

## **SWIMMING POOL POLICIES FOR GROUPS (Revised March 2006)**

The following policies have been adopted by the YMCA of Metro Milwaukee to ensure safety at our pools for your group. Types of groups may include; birthday parties, overnights, lock-ins, general rentals, schools, and child care centers. A safety orientation will be provided to each group prior to entering the water. These ratios do not apply to children enrolled in YMCA conducted swim lessons.

### **RATIOS OF ADULTS TO CHILDREN**

- |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ages 5 and younger</b>   | 1 adult in the water for every child; Group size limited to 15 children                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Ages 6 &amp; 7 years</b> | 1 adult in the shallow end of the pool for every 5 children; Group size is limited to 15<br>This age group is restricted to water that is no deeper than child's chest unless the child passes a swim test                                                            |
| <b>Ages 8-9</b>             | 2 adults in the shallow end of the pool for every 15 children; Group size is limited to 15.<br>In addition to the 2 adults in water, 1 adult must be on-deck. This age group is restricted to water no deeper than child's chest unless the child passes a swim test. |
| <b>Ages 10 and over:</b>    | 1 adult on deck per 15 children; Group size is limited to 15 children<br>All children will be required to pass a swim test to swim in the deep end of the pool.<br>Non-swimmers are restricted to water no deeper than child's chest.                                 |

### **HOW "IN WATER" AND DECK ADULTS HELP**

- Monitor behavior and enforce lifeguard directions and rules
- Adults must *actively* monitor and manage all children in their group.
- Group chaperones must be in the pool area at all times.

### **HOW TO RECOGNIZE A CHILD IN TROUBLE**

- A child in trouble will probably be *unable to call for help*
- A child who is *unable to touch bottom* or *needs to tip toe* to keep head above water
- A child who is *hanging* onto another child, the wall, or any other object for support
- A child who has wide, panicky eyes - *looks frightened*
- A child who is unable to stand up from horizontal position

### **SWIM TESTING**

- A Senior Lifeguard will swim test all children interested in swimming in the deep end.
- All children who pass a YMCA swim test will receive an orange wrist band
- The swim test will require; swim length of pool; jump into deep end, level off, tread minimum 15 seconds and swim back to wall.

### **WRIST BANDS**

- All participants of a group must have a wrist band (supplied by the YMCA)
- Any swimmer who passes the swim test will wear a second band - orange

### **PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES**

- YMCA provided floatation belts or Coast Guard approved lifejackets may be worn by non-swimmers.
- Children wearing floatation devices must stay in the shallow end within arms reach of an adult chaperone.

**The YMCA reserves the right to remove a group from the pool, or prevent from entering the pool, if the situation is deemed unsafe, for any reason. The YMCA host guard has the authority to make this decision.**

**The lifeguard is the final authority on the pool deck. The lifeguard's responsibilities will be limited to the guarding of their designated pool area.**

I have read and understand the pool safety protocols related to my group

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_