



Swimming and Water Safety Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5101: 2-12-17 & 5101: 2-13-17 May 2015

RULE SUMMARY

All swimming sites must meet state and local guidelines; saunas, hot tubs and spas are prohibited. If saunas, hot tubs and/or spas are onsite, they must be secured and made inaccessible to children in care. Written permission from a parent or legal guardian is required prior to all swimming or activities in or near water that is two or more feet in depth and a lifeguard must supervise. Only school age children with written permission may swim in lakes, rivers, ponds or creeks. Children participating in water activities shall be actively supervised. Swimming/water safety rules must be reviewed with the children prior to each water activity. Wading pools shall be filtered or emptied daily. Portable wading pools must be sanitized daily.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Swimming Activities Permission Slip (JFS 01227) *Sample form*
- Field Trip Permission Form (JFS 01226) OR Routine Trip Permission Form (JFS 01225) *Sample forms*
- All Documentation as Required in Rule 18:
 - Child Enrollment and Health Information Forms
 - List of Children on the Vehicle
 - Child Medical/Physical Care Plan

TIPS FOR MAINTAINING COMPLIANCE

- Obtain written permission from parent or legal guardian for all swimming/water activities.
- Know whether children are swimmers or non-swimmers.
- Prior to each swimming activity, arrange a time to meet with children to review the safety rules.
- Maintain staff/child ratios; however, recruit additional volunteers to assist during swimming activities.
- For children requiring sunscreen, ensure the Administration of Medication Form (JFS 01217) has been completed.
- Position staff and supervising adults in strategic spots around the swimming area so they can supervise children and can see all parts of the swimming area at all times.
- Swimming pools, wading pools and other swimming/wading sites must be made inaccessible to the children when adult supervision is not available.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** Can a staff member be used as a lifeguard?
- A.** A staff member may be used as a lifeguard if they are a certified lifeguard or water safety instructor through the American Red Cross or an equivalent water safety program as determined by ODJFS. If the staff member is used as a lifeguard, they cannot be used as a child care staff member to meet staff/child ratios.
- Q.** Do child care staff members need to be in the water with the children?
- A.** Child care staff members are not required to be in the water with the children; however, they must be able to see all parts of the swimming area including the bottom of the pool and must be actively supervising the children at all times.
- Q.** Can older infants use wading pools?
- A.** Yes. Written permission from a parent or legal guardian is required and all safety and sanitary requirements must be followed.
- Q.** Written permission must be signed and dated, but what must be included on the permission form?
- A.** The following information must be included on the permission form:
- Child's name and birthdate;
 - Statement indicating whether the child is a swimmer or non-swimmer;
 - Location of the swimming site;
 - Statement of whether or not the center is providing additional adults or child care staff members above the licensing ratio requirements for this activity; and
 - Statement that the parent or guardian grants permission for the child to participate.
- Q.** What is the lifeguard ratio?
- A.** For onsite and private pools over two feet in depth, there shall be one lifeguard for every 35 children involved in the water activity at any one time. There is no language regarding lifeguard ratio for public and offsite pools.