



BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Aquatics Policies

POOL GUIDELINES

These guidelines and regulations are designed for your safety, health, and comfort as mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Health Code and Boston University. Those who do not adhere to the guidelines, or who fail to cooperate with the lifeguard staff may be asked to leave and may be denied future access into the Aquatic Center.

- Swimmer must take a cleansing shower before entering the pool or spa.
- Swimmers with hair longer than ½ inch long buzz cut must wear a swim cap. It is up to the discretion of the lifeguard on duty to determine if the length of hair requires a cap. Children under the age of 13 do not need to wear a swim cap.
- A lifeguard must be on duty in the chair before anyone may get in the water.
- No prolonged breath holding or prolonged underwater swimming.
- Please walk on the pool deck. No running.
- Any person with a skin disease, open sores, bandaged wounds, boils, inflamed eyes, discharging nasal or ear passages, or any communicable disease is prohibited from using the pool. If you have a bandage on a minor cut, dispose of it before entering the pool area.
- No glass on the pool deck, seating area or locker rooms. Only water in an enclosed, unbreakable container is allowed on the pool deck.
- No food or chewing gum is allowed in the pool or on the pool deck.
- Street shoes are prohibited on the pool deck.
- Appropriate swimsuits are required attire for all swimmers. Basketball shorts, gym shorts, t-shirts, cut-offs, or under garments are not allowed.
- Spitting and otherwise contaminating the pool, pool deck, walkways, aisles or locker rooms is prohibited.
- Diving is prohibited in the Recreation Pool.
- All diving board use is prohibited except for class participants.
- No walking across the bulkhead or swimming under the bulkhead.
- Please do not leave bags, street shoes or clothes on the pool deck or benches. Use the day lockers in the pool hallway.
- The maximum number of swimmers in each lane is six. Please be aware of how many people are already in the lane that you are selecting.
- Lanes with more than 2 swimmers must circle swim. This means that you should always be on the right side of the lane. Slower swimmers should stop at the wall and allow

faster swimmers to pass.

- Lanes are designated “slow”, “medium”, and “fast” in the Competition Pool. Please select the appropriate lane for your ability. Aqua joggers will be given priority in the aqua jogging lane.
- Do not swim in a lane or area that is marked off for a class or swim team. Only swim in designated lap lanes (marked with the yellow lane marker). If you are unsure of open lanes, please ask the lifeguard.
- During open lap swim hours in the Competition Pool, one of the on-duty lifeguards will be available to administer boating swim tests for those who require them for boating registration. Testing must take place in the Competition Pool and a photo ID and U# must be presented. Swim tests will not be administered during the last 15 minutes of open swim hours.
- Kickboards and pull-buoys are available for lap swimmers. Please return them to the storage bin after use.
- When the lifeguard signals the end of open swim, please leave the pool area promptly.
- Language and behavior must be appropriate for a family setting.
- The use of oils and body lotions is prohibited.
- Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult. If the child passes the swim test, a supervising adult must remain on deck at all times. If the child does not pass the swim test, the parent/guardian must be in the water within arm’s reach of the child at all times. To pass the swim test, the child must swim with their face in the water for 20 yards.
- Only lap swim takes place in the Competition Pool unless otherwise posted. The lifeguard may ask a child to leave lap swim if he or she is unable to continuously swim laps or interrupts others. Non-swimming children are not allowed in the Competition Pool.
- Strollers are not allowed on the pool deck.
- When playing water basketball, dunking or horseplay is not allowed.
- Disposable diapers are not allowed in the pool. Children who are not toilet trained must wear a cloth, washable and reusable swim diaper with tight fitting, elastic waist and leg openings. Disposable swim diapers are not permitted as they disintegrate in the warm water. Cloth, reusable swim diapers are available for sale at the Pro Shop.
- No swim aids such as “water wings”, Styrofoam bubbles, or floats sewn into swimsuits are allowed. Only U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are allowed. A life jacket does not substitute for direct supervision of a non-swimmer.
- If a lifeguard feels your swimming level is not adequate for the Competition Pool (7’-13.5’ deep), you may be asked to leave or use the shallow Recreation Pool.
- Private lessons may not be given by non-BU Aquatics staff at any time.
- The use of pool toys is at the discretion of the lifeguard.



- The use of electronic devices is permitted in the pool area with the exception of photography and video. Audio is allowed with the use of headphones only. Any damage caused by the pool environment is at the owner's risk.

Spa Rules:

- The spa is only open during posted open swim hours in the Recreation Pool. A lifeguard must be on duty.
 - Participants must take a cleansing shower before entering the spa.
 - Any person with a skin disease, open sores, bandaged wounds, boils, inflamed eyes, discharging nasal or ear passages, or any communicable disease is prohibited from using the spa. If you have a bandage on a minor cut, dispose of it before entering the pool area.
 - No children under the age of 13 are allowed use of the spa. Children may not sit on the stairs or on the edge of the spa.
 - It is recommended that elderly persons, pregnant women and persons suffering from heart disease, diabetes, high or low blood pressure should not use the spa until they consult with their physician.
 - Do not use the spa when the water temperature is greater than 104° F.
 - The use of oils and body lotions is prohibited.
 - Individuals should observe a reasonable time limit in the spa (10 minutes). Long exposures may result in health complications such as dizziness, nausea or fainting.
 - Individual may not completely submerge themselves in the spa.
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