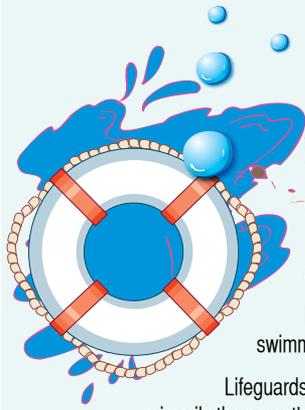


Personal Flotation Devices



The Community Center staff is always evaluating the pool area and considering ways to make the swimming more safe and enjoyable. The use of personal flotation devices (PFD) is one item about which many questions are asked.

The Community Center advocates devices that are worn. If a child lets go of a PFD and is unable to retrieve the float, it is not safe.

Please remember that PFDs in a swimming pool environment are to be used as swimming aides, not as a guarantee for your child's safety.

Lifeguards are properly trained to prevent and react to aquatic emergencies. However, it is primarily the parent's responsibility to ensure the safety of their children.

The following is a guide for the type of permitted flotation devices

- ⊗ **Parents must always be in the water and within direct contact of the child using flotation devices.**
- ⊗ Children must not be able to fall off or out of the PFD.
- ⊗ The PFD must be properly sized, worn and used.
- ⊗ Larger devices are allowed depending on the number of patrons in the pool.

Pool Usage of PFD are

- ⊗ Flotation devices are permitted throughout the outdoor pool.
- ⊗ Flotation devices are permitted in the shallow area only of the indoor pool. Children are not permitted in the deep end or in the lap lanes while wearing PFDs.

Definite No No's

- ⊗ Buoy style floats held to the user's back by a belt are not permitted. They are considered unsafe because the swimmer is always forced face down and it is very difficult for the swimmer to right themselves onto their backs.
- ⊗ Rings with no saddle devices are not permitted.
- ⊗ Children with floats are not permitted in the pool without parents in the water with them

What Kind of Floats Are Allowed?

Every year there are new PFDs for children. The staff is always evaluating them and considering their safety. The list below is a guide for items that are allowed in our pools:

- ⊗ Properly sized Coast Guard approved life jackets.
- ⊗ Buoyant swimsuits. These include swimsuits or a garment worn over a swimsuit that provides buoyancy by means of inserted foam or inflatable bladders.
- ⊗ Water wings.
- ⊗ Ring or toy devices, which provide a secure saddle for the children to sit in and do not tip or roll easily.

Special Circumstances

- ⊗ Kickboards and pull buoys are permitted for lap swimming in the designated lap lanes only.
- ⊗ Exercise belts that provide vertical buoyancy are permitted for conditioning and therapeutic use.
- ⊗ Foam noodles are permitted ONLY during special times that are posted in the pool area and announced in advance.