

Safety and Risk Management Newsletter



July 2016—Summer Safety

Jumping Pillows

At numerous YMCA operations we have jumping pillows present for the enjoyment of our campers and members. While tremendous fun for everyone, safety is paramount when they are used. Here are the key safety rules to remind our staff

- Children should be bouncing appropriately, not running, tackling or knocking into others.
- Staff should actively scan to make sure behaviors are safe, even if on the pillow with the kids. If children are being too aggressive staff should stop the inappropriate behavior.
- Staff should not jump at an effort above 50% of their maximum, it poses a risk of injury to themselves and the children.
- Due to their average size, teenage campers should follow the guidelines for adults on the pillow not children.
- Flips and somersaults are not permitted.



Supporting Our Lifeguards

Lifeguarding is a very difficult job because they watch the water for hours and most days nothing happens, however if something does occur they have to be nearly perfect. In order to support them, it is important for all of us to know the expectations of our lifeguards and our non-swimmer protection policies.

Lifeguard Expectations

- Watching the water at all times.
- Actively searching the water for a swimmer in trouble.
- Lifeguards should be spread out, so they can see the water from multiple angles.
- Conversation with members and other staff should be minimal and not distract from their primary role, guarding lives.
- Rescue ready, wearing their fanny pack and have the rescue tube across their chest or lap.
- Positioned at the water's edge in an elevated chair or a standing position.

Help support your Aquatics Team by completing quick checks on the lifeguards at your branch. Your Aquatic Director can provide the quick check form.

Non-Swimmer Protection.

Children age 15 or under that can enter water greater than the center line of their chest must pass our



swim test. If they do not pass, they must meet one of the following three items to be in the water.

- 1) Be within arms reach of an adult caregiver.
- 2) Wear a Coast Guard approved lifejacket.
- 3) In a swim lesson.

If you are on the pool deck and you see a child not meeting the above, step in and change the situation. Most aquatic incidents in YMCAs take place in water 3-5 feet deep. A backpack bubble is not a lifejacket and if a child is wearing one, they must be within arm's reach of an adult or in a swim lesson.

Safety Reminder of the Month

When kids are off-site and using restrooms staff must thoroughly check the restrooms prior to use by the children. If other individuals are present, staff should be in the entry to the restroom and maintain visual contact with our children.