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RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SWIMMING POOLS AND AQUATIC FACILITIES

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to protect the public from possible safety and health hazards through the establishment and enforcement of minimum standards for operation, construction, licensure, and sanitation for swimming pools, spas, and other special aquatic facilities.

SECTION 2: ADMINISTRATION

A. Enforcement

The Health Department shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations consistent with the terms of the City of Lawrence Code Section 5, Article 14 for the purpose of carrying out and enforcing the objectives set out in the Code.

B. Applicability

The rules and standards for this section apply to public and semi-public (non-residential) recreational water facilities, as listed in this document, now in existence or hereafter constructed or developed within the Lawrence city limits.

New or Substantially Renovated Aquatic Facilities/Venues Only			
Code Section	Code Description	MAHC Adoption Time	LDCPH Adoption Time
4.7.3.2.1.1	Chemical Feeders Required for Sanitizers	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption
4.7.3.2.1.3	Interlock Controls/No Flow/Low Flow Deactivation	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption
4.7.3.2.7.1	pH Control Feeder Required	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption
4.7.3.3.1.2 ^A	Secondary Treatment Required for wading pools and Interactive Play Venues	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption
4.10.4.5.1	Diaper-Changing Station(s) Required	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption
4.10.4.5.1.1 ^A	Adjacent Plumbed Handwashing Sink Required	1 Year (2026)	1 Year (2026)
4.10.4.6.8	Covered Receptacles Required for Feminine Hygiene Products	1 Year (2026)	1 Year (2026)
4.10.4.6.9	Hands-Free Trash Receptacle Required	1 Year (2026)	1 Year (2026)
5.4.2.2.1	Original Plans and Specifications Onsite	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption
5.7.1.9.1	Operated at Designed Flow Rate Except as Allowed by 4.7.1.10	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption

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Existing Aquatic Facilities/Venues			
Code Section	Code Description	MAHC Adoption Time	LDCPH Adoption Time
4.7.3.2.1.3	Interlock Controls/No Flow/Low Flow Deactivation	1 Year (2026)	5 Years (2030)
4.7.3.2.8.1.1	Automated Controllers Required for Chemical Feed Systems	1 Year (2026)	5 Years (2030)
5.7.1.9.2	Operated 24 Hours Per Day at Designed Flow Rate	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption
5.7.3.1.3.1.1	No CYA Use Allowed in Spas and Therapy Pools	4 Years (2029)	5 Years (2030)
5.7.3.5.1	Disinfectant And Ph Control Chemicals Shall Be Delivered Through An Automatic Chemical Feed System	Upon Adoption	Upon Adoption
5.7.3.7.1.1	Automated Chemical Controller Required	1 Year (2026)	5 Years (2030)
5.7.3.7.1.2	Automated Chemical Controllers Shall be Interlocked, 4.7.3.2.1.3	Upon Adoption	5 Years (2030)
5.8.5.4.2.2	Reaching Poles Shall Be Non-Conductive	Upon Adoption	1 Year (2026)
5.10.4.5 ^A	Diaper-Changing Station Required	Upon Adoption	1 Year (2026)
5.10.4.5.1	Diaper-Changing Station Handwashing Sink Required	1 Year (2026)	1 Year (2026)
6.3.1.1	Qualified Operators Onsite	Upon Adoption	1 Year (2026)
6.3.1.2	Contracted Off-Site Qualified Operators	Upon Adoption	1 Year (2026)

C. Violation and Penalties

Under City Code 5-1406, any person violating any of the provisions of this article or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS

Health Department: Refers to Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health

Interactive Water Play Aquatic Venue: Means any indoor or outdoor installation that includes sprayed, jetted, or other water sources contacting bathers and not incorporating standing or captured water as part of the bather activity area. These aquatic venues are also known as splash pads, spray pads, and wet decks.

International Swimming Pool and Spa Code: Establishes minimum regulations for public and private pools, spas, and hot tubs using prescriptive and performance-related provisions.

Imminent Health Hazard: means a substantial threat or danger to health that is considered to exist when there is evidence sufficient to show that a product, practice, circumstance, or event creates a situation that requires immediate corrective action or cessation of operation to prevent injury based on the number of potential injuries and the nature, severity, and duration of the anticipated injury or illness.

Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC): Science-based guidance document to improve health and safety by addressing the design, construction, operation, maintenance, policies, and management of public aquatic health facilities.

Public Recreational Facility any swimming pool, spa, wading pool, or splash pad that is not used at a single-family residence.

Residential Facility: any swimming pool or spa which is used at a single-family residence.

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Recreational Aquatic Facility (RAF): Any establishment with a swimming pool, spa, wading pool, or splash pad open to the public, multi-family community association member or guest, or lodging establishment patron guest.

Theoretical Peak Occupancy: means the anticipated peak number of bathers/patrons in the facility at any given time. The lower limit of peak occupancy is used for design purposes.

Turnover/Turnover Rate/Reuse Rate: means the period, usually expressed in hours or minutes required to circulate a volume of water equal to the capacity of the aquatic venue.

Semi-Public Recreational Facility: any swimming pool or spa which is used at semi-public facilities including hotels, motels, rental apartments, multiple-family dwellings over 5 units, athletic clubs and recreational centers not owned by governmental entities, daycare centers, hospitals.

SECTION 4: PERMITS AND FEES

A. New Operational Licenses

Every non-residential and recreational aquatic facility that intends to operate or maintain a swimming pool, spa, wading pool, splash pad, or other specialty facility must provide a minimum five (5) business days' notice to the Health Department that the facility is operational and ready for initial inspection. At the time of initial application, the applicant for an operational permit will provide the Health Department with the name, address, telephone number, and email address of a person or multiple persons who can be contacted regarding scheduling inspections, maintenance, or emergency aspects of the facility. The applicant must also provide the street address for the facility.

B. Operational Licenses

Non-residential facilities and recreational aquatic facilities within the City of Lawrence are required to be licensed and inspected regularly by the Health Department, per City Code 5-1403. Regulated facilities must pay an annual fee, determined by the Health Department, to obtain an operating license. The current permit must be available for public view. Separate permits are required for each facility, regardless of facility operator.

C. Renewal of Licenses

After the initial operational permit is issued, non-residential and recreational aquatic facilities will be required to maintain an operational permit. The permit will need to be renewed by May 1 each year. A late fee, determined by the Health Department, will be charged to the facility if it has not renewed its permit by that date.

D. Fees

The fees for operational permits are listed below.

Annual Operational Permit Fee	\$250.00
Late Fee (Incurred after May 1)	\$50.00

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SECTION 5: GENERAL FACILITY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC, SEMI-PUBLIC FACILITIES

A. 2023 Model Aquatic Health Code, 4th Edition

The Health Department requires all public and semi-public recreational water facilities to follow the guidelines and standards set forth in the Model Aquatic Health Code. The licensee must maintain the facility, equipment, components, and all surrounding areas in a safe, clean, and good sanitary condition in accordance with this section.

B. Owner Responsibilities

The owner or operator of the recreational aquatic facility is responsible for regular operations, management, and inspections of the facility in accordance with this code.

C. Equipment Requirements

All equipment designed for recirculation, filtration, disinfection, and pool water treatment must be in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB) and in good repair at all times. All equipment must be properly maintained to perform the functions of the units and protect the swimming pool, spa, wading pool, or splash pad water from contamination. Emergency shut-off systems must also operate properly.

D. Chlorine and Bromine

A mechanical system to dispense chlorine or bromine must be used. All filtration and storage systems must follow the Model Aquatic Health Code.

E. Drain Covers

Facilities may not be operated with broken, damaged, or missing drain covers. A Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS) shall be required on all single main drain pools/spas. (*Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act)*, 15 USC Chapter 106, Pool and Spa Safety (as amended to 2014))

Facilities are required to maintain the following water chemistry parameters (with and without cyanuric acid (CYA)):

Parameters	Required Levels	
	Pools	Spas
Free chlorine residual without CYA	1 ppm – 5 ppm	3 ppm - 5 ppm
Free chlorine residual with CYA	2 ppm – 5 ppm	3 ppm - 5 ppm
Bromine residual	3 ppm – 8 ppm	4 ppm – 8 ppm
pH	7.0 – 7.8	
Temperature	Not above 104 F	
Clarity	Main drain is readily visible from the pool/spa deck	

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In addition to those parameters, facilities are required to have a water quality test kit on site and be able to measure the following factors:

- Free available chlorine (or bromine)
- Total chlorine
- pH
- Total alkalinity
- Cyanuric acid
- Water temperature

G. Water Quality Variations

Facilities may have variations in their water quality that could result in facility closure or re-inspection.

PPM Level	Inspection Result
≥ 1 ppm – 5 ppm (wo CYA)	In Good Standing/Passing
2 ppm – 5 ppm (w CYA)	In Good Standing/Passing
5 ppm – 9 ppm	Warning/Re-inspection required
10 ppm or above	Immediate closure and remediation required
< 1 ppm (wo CYA)	Immediate closure and remediation required
< 2 ppm or below (w CYA)	Immediate closure and remediation required

pH level	Inspection Result
6.5 – 6.9	In Good Standing/Passing
7.9 – 8.0	In Good Standing/Passing
Below 6.5	Immediate closure and remediation required
Above 8.0	Immediate closure and remediation required

H. Required Safety Equipment for Swimmers

Each facility is required to have the below safety equipment available for use by swimmers.

- A ring buoy no more than 15 inches in interior diameter with attached rope 1 ½ times the length of the pool and 3/16 inch in diameter.
- A life pole or shepherd’s crook with a non-extendable pool at a minimum of 12 feet.
- Appropriate signage where no lifeguard is on duty a sign must be placed in plain view and state “WARNING, NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY”.
- Outdoor fencing shall be six (6) foot high and self-closing and self-latching, lockable gates shall be provided around the perimeter of pools or spas located outside an enclosed building and constructed after February 16, 1982.
- All gates, doors, or other entrances to any aquatic venue must be self-closing, self-latching, and child resistant and shall be locked when the facility is not open to the public.
- The lifesaving equipment and signage must be mounted in a conspicuous place and distributed around the pool deck where it is readily accessible. Equipment function should be plainly marked. Swimmers must not be allowed to use or tamper with the equipment except for emergency use.

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I. Recommended Safety Equipment for Swimmers

The Health Department recommends the following safety equipment be available for swimmers in accordance with the MAHC recommendations.

- First aid kit accessible and ready for use
- Safety or float lines that are used to indicate pool depth changes or depths of more than five (5) feet.
- Childproof locking on gates and other entrances to facility and other areas.
- Depth markings on pool deck and throughout the facility.
- Signage indicating diving areas, children must be supervised, and risks associated with spa or other facility usage.

J. Record Keeping

The Health Department requires all facilities to keep accurate and timely records of the following:

- Water quality testing
- Chemical adjustments
- Equipment maintenance
- Routine operations
- Corrective action for fecal, blood, vomit, or other contamination accident.

K. Night Swimming and Emergency Lighting

Night swimming is strictly prohibited unless emergency lighting in accordance with the MAHC is provided. Night swimming shall be considered one half hour (30 minutes) before sunset and one-half hour (30 minutes) after sunrise. All emergency lighting shall be in good working order per the manufacturer's recommendations.

L. Solid Waste Management

All solid waste receptacles should be maintained and removed in accordance with the City of Lawrence code.

M. Food Preparation and Consumption

Food preparation and consumption should only occur in designated areas with appropriate signage. Glass containers are strictly prohibited.

N. Special Aquatic Features

All special aquatic features, including, but not limited to diving boards, platforms, steps, and guardrails shall always be in proper working order and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

O. Training and Personnel Records

The Health Department requires all non-residential and recreational facilities to maintain appropriate personnel for operation and maintenance of the facility. Facilities will be required to maintain a written record of procedures for the facility including:

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- Storage and handling of chemicals including proper use of PPE, proper handling of chemicals, and a spill procedure.
- Personal protective equipment procedures such as precautions and measures to minimize exposure of personnel to chemicals as required by OSHA. This includes training manuals on the subject.
- Hazard chemicals list and OSHA communication standards.
- Chemical safety sheets and known chemicals list.
- Training plans, which include topics such as avoiding chemical hazards, physical and health hazards of chemicals, detecting chemicals, PPE use and requirements, chemical spill, or contamination response, and reading chemical labels.
- Training records
- Response to body fluid contaminants and exposure; additional training plans for recognizing body fluid.
- Exposure control plans for bloodborne pathogens

P. Supervision of Patrons and Bathers

Where lifeguard services are provided, the number of lifeguards shall be adequate to continuously maintain surveillance over patrons and bathers. A lifeguard shall enforce all rules of safety and sanitation for bathers. For recreational and non-residential facilities, including semi-public pools where no lifeguard services are provided, a “NO LIFEGAURD ON DUTY” sign shall be placed in an appropriate area.

SECTION 6: SPLASH PADS AND OTHER SPECIAL FACILITIES

A. Construction

The Health Department requires design plans that conform to established standards as listed in the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) for construction or reconstruction and renovations of splash pads and all related equipment.

B. Water Quality and Filtration

All splash pads shall be in good working order with operating filtration systems that ensure disinfection and recirculation of the water. Splash pads shall be operated from a potable water source to prevent the spread of infection. The following water chemistry parameters are required.

Parameters	Required Levels
	Splash Pads
Free available chlorine	1.00 ppm – 5.00 ppm (wo CYA)
Free available chlorine	2.00 ppm – 5.00 ppm (w CYA)
Total bromine	3.00 – 8.0 ppm
pH	7.0 - 7.8
Reuse Ratio	3:1
Water recirculation	Every 30 minutes

C. Required Equipment

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All equipment designed for recirculation, filtration, disinfection, and pool water treatment must always follow the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB) and in good repair. All equipment must be properly maintained to perform the functions of the units and protect the swimming pool, spa, wading pool, or splash pad water from contamination. Emergency shut-off systems must also operate properly.

D. Cleaning

The Health Department requires all splash pads to be cleaned regularly including tanks, drains, and spray nozzles to ensure water is draining properly. Backflow preventors shall also be inspected regularly.

SECTION 7: INDOOR AQUATIC FACILITIES

A. Construction

The Health Department follows the rules and guidelines listed in the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC). As such, all indoor recreational and non-residential facilities should meet the minimum standards for the following:

- Cold Weather Protection and climate control: all facilities should include a vapor-retardant or insulation to prevent the condensation of water on the inside of the swimming pool or spa rooms, building surfaces such as walls, glass, ceilings, glass, or floor structures under the coldest outdoor conditions.
- Proper painting and/or coating that is vapor-retardant; permeability rating should be 0.2 U.S. perm. All paints and coatings applied inside the air barrier of a facility shall meet the requirements of UL 2818-2013 through testing of products.
- Proper equipment rooms
- Proper chemical storage spaces and air pressure
- Air ducts resistant to corrosion; proper insulation ducts
- Proper filters for outdoor air intake; rated moisture resistant.
- Proper corrosion resistant doors and windows.
- Proper heating systems for swimming pools, spas, and other specialty pools.
- Have all proper ventilation and humidity systems and be compliant with ASHRAE 62.1 standards.

B. Internal Humidity and Temperature

The indoor facility shall maintain an indoor relative humidity of no less than 80%. All interior finishes shall be designed for this purpose.

C. Acoustics and Sound Absorption

All indoor facilities shall maintain an average sound absorption coefficient of 0.20 or higher. For facilities used by specific hearing populations, such as children, elderly populations or persons with hearing difficulties shall have an absorption coefficient of 0.25 or higher. All noise generated by ventilation or other air handling systems shall not exceed a noise criterion level of 50 when the facility is operating.

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SECTION 8: INSPECTIONS AND FEESA. Initial Inspections

All aquatic facilities and specialty aquatic facilities that are public or semi-public are subject to regular inspections. The permit holder shall grant the Health Department right of entry to the facility and the surrounding areas, including the pump room, during normal operating hours to conduct regular inspections. The facility pool manager or designee should be on-site during the inspection. Inspections include a water quality test to determine disinfectant residual and pH in the bulk water of the pool/spa and ensuring safety equipment is in good working order. Inspections will also include, but not limited to, the filtration system, recirculation system and disinfection system.

B. Failure of Inspection, Re-testing

Environmental health staff may fail an inspection of an aquatic facility for various reasons. After a 24-hour period, during normal business hours, an aquatic facility may request a re-test or re-inspection of the facility prior to closure. Requests for a re-test will not be considered until the 24-hour period has passed. One (1) re-test after the 24-hour period will be granted without charge. Each re-test after the first re-test will incur a fee of \$125. If the re-test inspection fails in this period, the environmental health staff will close the facility for fifteen (15) calendar days

C. Expedited Re-Tests

An aquatic facility may request an expedited re-test or inspection after 6-8 hours during normal business hours for a \$125 fee.

D. Corrections and Follow-Up Inspections After Closure

Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the facility's closure, the owner or operator of the facility shall be provided with the opportunity to contact the Health Department and present proof that the facility is no longer hazardous to the public's health. The Health Department will conduct a follow-up inspection at the facility within two (2) business days of the request.

D. Facility Closures

The Health Department, pursuant to City Code 5-1406, may close a facility that is out of compliance with these rules or determines that there is an immediate threat to the public's health and safety.

The following conditions may result in facility closure.

- Failure to provide supervision and staffing to the facility.
- Failure to provide the minimum disinfection residual concentrations.
- Facilities who use chlorine stabilizers where the ratio exceeds 45:1.
- pH level below 6.5.
- pH level above 8.0.
- Failure to continuously operate filtration and disinfection equipment.
- Use of unapproved or contaminated water supply sources for potable water use or disruption of the approved water supply.
- Unprotected overhead electrical wires within 20 feet horizontally of the facility.

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- Non GFCI protected electrical receptacles within 20 feet of the inside wall of the facility.
- Failure to maintain emergency lighting.
- Absence of required equipment including lifesaving equipment for swimmers.
- Absence of depth markings or bottom of swimming pool, spa, wading pool, or other aquatic venue is not visible.
- Plumbing cross-connections between drinking water, swimming pool water, and sewage systems. This also includes filter backwash facilities and pump room.
- Failure to provide and/or maintain proper locks on gates and entrances to the facility.
- Use of unapproved chemicals or the application of those chemicals in unapproved methods.
- Broken or missing drain gates; broken glass or sharp objects present at the facility.
- Number of bathers and patrons exceeds maximum capacity determined in facility design plans.
- Contamination of facility water sources.
- Any other item that the Health Department deems to be an immediate hazard to the public's health or safety.

E. Applicability and Enforcement Procedures

The Health Department will post a closure notice at the facility. The notice can only be removed by the Health Department, and the unauthorized removal of signage or notices will result in penalties pursuant to City Code 5-1406. A facility must remain closed until it is re-inspected by the Health Department and is found to be meeting health and safety standards. It will be the responsibility of the owner or operator of the facility to meet cleanliness and safety standards while the facility is closed.

F. Continued Violations and License Revocation

Failure to comply with corrections or follow-up inspections will result in liability for civil penalties pursuant to this code and City Code 5-1406. Falsifying documents or findings will result in civil penalty. Upon determination that one or more violations pursuant to this code exist, the Health Department will provide written notice of the violation or violations to the owner or operator of the facility. The Health Department may revoke any operating permit for non-residential and recreational aquatic facilities for continued failure to comply with these rules.

G. Courtesy Inspections for Facilities Outside City Limits

Non-residential and recreational facilities outside of Lawrence city limits may receive courtesy inspections to reduce the public's risk associated with illness and ensure minimum safety standards are in place per the authority of the Health Officer or other representative of the Health Department pursuant to K.S.A. 65-202 and K.S.A. 65-159 to mitigate public health nuisances.

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H. Fees

The following fees may be charged related to inspections

Initial Inspection (per year)	No Charge
Re-Inspection After Failure (1 st)	No Charge
Re-Inspection After 2 nd Failure	\$125
Expedited Re-Test (Prior to 24 period)	\$125

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