

POOL EQUIPMENT POLICY FAQ'S

Q: WHY DON'T YOU ALLOW LIFEJACKETS?

THE US COAST GUARD RECOMMENDS PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFD'S) NOT BE USED FOR RECREATIONAL POOL SWIMMING. CHILDREN BECOME DEPENDENT ON THE PFD AND IT GIVES THE CHILD AND PARENTS A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY. MOST PFD'S PROMOTE AN UPRIGHT SWIMMING POSITION, TEACHING KIDS TO "BICYCLE" KICK, AND USE IMPROPER ARM TECHNIQUES. THIS UPRIGHT BODY POSITION IS KNOWN ACROSS THE INDUSTRY AS THE DROWNING POSITION. LEARNING TO SWIM AND KNOWING LIMITATIONS ARE THE BEST MEASURES TO PREVENTING DROWNINGS.

Q: MY PUDDLE JUMPER IS COAST GUARD APPROVED, WHY DO YOU NOT ALLOW US TO USE IT?

THE COAST GUARD HAS MANY DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATIONS OF FLOTATION DEVICES FOR DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES. MANY OF THESE DEVICES ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP INDIVIDUALS ON TOP OF THE WATER IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, IN THE UPRIGHT (DROWNING) POSITION. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE REGULATIONS FOR LIFE JACKETS SUCH AS CLASSIFICATION, PROPER FIT, AND SIZE. THESE TASKS TAKE ADDITIONAL TIME AND FOCUS AWAY FROM THE LIFEGUARDS WHO ARE ON SURVEILLANCE.

Q: WHY CANT I BRING IN A BEACH BALL OR ANY INFLATABLE?

MANY INFLATABLES ARE OFTEN LARGE AND OBSTRUCT THE LIFEGUARD'S VIEW OF THE POOL. INFLATABLES ARE EASILY PUNCTURED AND CAN BECOME DANGEROUS IF SOMEONE IS TRYING TO USE IT AS A PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE.

Q: WHY DO YOU NOT HAVE POOL NOODLES AVAILABLE ANY MORE?

POOL NOODLES ARE STILL AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FOR TRAINING AND EXERCISE PURPOSES ONLY. NOODLES ARE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL AND EASY TO SLIP OFF, PUTTING NON-SWIMMERS AT RISK. WITH THE EXCESSIVE USE AND MISTREATMENT OF NOODLES, THEY BECOME WATERLOGGED AND LOSE THEIR BUOYANCY. NOODLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED DURING A RECREATIONAL SWIM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

