

Clayton County Environmental Health Public Swimming Pool Program

Clayton County Board of Health Swimming Pool Regulations

Section -.20: Recreational Water Parks and Special Purpose Pools.

- (1) **Deviation from requirements.** A recreational water park attraction may deviate from the requirements of this code if and to the extent:
 - (a) An exception from this code is necessary to accommodate the special use of the facility; and
 - (b) The design and construction of the attraction are within the limits of sound engineering practice and present no health or safety hazard.
- (2) **Zero-Depth pools.**
 - (a) The water supply for a zero-depth pool must, at all times, meet the requirements relating to water quality set forth in Rule .17 of this Chapter.
 - (b) The zero-depth pool must be equipped, at its lowest point, with an unvalved drain of sufficient capacity and design to prevent the accumulation of water in the pool.
 - (c) For zero-depth-entry pools, the floor slope shall be at a 15:1 or gentler slope.
 - (d) Zero-depth pools must be located at the shallow end of deeper water swimming pools and must be separated from them by at least six feet (6') of deck or by a separate barrier or fence meeting the requirements of this code.
- (3) **Wading pools.**
 - (a) Wading pools must be located at the shallow end of the main pool and must be separated from it by a separate barrier or fence meeting the requirements of this code.
 - (b) Underwater lights are prohibited in wading pools.
- (4) **Water slides.**
 - (a) A water slide must consist of one or more flumes, falling-entry pools or slide runouts, a pump reservoir, and facilities for the disinfection and chemical treatment of the water.

- (b) The structural design of a water slide and the materials used in its construction must conform with generally accepted structural engineering practices and must provide a sound, durable structure that will safely sustain all the dead loads, live loads, liquid hydrostatic and earth pressures encountered.
- (c) Any components or accessories of a water slide that come into contact with bathers must be assembled, arranged and finished so that their external surfaces and edges do not present an injury hazard to the skin of users under casual contact.
- (d) The owner of a water slide and the registered engineer who designs the slide are responsible for the safe design and construction of the entire facility.
- (e) **Flumes.**
 - 1. Each flume of a water slide must be water-tight. Its surfaces must be inert, nontoxic, smooth and easily cleaned.
 - 2. If a tube-type flume is used, it must be designed or ventilated to prevent a hazardous concentration of toxic disinfectant fumes under all circumstances of operation.
 - 3. All curves and turns in a flume must be:
 - (i) Designed so that the impact of users with the walls of the flume does not present a hazard; and
 - (ii) Banked so that the forces on the bathers keep them safely inside the flume under all foreseeable circumstances of operation. Bathers must not become airborne.
 - 4. In curved sections of a flume, the design of the wall of the flume must cause the outward thrust of the body of the bather to be dissipated towards the centerline of the flume.
 - 5. All slopes in a flume must be designed so that the speed of the bathers does not reach a point at which a safe equilibrium of dynamic forces cannot be maintained on any curve or turn in the flume.
 - 6. In sections of a flume where bathers can stop, provision must be made by design or modification to prevent bathers from falling out of the flume.
 - 7. The construction, dimensions and methods of mechanical attachment of a flume must provide a smooth and continuous surface through the entire length of the flume. Any misalignment of joints in a sectional flume must not exceed 1/8 inch.

8. The walls of any flume must be designed so that the continuous and combined action of hydrostatic, dynamic and static loads, as well as normal environmental deterioration do not damage the flume bed to the extent of creating a structural failure that presents a hazard of injury to users or that requires frequent patch repairs that may weaken the structural integrity of the flume.

(f) **Flume exit:**

1. The exit of any flume must be designed to ensure that bathers enter the falling-entry pool or slide runout at a safe speed and angle of entry.
2. If a slide has two or more flumes and there is a point of intersection between the centerlines of any two flumes, the distance between that point and the point of exit for each intersecting flume must not be less than twenty (20') feet, or thirty (30') feet if any user exits a flume at high speed.

(g) **Exit into falling entry pool:** If users exit the flume of a water slide into a falling-entry pool:

1. The flume must be horizontal and perpendicular to the wall of the pool at the point of exit.
2. The flume must be designed with an exit system that provides for safe entry into the falling-entry pool or slide runout with an exit grade for the last ten (10) feet, that does not exceed 10%. Present practices for safe entry include a water backup, a deceleration distance, and body attitude control. Other methods are acceptable as long as safe exit velocities and proper body altitudes are assured under normal use and
3. The flume exit must be flush with the vertical wall of the pool at the point of exit and not more than 2 inches above, nor less than 6 inches below, the normal operating level of the pool.
4. The distance between:
 - (i) The side wall of the pool and that portion of the flume exit nearest the wall must be not less than 5 feet at the point of exit;
 - (ii) The centerline of the flume and the centerline of any adjacent flume must not be less than 6 feet at the point of exit;
 - (iii) The point of exit and the side of the pool opposite the bathers as they exit, excluding any steps, must not be less than 20 feet, if the

flume ends above or below the normal operating water level of the pool.

(h) **Falling-Entry pools:**

1. If a splash pool is used at a water slide, it must be located at the base of the slide.
2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the water depth in a falling-entry pool at the end of the flume must be a minimum of 3 ½ feet from the normal operating water level to the floor. This depth must be maintained for distance of not less than 20 feet from the point of exit from the flume or other falling-entry feature, or not less than 30 feet if the point of exit is even with the normal operating water level. The health authority may waive these requirements if a special exit system is used that ensures a safe exit from the flume and safe entry to the falling-entry pool.
3. Beyond the area of level floor required above, in the area of the pool opposite the point of exit from the flume or other falling-entry feature, the floor of the falling-entry pool may have a constant slope upward of not more than 1 foot in 7 feet (1' : 7')
4. If steps are provided instead of exit ladders or step holes with handrails, a handrail must be provided at the steps opposite the point of exit from each flume or falling-entry feature.

(i) **Decks.** A deck must be provided along the exit side of the falling-entry pool and along one or more of the other sides of the pool. The pump and reservoir must be accessible by a deck not less than 3 feet wide.

(j) **Means of access.**

1. A concrete walkway, steps, stairway or ramp must be provided between the falling-entry pool and the top of the flume.
2. The walkway or other means of access must:
 - (i) Not retain standing water;
 - (ii) Conform to the structural requirements of the local building code
 - (iii) Not be less than 4 feet wide;
 - (iv) Be provided with handrails;

- (v) Have a slip-resistant surface;
- (vi) Be separated from the flume by a physical barrier that is located far enough from the flume to prevent it from being contacted by users of the flume.

(k) **Slide runouts.**

1. Slide runouts, if used, must have an exit opening or step, unless one or both of the walls of the runout are not more than 12 inches in height.
2. Slide runouts must be designed with adequate length and water depth and sloped so as to bring the user to a safe stop.

(l) **Pump reservoirs.**

1. Pump reservoirs used in water slides must have sufficient volume to contain not less than 2 minutes of combined flow from all water treatment and flume pumps or must contain enough water to ensure that the falling-entry pool will maintain a constant water depth.
2. The interior of pump reservoirs must be water-tight with a hard trowel or equivalent, slip-resistant finish.
3. Pump reservoirs must be accessible only to authorized persons. Intakes to the slide pump must be designed to allow cleaning without danger of trapping the operator.

(m) **Control of water.**

1. A surge-free automatic water makeup system with a manual override must be provided and constructed so that the normal operating water level of the falling-entry pool is maintained at all times. An approved backflow prevention device must be provided.
2. The velocity of water at the weir or inlet grate must not exceed 1 ½ feet per second.
3. The slide or other falling-entry feature may not be used if the main drain of the falling-entry pool is not clearly visible from the deck with the flume water turned off.

(n) **Posting notice of prohibited conduct:** The operator of a water slide or other falling-entry feature shall post one or more warning signs at the entrance to the facility. Each sign must state that the following types of conduct are prohibited within the facility:

1. Running, standing, kneeling, rotating, tumbling or stopping in any flume or tunnel.
2. Horseplay.
3. Diving or flipping while exiting from a flume.
4. Use of the slide while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
5. Use of the flume by more than one person at a time.
6. Failure to obey the instructions of the pool attendant or lifeguard.
7. Failure to keep hands inside the flume while using the slide.
8. Failure to leave the falling-entry pool promptly after exiting from the slide.
9. The possession of any glass, bottle or food in or near any pool.
10. Entry into an area of grass or other vegetation.
11. The possession of any toy or can.
12. The use of any clothing on the slide other than the usual swimwear.
13. Wearing any bracelet, watch or other jewelry.
14. Failure to shower before using the slide.

(o) **Precautions for safety.**

1. At all times while a water slide is open for use, an attendant must be on duty at each falling-entry pool or runout. The attendant shall serve as the safety director of the slide. In that capacity, the attendant shall control crowds, keep bathers moving through the pool or runout in an orderly fashion, and control any unsafe behavior in the lower flumes, in the pool or runout, or on the decks at the base of the slide.
2. At all times while the slide is open for use, an attendant must be on duty at each entrance to a flume. The attendant shall control bathers near the entrance, regulate the departure of each bather down the slide and control any unsafe behavior in the upper flumes.

3. Radio communication, or other means of communication acceptable to the health authority, must be provided between the flume entry attendant and the splash pool or slide runout attendant.
 4. Each water slide must have a means to allow the flume entry attendant to monitor the slide exit.
- (5) **Activity pools.** Amusement devices used in activity pools must be designed and maintained so that their surfaces are smooth, nontoxic and easily cleanable. The devices must not pose a safety or health hazard to users and must not interfere with circulation or disinfection of the water.
- (6) **Wave pools.**
- (a) The generation of waves more than 3 feet in height in a wave pool, regardless of the depth of the pool, must not continue for more than 15 minutes at a time.
 - (b) The wave pool must not be used if the main drain is not clearly visible from the deck with the wave generating equipment turned off.
 - (c) Bathers must gain access to the wave pool at the shallow or beach end. The sides of the pool must be protected from unauthorized entry into the pool by the use of a fence or other comparable barrier.
 - (d) Wave pools must be provided with handholds at the static water level. These handholds must be self-draining and must be installed so that their outer edge is flush with the pool wall. The design of the handholds must ensure that body extremities will not become entangled during wave action.
 - (e) Life jackets must be provided free for use by bathers who request them.
 - (f) Each permanent station for pool attendants and lifeguards must be provided with a clearly labeled and readily accessible emergency shut-off switch for the control of the wave action.
 - (g) An audible warning system must be provided to alert bathers of the beginning of wave generation.
 - (h) Step holes and handrails must be provided at one or more locations along the wall of the wave pool. The step holes and handrails must extend down the wall so they will be accessible during wave generation at the lowest water level. The distance between the handrail and the wall must not exceed 6 inches.
- (7) **Child amusement lagoons.** Amusement devices used in child amusement lagoons must be designed and maintained so that their surfaces are smooth, nontoxic and easily

cleanable. The devices must not pose a safety or health hazard to bathers and must not interfere with circulation or disinfection of the water.

(8) **Watercourse rides.**

- (a) Handrails, steps, stairs, and booster inlets for watercourse rides must not protrude into the watercourse.
- (b) The watercourse must not be narrower than twelve (12') feet and not deeper than three and one half (3 ½') feet.
- (c) An approved method of exit must be provided at least every two hundred (200') feet along the watercourse.
- (d) A deck must be provided along at least one side of the watercourse.
- (e) The design velocity of the water in a watercourse ride must not exceed 2 miles per hour.