through through Labor Day unless extended. Except where otherwise noted, regular pool hours are as follows:
 - a. School days: 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 - b. Fourth of July: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 - c. Closing Day: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 - d. Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - e. All other days: 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 - f. The pool will close promptly at the designated closing times. All swimmers must exit the pool and promptly complete their use of the bathhouse at that time and at the direction of the pool management.
2. The pool enclosure will be closed during thunder and lightning for a minimum of thirty minutes; when necessary for maintenance operations; or as determined by the pool management for the health and safety of pool patrons.
3. Breaks will occur before the hour for fifteen minutes. Children (thirteen years and younger) may not use the main pool during breaks. Breaks may be shortened or otherwise adjusted at the discretion of the pool manager. Breaks do not apply to swim team during swim practice.

IV. USE OF THE POOL WHEN IT IS CLOSED IS PROHIBITED UNLESS APPROVED BY THE TOWN MAIN POOL

1. Use of the pool
 - a. All persons who use the pool must be individually signed in at the front desk and may be required to present appropriate identification.
 - b. Children seven years and younger may not swim or be in the pool enclosure unless supervised by a qualified adult (persons fourteen years or older who have passed the deep water test.) Children eight years to fourteen years may be in the pool enclosure unsupervised if they have passed the deep water test.
 - c. All adults supervising children should provide maximum supervision. If children are in the water, the supervising adult must accompany them or sit at poolside within a few feet of them.
 - d. Cell phones, cameras, and any audio or video recording devices are banned from use in the locker rooms and bathrooms.

- e. Objectionable or improper behavior or conduct, including but not limited to Harassment whether sexual, verbal, or physical, will not be tolerated. Any one (resident or guest) who violates this will be subject to disciplinary measures as set forth in Section XII of these rules. Any instances of such harassment or improper conduct should be promptly reported to pool staff and/or to the Town office.
- f. If there are a sufficient number of lap swimmers, the diving well may be closed for lap swimming.

2. Lap Swimming

- a. Lap swimmers, including children who have passed the deep water test, should and are expected to seek unoccupied lanes for swimming before seeking to share a lane. All lap swimmers should be willing to share their lane with a new lap swimmer.
- b. When a new swimmer wishes to enter a lane currently occupied by another swimmer, he/she should first gain the other swimmer's attention, and by voice or gesture, indicate his/her intent and show how he/she wishes to be accommodated, i.e. counter clockwise rotation or divide the lane in half with each swimmer staying in the indicated half lane. If this does not work, the new swimmer should seek the guard or pool manager's intervention.
- c. When all lanes are filled by two swimmers each, a new swimmer may seek to become a third swimmer in a lane. Lap lanes are meant to accommodate 3 plus swimmers. The goal is to find swimmers of the same speed. When 3 or more are swimming in a lane, all shall swim counter clockwise.
- d. At times when there are four or more swimmers per lane in all six lanes, lap swimmers should voluntarily restrict their continuous use of the lane to 30 minutes to give new swimmers opportunity to swim laps.
- e. One lap lane must be available during swim team practice.
- f. Closing of the diving well will be left to the discretion of the pool manager on duty.
- g. Pool kickboards and foot fins are reserved for lap swimming, swim team practice, and lessons.

3. Use of pool by children

- a. Infants (children three years and younger) are allowed in the shallow portion of the main pool. Infants who are not potty trained must wear diapers covered by rubber pants with snug-fitting legs and waists. A swimsuit must be worn over the rubber pants and diapers.
- b. Infants must be under the constant supervision of a responsible adult who must be in the water with the infant at all times, on a one-to-one situation. An infant or

child may wear a securely-attached flotation device, provided an adult is supervising the child at arms-length distance in the water at all times.

- c. All children must pass the Basic Proficiency Swimming Test (“BPST”) annually to the satisfaction of the pool manager or his/her designee to swim in all areas of the deep end of the main pool or to use the diving board. To pass this test, the child shall:

- (1) Swim fifty meters (two lengths of the deep end) with confidence;
- (2) Float for one minute; and
- (3) Tread water for one minute.

A list of all children passing the BPST will be kept in the pool office.

4. Diving

- a. Diving from the diving board is permitted only when the diving well has been roped off. Swimming in the well is permitted when the well has been opened.
- b. Only those children who have passed the BPST may use the diving board.
- c. After a dive, divers must swim to the nearest ladder. Divers may leave the board only after the previous diver has cleared the area below.
- d. Only one person at a time is permitted on the diving board and only one on the diving board ladder. Horseplay and/or excessive bouncing on the diving board are not permitted.
- e. Running dives and back dives from the deck are not allowed.
- f. At all times when the pool is open, diving is permitted only into the deeper half of the deep end of the pool where the water is at least six feet deep. No dives are permitted in other parts of the pool.
- g. No goggles when diving off the diving board.

5. Water slide

- a. The water slide may be used only when the landing area is roped off. The pool management controls the times for using the slide.
- b. Use of the water slide is limited to:
 - (1) adults; or
 - (2) children who have passed the BPST; or have passed a separate test given by the pool management for using the water slide; or have not passed either of the above tests, but only at certain times when a lifeguard is in the area specifically for assisting those children.

- c. Use of the slide must be “feet first.”
- d. A person must exit the landing area immediately after using the slide. The next person may begin a slide only after the previous person has cleared the area below.
- e. Only one person at a time is permitted on the slide platform and only one on the ladder.
- f. An adult may be present in the slide landing area in order to assist a child’s use of the slide. There shall be no catching of children coming off of the slide before they hit the water.
- g. No goggles, water wings or any other flotation devices may be worn or carried when going down the slide.

6. Safety

- a. In the event of an emergency, the pool will be cleared. The signal for this will be three sharp blasts of a lifeguard’s whistle.
- b. All injuries on the premises should be reported immediately to the pool manager or lifeguard.
- c. Glass containers (including suntan lotion, shampoo, and baby bottles) of any description are prohibited. Repeated violation of this rule will result in disciplinary measures as set forth in Section XII of these rules.
- d. Rough play, running, pushing, acrobatics, dunking, wrestling, excessive splashing, and other such objectionable and dangerous behaviors are prohibited.
- e. Soft plastic balls, snorkels, and face masks are permitted at the discretion of the lifeguards. Inflatable toys, inner tubes, and other inflatable or styrofoam devices are not permitted except on raft nights, and except for infants and children in accordance with Section IV 2.b.
- f. No super soakers or other air powered or pressurized water guns are allowed.
- g. Pool kickboards and foot fins are reserved for lap swimming, swim team practice, and lessons, under the supervision of a staff member or other qualified instructor.
- h. Upper retaining wall is off limits to everyone.

7. Health

- a. All persons must be clean before entering the pool.
- b. Smoking is limited to the upper parking lot beyond and away from the bridge. Smokers are required to dispose of their smoking debris. Smoking is not permitted at swim meets.

- c. Pets are never allowed in the pool enclosure except for the last evening of the pool season.
- d. Admission to the pool enclosure is forbidden, at the discretion of the pool management, to anyone wearing bandages, or with skin abrasions, colds, coughs, extremely inflamed eyes, open sores, infections, excessive sunburn, nasal or ear discharge, or other symptoms which are determined by pool management to be detrimental to the health of others.
- e. Spitting, spouting of water, blowing the nose, or urinating or defecating in the pool is prohibited at all times.

V. WADING POOL

1. The wading pool is reserved for children seven years and younger. However, children eight and over who are assisting in the care of younger children may use the wading pool, provided they are in the company of a responsible adult.
2. Children must be accompanied in the wading pool enclosure by a supervising adult (fourteen years and older).
3. The wading pool gate must be kept closed.

VI. FOOD

1. Food and beverages are generally prohibited, except as provided herein and in connection with the designated picnic area as described in Section VII below.
2. Water in plastic bottles is permitted.
3. Formula or milk in plastic baby bottles may be fed to babies held in an adult's lap in the wading pool enclosure.

VII. DESIGNATED PICNIC AREAS

1. Within the pool enclosure, food may be kept and eaten only in the designated picnic areas. The designated picnic areas are: the picnic grove (grassy area), the upper brick walkway patio and the patio adjacent to the-pool house. Food may be brought to the picnic grove only through the bath house and over the upper brick walkway.
2. Cooking is not permitted in the designated picnic areas, except when using the gas grill supplied by the Town. Users are expected to clean the grill when they have finished using it.
3. If you are planning a group picnic, follow the guidelines in Section VIII 10.

4. Trash must be kept from blowing into the pool enclosure. It should be deposited in the trash cans in the designated picnic areas. To keep animals and insect from rummaging, please remember to replace the top to the trash cans.

VIII. GUESTS

1. All pool users who are not members as defined by the Town Code are guests.
2. Guests must be personally known to their hosts. In no event may a member extend guest privileges to a person soliciting entry.
3. All members have the privilege of bringing guests.
4. Except as otherwise provided, all guests must be accompanied at check-in by a member who presents a key tag or who is recognized by the check-in system.
5. Guests may not bring other guests.
6. Guests who are close relatives (children and their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses, and parents) who do not reside in Somerset, houseguests of a member, and house sitters for a member have the option of using the pool without the presence of the member to sign them in to the pool. They must sign in under the member's account and their guest fees will be charged to that member's account, provided, however, nannies, au pairs, babysitters, and other caregivers shall be exempt from payment of the guest fee when accompanying a resident under their care

IX. GROUP EVENT GUIDELINES AND RULES:

1. More than 10 Non-Somerset residents on a single day constitute a group event. There is a \$100 fee charge plus \$4.00 per guest fee for all group events. The \$4.00 guest fee will be charged for all non-Somerset residents attending the group event.
2. All residents wishing to have a group event at the pool must submit a reservation form to the Pool Manager at least 1 week prior to the event. Along with the completed reservation form, you must submit 2 checks. One check to be made payable to the pool management company to cover the cost of additional guards if needed (the Pool Manager will determine how many extra guards are needed and the cost) and a second check made payable to the Town of Somerset in the amount of \$250 which will be returned following the event after the Pool Manager approves the cleanup of the event area. **In addition your pool account will be charged a \$100.00 group event fee.**
3. The maximum number of Non-Somerset residents allowed for any group event is 20 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and 30 people Mondays through Thursdays. This includes adults and children.
4. Guest fees will be charged for all non Town of Somerset residents. Prior to the group event you must have a balance in your account sufficient to cover fees for your guests.

5. There may only be 2 group events during any time period and no more than 6 group events in a day according to the following schedule:
 - a. Morning group events: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - b. Afternoon group events: 2 to 5:00 pm
 - c. Evening group events: 6 to 9:30 pm Saturday and Sunday; and 6 to 8:30 pm Monday through Friday.
6. Group events may not be held on Memorial Day, Labor Day or July 4.
7. Clean up must be completed by the end of your group events time period or deposit will be forfeited.
8. Grills and tables cannot be reserved. Please remember that others could be using the seating areas and grills during your group events.
9. To ensure your deposit is returned, all areas that your guests use must be cleaned up. Should anyone in your group events bring food to another area such as the bathrooms or pool deck in violation of the rules, you are responsible for cleaning these areas of food and other group events debris.
10. All areas of the pool are communal. Keeping this in mind, group events decorations are limited to the white bulletin board in the patio area. The pool manager can supply push pins for affixing decorations to the bulletin board.
11. The decision of the pool manager is final as to all group events.
12. Failure to pre-register a Group Event may result in cancellation of the Group Event by the pool manager. Repeated violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action as set forth in Section XII of these rules.

Reminders:

- Glass is not allowed in any form at the pool. This includes the eating areas, the kitchen and the bathrooms within the entire fenced pool enclosure.
- Food and drinks other than water are not allowed on the pool deck or in the pool bathrooms. Food and beverages are only allowed in: the patio kitchen area, the upper terrace area and the grassy picnic area at the rear of the pool enclosure.
- Your guests are your responsibility when attending your party.
- Please be mindful to sort your recycling items and dispose of properly.

X. RESIDENTS WHO DO NOT REGISTER

Residents who do not register for a pool season must identify themselves by presenting a driver's license or other identification prior to entering the pool and arrange with the Town Hall to register.

XI. SWIM TEAM

1. Practice hours for the swim team are as follows:
 - a. Before public school is out and starting the Tuesday after the pool opens for the season: Monday through Friday, up to two hours in the afternoon.
 - b. After public school is out until the end of the swim team season: Up to two hours in morning and two hours in afternoon, Monday through Friday. Times are to be set by the Swimming Pool Committee.
2. At least one lane will be available for lap swimming during practice sessions. If the lane is in use by the swim team and a resident requests the lane, the swim team must cede that lane.
3. Occasionally the team will host four-hour meets on a weekday evening or on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Signs will be posted in the bathhouse from opening day about these meet days. During meets the pool will not be open for general swimming.

XII. ENFORCEMENT

1. Town Code Section 5-301(g) authorizes the Council to adopt rules and regulations governing the operation of the pool and the conduct of users, including guests, and providing for the enforcement of such regulations.
2. The pool manager or Town Manager may suspend for up to two (2) days the privileges of any user who is violating any rule. This suspension may be appealed to the Mayor within five (5) days from the date of the pool manager's or Town Manager's action. The Mayor's decision shall be final and no further appeal will be afforded.
3. The Mayor may, in the Mayor's discretion, suspend for up to two (2) months, the privileges of any user who violates any rule, after a written warning. The Mayor may suspend the privileges of any user for such additional time as the Mayor deems appropriate, or permanently ban a user from use of the pool (after consultation with the Council), who commits a third violation within a three (3) year period. A suspension by the Mayor for more than two (2) days, or a permanent ban, may be appealed to the Town Council within thirty (30) days from the date of the Mayor's decision.
4. Pending review, any ban or suspension will remain in effect.