

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**ARTICLE I - INTRODUCTION**

1. The following rules and regulations are established for the benefit and protection of all members of the West Laurel Swim Club and their guests to assure safe and sanitary operation of the pool facilities and to enhance the standing of the Club in the community.
2. Members are requested to cooperate in observing these rules, and parents are reminded that they are responsible for familiarizing their children with these rules and for the behavior of their children at the pool. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action as specified under Article XVII.

**ARTICLE II - AUTHORITY**

1. During the periods of pool operation, the Pool Manager (or, in his/her absence, the Acting Pool Manager) will have complete authority over Club property. All persons on the premises - including Club members, their families and guests, and Club employees - shall be bound by the Manager's interpretation of these rules. All comments and complaints concerning these rules or the enforcement thereof should be directed, in writing, to the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE III - LIABILITY**

1. All persons using the facilities of the Club do so at their own risk and sole responsibility.
2. The Club will not be responsible for loss or damage to personal property. All lost articles turned over to the Pool Manager will be held for a period of ten days. At that time, all unclaimed articles will be disposed of at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
3. All personal injuries incurred on the club premises, regardless of how minor, must be reported to the Pool Manager immediately.
4. The cost of any damage to Club property will be charged to the responsible member-family.

**ARTICLE IV - POOL HOURS**

1. The hours of operation will be determined by the Board of Directors and can be found in the club's May Bulletin as well as posted on the Club bulletin board.
2. The Pool Manager will have the authority to clear the pool at any time for reasons of health, safety, maintenance or inclement weather. The Pool Manager will have the authority to close the pool with approval of the Board.
3. Trespass laws will be strictly enforced. Any member apprehended trespassing at any time during the year will be liable for revocation of membership. The use of adjacent private property as a means of gaining access to the pool grounds is also prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action included in the penalty section of these rules (ARTICLE XVII).

## **ARTICLE V - ADMISSION**

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1. All member families will have on file at the pool a photo (approximately 3 x 3 in size) of the entire member family permanently residing in that household, and an Emergency card. The Annual Maintenance fee is due prior to the first day of the swim season. The Maintenance fee, Emergency card and photo are required for admission.
2. Children who have not reached their tenth birthday must be accompanied at the pool at all times by a member at least 18 years of age.
3. All children under 16 wishing to use the 4 feet or deeper area of the pool, the diving well and the sliding board may be required to pass a swimming proficiency test as determined by the Manager.
4. The Manager may limit the total number of pool admissions for reasons of health and safety with approval of the Board.
5. The manager will refuse admission to anyone whose presence on the premises constitutes a hazard to either his/her own health or to the health of other individuals. Conditions for which admission shall be refused include, but are not limited to: infectious or communicable diseases, serious cuts or abrasions, colds, cough, sore or inflamed eyes, infections, open sores, nasal or ear discharges, excessive sunburn, and intoxication.

## **ARTICLE VI - GUEST PRIVILEGES**

1. A guest is defined as any non-member who is sponsored for pool privileges by a member.
2. An individual can only be a guest at West Laurel, paying or by pass, 5 times in one season.
3. Members will be held responsible for the conduct of their guests. The cost of any damage caused by a guest to Club property will be charged to the sponsoring member.
4. It is the responsibility of the member to inform their guests of the Club Rules and Regulations.
5. No member family may bring more than five guests to the pool on any one day without the prior approval of the Manager of the Club.
6. All guests must be accompanied by a member. Both the guest(s) and sponsoring member are to sign the Guest Register, and the required fee must be paid. Children under 18 bringing a guest must have a signed note of consent from the adult member of their home introducing the guest.
7. Guests under 1 year of age are admitted free when accompanied by a member 18 years or older.
8. A special weekly rate may be obtained by advance payment to the Manager for bona fide house guests in a member's home. Weekly rate for a single guest is \$20 and the weekly rate for a family is \$40.
9. Guest fee for a full day's pool privileges is \$5.00 per person effective seven days per week age 1 year and older. GUEST FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.
10. All guests, given special permission by the Board of Directors to use the facilities, must pay the guest fee. The Board of Directors, by a majority vote, can waive the guest fee.

## **ARTICLE VII - DEFINITION OF AREAS**

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1. For the purpose of these rules the following definitions will apply:
  - A. POOL ENCLOSURE - The entire fenced area including bath house, snack bar, main pool and surrounding concrete deck, wading pool and grass lounging area.
  - B. POOL AREA -The main pool and surrounding concrete deck, the bath house and snack bar.
  - C. WADING POOL - The wading pool and surrounding area within the fence.
  - D. LOUNGING AREA - The grass area and other designated areas within the pool enclosure.
  - E. PARKING AREA - That portion of the Club facility used for ingress and egress, for the parking of vehicles, the driveway leading to the back gates and the walkway leading from the driveway to the front deck.

## **ARTICLE VIII - -RULES GOVERNING POOL ENCLOSURE**

1. Alcoholic beverages of any type are prohibited except by the special permission of the Board. (For evening adult parties the Board of Directors may give special permission to bring alcoholic beverages in unbreakable containers.
2. All types of glass containers are prohibited.
3. Eating is permitted only in the Snack Bar and in the lounging area at a picnic table.
4. Smoking is allowed in the lounging area but not in the Snack Bar. Dispose of cigarette butts in a sand bucket. All trash must be deposited in the containers.
5. Chewing gum is prohibited.
6. No wheeled vehicles are permitted within the enclosure except for strollers and wheel chairs.
7. An umbrella will be put at each table every day. Lounges, chairs and mini-lounges can be used on the deck or in the lounging area.
8. No pets will be allowed within the pool enclosure nor may they be tethered on the surrounding fence. Pets in the parking area are the responsibility of the member family and are subject to the County Animal Control laws.
9. Children who are not toilet trained must wear a diaper specifically made for pool use under their bathing suit.
10. Abusive, offensive or profane language will not be tolerated.
11. Running, pushing, wrestling, ball-playing or undue disturbance such as the blaring of radios will not be permitted.
12. Lounges, chairs and mini-lounges only are permitted under the pavilion, no tables and no parties.
13. Two tent areas are reserved for birthday parties. Reservation times will be posted and no members are permitted to use the tents during the parties, except as a guest at the party.

**ARTICLE VIII - RULES GOVERNING POOL ENCLOSURE (cont'd)**

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14. Although the Prince George's County Health Department does not have a regulation on their books concerning Thunder and Lightning, they follow the National Weather Service guidelines which are to - get out of the water, go inside a sturdy building or hardtop car and wait 30 minutes from the last thunder or lightning occurrence before resuming your activity. Based on these guidelines the Club has adopted and will enforce the following rules:

When a member of the guard staff detects thunder or lightning in the area, whistles will be blown and you will be instructed to:

1. Vacate the pool enclosure (all open areas inside of the fence, including pavilions) and,
2. Seek shelter in the snack bar or your hard-topped automobile. The bathrooms may be used as a last resort but running water/showers will not be allowed.
3. The pool will remain closed for 30 minutes from the last occurrence of thunder or lightning heard/seen by the guard staff.
4. The guard staff will inform you when it is safe to return to the pool.

**ARTICLE IX - RULES GOVERNING POOL AREA**

1. All bathers must take a complete, cleansing shower before entering the pool area.
2. Individuals in street footwear will not be permitted on the concrete deck surrounding the pool.
3. Cut-off jeans, shorts or other similar attire are not considered proper bathing attire and will not be permitted in the pool.
4. No dunking, throwing or pushing into the pool will be permitted.
5. Spouting water, spitting, nose blowing and similar unhygienic practices will not be permitted in the pool.
6. Lifeguard chairs are to be occupied only by the lifeguard and unnecessary conversation with the lifeguard is prohibited.
7. Boisterous or rough play, pushing, acrobatics, dunking, wrestling, yelling, diving or jumping haphazardly, snapping of towels, improper conduct causing undue disturbances in or about the pool area or any acts which would endanger any patron are prohibited.
8. Maryland State Water Safety Rules require that a Coast Guard approved floatation device be used in pools. Therefore, all kick boards, fins, life jackets, inflated rings, seats, noodles or upper arm 'floaties' are not permitted unless the parent is working with the child within the 2-3 foot roped off area of the pool. The pool manager has the right to inspect any floatation device to make certain it is allowable.
9. Splash balls will be permitted in the pool and are to be used only in the pool. The manager will decide when the pool is too crowded for ball playing. Infractions of the rule will cost the member the use of the splash ball for the remainder of the day. This rule will be evaluated periodically and if problems become serious the use of the splash ball will be denied.
10. No one is allowed in the pool or on the pool deck during electrical storms.
11. No general swimming is permitted in the area of the diving board.

**ARTICLE IX - RULES GOVERNING POOL AREA** (cont'd)

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12. The management is responsible for proper order. Their instructions must be followed at all times.
13. The pool will be cleared for a ten-minute period each hour everyday. At ten minutes to the hour a whistle will be blown and all persons under 16 years of age must leave the pool. During the break there will be no sitting at the edge of the pool with feet in the water nor will there be objects of any kind thrown in, around or over the water. A second whistle will be blown ten minutes later and persons under 16 years then may re-enter the pool. The Manager will decide when a rest period is unnecessary.
14. The 2-3 foot roped off area of the pool is for non-swimmers, beginner swimmers and accompanying adults.

**ARTICLE X - RULES GOVERNING DIVING**

1. All diving will be executed in a safe manner.
2. The diving well may be entered from the diving board only.
3. Only one person is allowed on the diving apparatus at one time.
4. Dives will be made from the front of the board only.
5. Divers must spring only once on the board.
6. No running is permitted on the diving board.
7. When a diver has surfaced, he must immediately swim out of the diving area or leave the water via the ladder. He must not swim under the board at any time.
8. A diver must wait until the preceding diver has surfaced and cleared the area.

**ARTICLE XI - RULES GOVERNING THE SLIDING BOARD**

1. All sliding will be executed in a safe manner, either sitting down, facing forward or on the stomach, head first.
2. Only one person is allowed on the slide (including the ladder) at one time.
3. A slider must wait until the preceding slider has surfaced and cleared the area.
4. When a slider has surfaced, he must immediately swim out of the sliding area. He must not swim under the slide at any time.
5. Sliders must make sure the sliding area is clear of other swimmer before proceeding with the slide.

## **ARTICLE XII - RULES GOVERNING WADING POOL**

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1. The wading pool is reserved at all times for small children and those persons accompanying or supervising these children. Parent or accompanying adults are responsible for the safety of the children, however, the wading pool is under the jurisdiction of the lifeguards on duty. No child is to be left unattended at any time.
2. Older sibling(s) are not permitted in the wading pool during the ten minute break, unless 16 years or older, and then only to watch small siblings so that the parent can use the big pool during the break.
3. Children will be permitted to have rubber or plastic toys of a reasonable size in the wading pool.
4. The gate to the wading pool is to be kept closed.

## **ARTICLE XIII - RULES GOVERNING LAP LANE SWIM**

1. One (1) lap lane will be roped off at the deep end of the pool except during special events requiring the use of the full deep end.
2. Diving, playing or other interference with lap lane swimmers will not be permitted.
3. Lap lane swimmers will use courtesy and consideration for others such as swimming to the right, keeping end of lane clear, not over crowding other swimmers and maintaining a steady pace.

## **ARTICLE XIV - RULES GOVERNING POOL STEPS**

1. The steps are for entering and exiting the four (4) foot and over area of the pool.
2. There will be no playing or sitting on the steps.
3. No diving 5 feet to either side of the steps.
4. Use of steps is to be done in a safe manner.
5. The bottom step area is to be kept clear of swimmers.

## **ARTICLE XV - RULES GOVERNING BENCHES**

1. Benches are to be used for sitting purposes only. Standing on, reclining on or jumping over the benches is not permitted.

## **ARTICLE XVI - RULES GOVERNING PING PONG TABLE**

1. Each member must sign in at the front desk to receive a ping pong paddle.
2. A deposit of 25 cents will be required for the use of the ping pong ball.
3. Use of the table is limited to 30 minutes.

## **ARTICLE XVI - RULES GOVERNING PING PONG TABLE (cont'd)**

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4. The member who signs in for the ping pong paddle is responsible for returning it to the front desk and signing out. If the equipment, paddle, net, table, or net braces, is damaged or the paddle and ball are not returned the member or member's parents will be assessed the cost of replacement. In the case of damage to the ping pong ball the 25 cent deposit will be forfeited. Use of the table will not be permitted until assessment is paid. The cost of replacement is \$3.00 for paddles, \$5.00 for net and braces.
5. The game is to be played as rules dictate and any abuse will not be tolerated. Member complaints are to be expressed to the Club manager. Misconduct will result in loss of ping pong privileges.

## **ARTICLE XVII - RULES GOVERNING MEMBER BIRTHDAY PARTIES**

1. Only club members are permitted to reserve a party area and the party must be for a family member who resides in the household. The reservation is for 4 hours, the total party size is limited to 20 persons and the \$5 guest fee applies to each non-member guest, 1 year and older, unless using either a 90 Times Pass or a Seasonal 20 Times Pass. Payment or pass is to be taken care of immediately following the party.
2. To reserve a party area - one of the temporary areas and 2 picnic tables - the party giver must register in advance by receiving from, filling out and returning to the manager the 'Party Request Form'.
3. On party day, prior to their arrival, the party giver must provide the guard at the front desk a list of the names of non-member guests expected.
4. It is the responsibility of the party giver to see that their guests are informed of the Club Rules and Regulations.
5. The party giver is responsible for the conduct of their guests and is also responsible for the cost of any damage caused by their guest to club property
6. No alcoholic beverages of any type are permitted.
7. No glass containers are permitted.
8. No grills for preparing food are permitted.
9. Refrigeration is not available from the snack bar.
10. The back gates will not be used to bring in or remove party supplies.
11. All tables must be returned to their original spot.
12. All decorations are to be put up with tape - no pins - and must be taken down - tape included.
13. All trash must be taken to the dumpster.
14. The area used must be cleaned prior to leaving, with a rake if necessary.

