

# Swimming Pool Child Admissions Policy



Admission for all children under 8 years old to unprogrammed public swimming sessions is permitted with the following conditions: Children over 8 who are weak or non-swimmers must be accompanied by an adult. All children under 8 must be accompanied in the water at all times by a responsible adult of at least 16 years old, please see accepted ratios below:

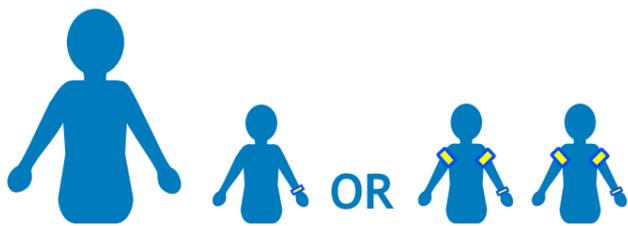
## High Visibility Wrist Band

### ALL 4 - 7 years

Must wear a high visibility wrist band whilst in the pool and changing area. Available at Reception, these should be deposited in the available bins after use.

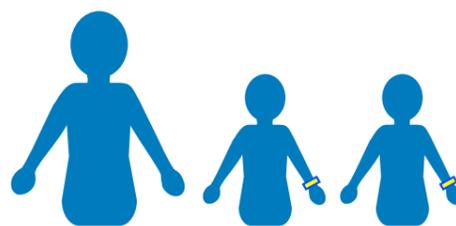
### UNDER 4 years

One Adult : One child with or without armbands  
One Adult : Two children with armbands



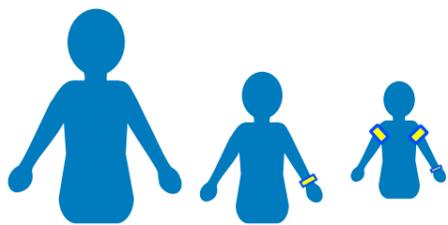
### 4 - 7 years

One Adult : Two children with or without armbands



### Mixed Ages

One Adult : One under 4 and one 4 -7 year old, if the under 4 is wearing armbands.



**Armbands are available for purchase from Reception or they can be borrowed from Poolside.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who created the guidelines for this admission policy?

Live Active Leisure have created this admissions policy in accordance with guidance from CIMSPA - The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity, the professional development body for the UK's sport and physical activity sector. CIMSPA are acknowledged experts in the management and operation swimming pools.

### Surely the role of the lifeguards is to be responsible for people's safety?

The role of the lifeguard is to prevent accidents and the intention of this admissions policy is not to reduce the number of lifeguards supervising swimmers. In fact, it should help the lifeguard whose duties are not only rescue and immediate first aid, but include the anticipation of problems, intervention to prevent behaviour which is unsafe and the education of users in relation to general water safety. A lifeguard cannot replace a parent in keeping their child safe.

### As a parent I know what is best for my children... why can't I decide whether they are able to swim or not? Why is this decision being made by someone who doesn't know my children's swimming ability?

Pool operators have a legal responsibility to ensure the safety of their customers and knowing that there is a risk of children drowning in swimming pools, they would be culpable in law if they did not do something, such as introduce a child admission policy, to protect the safety of children swimming in their pools. They cannot pass that responsibility on to anyone else or be excused that responsibility by the parents. Even if a customer did not sue in the event of an accident, Live Active Leisure could be prosecuted by the HSE in the criminal courts.

### What has age got to do with it?

Age is the most significant factor that can be measured against a child's swimming ability, height in relation to pool water depth, maturity and behaviour, and the understanding of risk. The younger a child is, the less likely they would be to recognise danger. They are also less likely to be able to swim and the younger and therefore shorter they are, the more likely they are to be out of their depth. If out of their depth and unable to swim, unless wearing armbands or supported by an adult, they are more likely to drown.

### Why do you supply armbands and not a buoyancy garment?

Armbands and buoyancy garments have been tested by British and European Standards agencies to assess what is safe and what is not. Live Active Leisure recommends that parents use a form of buoyancy aid which has been validated in this way and ensure that any buoyancy aids parents use to keep their children safely afloat should comply with EN BS 13138. Live Active Leisure have decided that armbands are the most appropriate form of equipment to distribute within our facilities.

