

## IDAPA 16 – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

### Division of Public Health

#### 16.02.14 – Construction and Operation of Public Swimming Pools

##### **Who does this rule apply to?**

*The public, public health districts, vendors, facility management and personnel for all public pools and related facilities.*

##### **What is the purpose of this rule?**

*The intent of these rules is to prevent the spread of communicable disease and to assure a clean and safe environment in public swimming pools. The purpose of these rules is to control and regulate the design, construction, operation, and maintenance to protect public health and safety.*

##### **What is the legal authority for the agency to promulgate this rule?**

*This rule implements the following statutes passed by the Idaho Legislature:*

Public Assistance and Welfare -

Department of Health and Welfare:

- [Section 56-1003, Idaho Code](#) – Powers and Duties of the Director
- [Section 56-1007, Idaho Code](#) – Dept. of Health and Welfare: Collection of Fees for Services

##### **Where can I find information on Administrative Appeals?**

*Administrative appeals and contested cases are governed by the provisions of IDAPA 16.05.03, “Contested Case Proceedings and Declaratory Rulings.”*

##### **How do I request public records?**

*Unless exempted, all public records are subject to disclosure by the Department that will comply with Title 74, Chapter 1, Idaho Code, upon requests. Confidential information may be restricted by state or federal law, federal regulation, and IDAPA 16.05.01, “Use and Disclosure of Department Records.”*

##### **Who do I contact for more information on this rule?**

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Division of Public Health  
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Webpage: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/environmental-health>

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## 16.02.14 – CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

### 000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.

Sections 56-1003 and 56-1007, Idaho Code, grant authority to the Director of the Department of Health and Welfare, to enforce minimum standards of health, safety and sanitation and to establish reasonable fees for services for all public swimming pools within the state of Idaho. (3-15-22)

### 001. TITLE, SCOPE, AND INTENT.

**01. Title.** These rules are titled IDAPA 16.02.14, “Construction and Operation of Public Swimming Pools.” (3-15-22)

**02. Scope.** The provisions of these rules apply to all public swimming pools and related facilities. The purpose of these rules is to control and regulate the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of public pools to protect public health and safety. (3-15-22)

**03. Intent.** To prevent the spread of communicable disease and to assure a clean and safe environment in public swimming pools. (3-15-22)

### 002. APPLICABILITY.

All public swimming pools, as defined, must be constructed and operated in conformance with these rules. Public swimming pools constructed prior to 1982 that can meet the requirement of Sections 190 through 198 and Sections 230 and 231 of these rules are not be required to meet the structural aspects of these rules. These rules apply to all public swimming pools. (3-15-22)

### 003. -- 009. (RESERVED)

### 010. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of these rules, the following words and phrases are used, as defined below: (3-15-22)

**01. Bather.** A person who becomes partially or totally immersed in water in a pool. (3-15-22)

**02. Board.** Idaho Board of Health and Welfare. (3-15-22)

**03. Break in Grade.** Where the slope of the bottom of pool exceeds a uniform slope greater than one (1) foot in twelve (12) feet horizontally. (3-15-22)

**04. Department.** Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. (3-15-22)

**05. Director.** Director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. (3-15-22)

**06. Director’s Designee.** The seven Public Health Districts. (3-15-22)

**07. Geothermal Water.** Water derived from and heated exclusively from the natural heat energy from the earth. (3-15-22)

**08. Geothermal Pool.** A flow-through public pool, which uses water solely derived from and heated exclusively by the natural heat energy from the earth. (3-15-22)

**09. Flow-Through Pool.** A pool fed by a continuous supply of acceptable water that causes an equal volume of water to overflow to waste. (3-15-22)

**10. Lifeguard.** A person who holds a current lifeguard training certificate and basic life support cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate from the American Red Cross, YMCA, Ellis & Associates, or any other equivalent certifying agency approved by the Director’s Designee. (3-15-22)

**11. Lifeguard Chair.** An elevated stand erected for use by a lifeguard while superintending the safety of bathers in a pool. The height and location must afford the user an unobstructed view of all bathers within the pool enclosure. (3-15-22)

**12. Operator.** An individual eighteen (18) years of age or older, who is familiar with the operation of the pool and is responsible for the health and safety of the public using the pool and for operating the pool in compliance with these rules. The operator must have an approved certification of competency from a Certified Pool

Operator (CPO), National Swimming Pool Foundation Certification; an Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO), National Recreation and Parks Association Certification; a National Swimming Pool Institute (NSPI Tech 1), National Spa and Pool Institute Certification Program, District Health Department Certification, or other certification programs approved by the Director designee. The operator must also have a basic life support cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate and current first aid certification as stated in Subsection 010.10 of these rules. (3-15-22)

**13. Person.** A person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, governmental agency, club or organization of any kind. (3-15-22)

**14. Pool.** An artificial structure containing water and its related elements used or intended to be used for swimming, diving, or recreation. (3-15-22)

**15. Private Pool.** Any pool constructed in connection with or appurtenant to single-family dwellings or condominiums used solely by the persons maintaining their residence within such dwellings and the guests of such persons. (3-15-22)

**16. Public Swimming Pool.** Herein referred to as public pool. A pool, and its related elements, that contains water more than two (2) feet deep, is used or intended to be used for swimming, diving, or recreational bathing, and is for the use of any segment of the public under a general invitation but not an invitation to a specific occasion or occasions. (3-15-22)

**17. Remodel.** To replace all or part of any structure, circulation system, or related element of a pool facility, or to modify to the extent its design, configuration, or operating characteristics differ from those of the original. The term does not include normal maintenance, repair, or replacement of equipment or similar equipment that has previously been approved. Only that which is being remodeled needs to meet current specifications. (3-15-22)

**18. Spa.** An artificial structure containing water no more than four (4) feet deep and a recirculation system primarily designed for relaxation or therapeutic use where the user is sitting, reclining, or at rest. (3-15-22)

**19. Special-Use Pool.** A pool used exclusively for rehabilitating, curing, or treating a disease or disorder. This term also includes geothermal flow-through pools used exclusively for relaxation or therapeutic use where the user is sitting, reclining, or at rest. (3-15-22)

**20. Wading Pool.** A public pool with water less than two (2) feet deep used mainly by non-swimming children and those supervising the children. (3-15-22)

**011. -- 019. (RESERVED)**

**020. SUBMISSION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.**

**01. Plans.** No person may construct or remodel any public pool until plans, specifications, and a plan review fee have been submitted, and the Director's designee has issued a letter of acceptance. Plans and specifications must be prepared by an architect or engineer licensed to practice in the state of Idaho. The architect or engineering plans, specifications and reports, must contain information sufficient to demonstrate the proposed pool is in compliance with these rules and certify the same. (3-15-22)

**02. Construction Compliance Certificate.** The operator must submit, prior to public use of new facilities, a construction compliance certificate to the Director's designee. This certificate must: (3-15-22)

**a.** Be prepared and signed by a professional engineer or architect licensed to practice in the state of Idaho; and (3-15-22)

**b.** Include a statement that the pool and the related elements have been constructed in accordance with approved plans and specifications. (3-15-22)

**03. Stability.** Pools must be designed and constructed to withstand all anticipated loadings for both full

and empty conditions. A hydrostatic relief valve or other suitable means must be provided in areas having a high water table. The designing architect or engineer is responsible for certifying the structural stability and safety of the pool. (3-15-22)

**021. -- 029. (RESERVED)**

**030. PERMITS.**

No public pool may be open to the public unless the operator has applied for and received a permit. Permits expire on December 31 of each year, unless earlier revoked or suspended for violation of these rules. Exempt pools may voluntarily request to obtain a permit and be inspected. Only persons who comply with these rules are entitled to receive and retain a permit. Permits are not transferable. (3-15-22)

**031. APPLICATION.**

An application for permit must be made on forms obtained from the Director's designee. (3-15-22)

**032. PERMIT FEE AND PLAN REVIEW FEE.**

All applications must be accompanied by payment of the permit fee of fifty dollars (\$50) annually for each swimming pool. A plan review fee per unit for each swimming pool is one hundred dollars (\$100). (3-15-22)

**033. WAIVER OF FEES.**

Upon written application to the Director, a waiver of a specific fee may be granted to an applicant who is required by these rules to pay the fee. (3-15-22)

**01. Determination of Good Cause.** Good cause for a waiver must be shown before it is granted by the Director. Good cause may include hardship or extenuating circumstances, as determined by the Director. (3-15-22)

**02. Duration of Waiver.** If the fee sought to be waived becomes due periodically, the fee may be waived for a designated period of time. (3-15-22)

**03. Limitations.** Granting of a waiver will not be considered as precedent or be given any force or effect in any other proceeding. (3-15-22)

**034. -- 039. (RESERVED)**

**040. INSPECTIONS.**

The Director's designee is authorized to conduct inspections as deemed necessary to insure compliance with all provisions of these rules and will have right of entry at any time the pool is in operation. (3-15-22)

**041. NOTICE OF VIOLATION.**

If a violation of any provision of these rules is found during an inspection, the inspector will provide a written notice of such violation to the operator, which will establish a time frame for correction. (3-15-22)

**042. REINSPECTION.**

A reinspection will be made to determine if the violation has been corrected. If upon reinspection the violation has been corrected, the pool will be allowed to remain open. If upon reinspection the violation still remains, the permit may be temporarily suspended and the pool closed until such time the violation has been corrected and approved by the Director, or the Director's designee. (3-15-22)

**043. -- 049. (RESERVED)**

**050. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF PERMITS.**

**01. Cause.** The Director or the Director's designee may temporarily suspend, or revoke a permit for failure to comply with these rules or in cases where the permit has been obtained through nondisclosure, misrepresentation, or misstatement of a material fact. (3-15-22)

**02. Suspension.** If the Director or the Director's designee determines that conditions at a public pool



constitutes a serious danger to the health or safety of the public, a written order stating the particular reason for suspension will be given to the operator; the permit will be immediately suspended and the pool closed until such time the condition is corrected. If the violation to these rules has not been corrected and a reinspection shows the violation still remains, a written order stating the particular reason for suspension will be given to the operator and the permit will be temporarily suspended and the pool closed until such time the condition is corrected. In the event a permit is suspended, the person to whom the permit was issued has the right to appeal under Section 003 of these rules. (3-15-22)

**03. Revocation.** If an operator fails to comply with the orders of a temporary suspension, the permit will be revoked unless the operator immediately closes the pool. Before a permit is revoked, the person to whom the permit was issued will receive notice in writing indicating items that fail to comply with this chapter. The permit holder will be advised of his right to appeal. (3-15-22)

**04. Reissue.** The permit may be reissued upon proper application and upon presentation of evidence that the deficiencies or abuses causing revocation have been corrected. (3-15-22)

**051. -- 059. (RESERVED)**

**060. PENALTY.**

Any person who willfully violates, disobeys, or disregards the provisions of these rules is guilty of a misdemeanor under the provisions of Section 56-1008, Idaho Code. (3-15-22)

**061. -- 069. (RESERVED)**

**070. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS: PLUMBING CODES.**

All plumbing must conform with and meet the provisions of IDAPA 07.02.06, "Rules Concerning the Idaho State Plumbing Code." (3-15-22)

**071. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS: ELECTRICAL CODE.**

All electrical appliances and wiring must conform with and meet the provisions of IDAPA 07.01.06, "Rules Governing the Use of National Electrical Code." (3-15-22)

**072. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS: UNIFORM BUILDING CODE.**

All buildings must conform with and meet the provisions of IDAPA 24.39.30, "Rules of Building Safety." (3-15-22)

**073. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS: MATERIALS.**

Pools and all related elements must be constructed of materials that are inert, nontoxic to humans, impervious, permanent, and enduring; can withstand the design stresses; and will provide a tight tank with a smooth and easily cleanable surface, or to which an easily cleaned surface finish can be applied. (3-15-22)

**074. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS: CORNERS.**

Corners formed by intersection of walls and floors must be rounded. (3-15-22)

**075. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS: FINISH.**

Pool finish, including bottom and sides, must be of light colored material, nontoxic to humans, with a smooth and easily cleanable surface. (3-15-22)

**076. -- 079. (RESERVED)**

**080. DESIGN DETAIL: DIMENSIONS.**

No limits are specified for length and width of pools except any pool in which diving is allowed must be at least sixteen (16) feet wide. (3-15-22)

**081. DESIGN DETAIL: CIRCULATION.**

Provisions must be made for complete, continuous circulation of water throughout all parts of the pool. Pools with a recirculation system must have the necessary treatment and filtration equipment as required. Flow-through pools that can meet the bacterial and clarity requirements of Sections 230 and 231 will not be required to meet Sections 250

through 256 and Sections 260 and 261 of these rules. (3-15-22)

**082. DESIGN DETAIL: SHAPE.**

The shape of any pool must be such that the circulation of water and the safety of bathers are not impaired. (3-15-22)

**083. DESIGN DETAIL: WADING POOLS.**

All wading pools must have a maximum depth of two (2) feet, be physically separated from any pool, have a turnover rate of at least once every two (2) hours, have separate equipment for water recirculation and disinfection with no cross connections between a wading pool and any other pool, and be equipped with anti-vortex drains to avoid any possibility of entrapment. (3-15-22)

**084. DESIGN DETAIL: NO DIVING SIGN.**

If a pool is not designed for diving, a conspicuous sign must be posted and state "NO DIVING," and contain lettering no less than six (6) inches high. Pools allowing diving must be at least eight (8) feet six (6) inches deep and meet manufacturer's installation criteria. (3-15-22)

**085. DESIGN DETAIL: SAFETY LINE.**

A safety line must provide a visual and physical indicator of the separation between the shallow and deep portions of a pool and be in place when the pool is open to the general public, except during periods of lap swimming, competitive swimming or supervised training. It must be located in the shallow area no closer than one (1) foot nor any further than two (2) feet away from the break in grade line or five (5) foot depth, be securely fastened to wall anchors of corrosion-resistant material and of the type that is recessed or has no projections that would constitute a hazard when the line is removed, and be marked with visible floats. (3-15-22)

**086. -- 089. (RESERVED)**

**090. SLOPE OF FLOOR: SHALLOW AREA.**

Any portion of the pool floor with a depth less than five (5) feet must be uniform, slope to drain, and must not exceed a slope of more than one (1) foot in twelve (12) feet horizontally. (3-15-22)

**091. SLOPE OF FLOOR: DEEP AREA.**

The slope of the pool floor at a water depth of five (5) feet or more must be uniform, sloped to drain, and must not exceed a slope of one (1) foot in three (3) feet horizontally. (3-15-22)

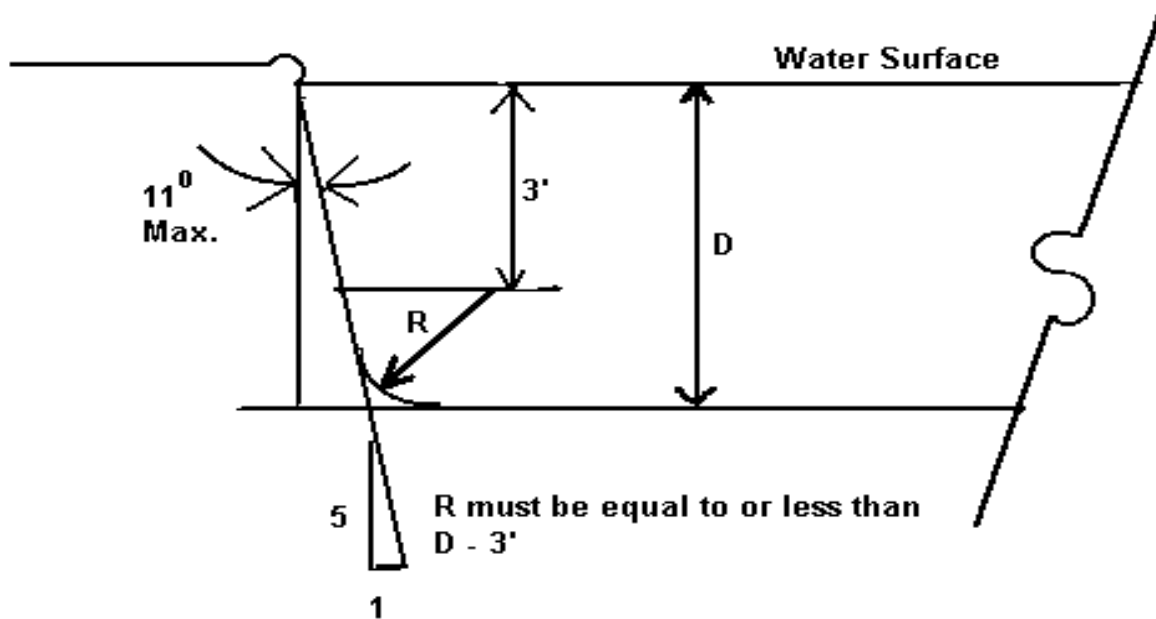
**092. -- 099. (RESERVED)**

**100. SIDE WALLS.**

Walls of a swimming pool must be either: vertical for water depth of at least six (6) feet; or vertical to a depth of three (3) feet below the water surface and then curved to join the bottom with a radius not greater than the difference between the depth at that point and three (3) feet, provided vertical is interpreted to permit slopes not greater than one (1) foot horizontally for each five (5) feet of sidewall depth (eleven (11) degrees from vertical). (3-15-22)

101. ILLUSTRATION OF POOL SIDE WALL.

Illustration of Pool Side Wall



(3-15-22)

102. -- 109. (RESERVED)

110. WIDTH OF DECKS AND WALKWAYS.

01. **Pool Deck.** A pool must have: (3-15-22)

a. A continuous deck, a minimum of eight (8) feet wide, that extends completely around the pool if it has one thousand eight hundred (1,800) square feet of surface area, or more; (3-15-22)

b. A continuous deck a minimum of four (4) feet wide if it has less than one thousand eight hundred (1,800) square feet of surface area; and (3-15-22)

c. A minimum of three (3) feet at the rear of any diving equipment or slide. (3-15-22)

02. **Spa.** A spa may be constructed adjacent to a pool provided: (3-15-22)

a. The spa has one hundred twenty (120) square feet of water surface area or less; (3-15-22)

b. The spa is separated from the pool by a common wall no more than twelve (12) inches wide; (3-15-22)

c. The common wall is constructed to prevent its use as a walkway; and (3-15-22)

d. A continuous deck a minimum of four (4) feet wide extends completely around the pool and the spa. (3-15-22)

111. SLOPE OF DECKS AND WALKWAYS.

Decks must have a nonslip surface and be sloped to remove any surface drainage from entering the pool water.

Drainage must be conducted from the deck in a manner that will not create hazardous or objectionable conditions and not be returned to the recirculation system. (3-15-22)

**112. -- 119. (RESERVED)**

**120. LADDERS, RECESSED STEPS, AND STAIRS REQUIREMENTS.**

Recessed steps, stairs, or ladders must be provided at the shallow and deepest end of a pool. If the pool is over thirty (30) feet wide, such steps, ladders, or stairs must be installed on each side. (3-15-22)

**121. RECESSED STEPS.**

Recessed steps must be readily cleanable and must be arranged to drain into the pool. The steps must have a minimum tread of five (5) inches and a minimum width of fourteen (14) inches. (3-15-22)

**122. STAIRS.**

Where stairs are provided, they must be equipped with a handrail, have walking surfaces and treads that are of nonslip design with the leading edge in contrasting color, have steps with a minimum tread of twelve (12) inches and a maximum rise of ten (10) inches, and have no abrupt drop-off or submerged projections into the pool, unless guarded by handrails. (3-15-22)

**123. LADDERS.**

All ladders must be corrosion-resistant, equipped with nonslip treads, designed to provide a handhold, be rigidly installed, and have a clearance of not more than five (5) inches or less than three (3) inches between any ladder and the pool wall. (3-15-22)

**124. HANDRAILS.**

Where recessed steps or ladders are provided within the pool, handrails must be positioned at the top of both sides that extend over the coping or edge of the deck and be tight and secure. (3-15-22)

**125. ACCESS TO DIVING BOARDS.**

Platforms and steps for diving boards must be of sufficient structural strength to safely carry the maximum anticipated loads. Steps must be of corrosion-resistant material, easily cleanable, and of nonslip design. Handrails must be provided at all steps and ladders leading to diving boards more than one (1) meter above the water. Platforms and diving boards over one (1) meter high must be protected with guard railings. (3-15-22)

**126. -- 129. (RESERVED)**

**130. DIVING AREA: HEADROOM.**

All pools must have at least thirteen (13) feet of unobstructed area above each diving board as measured from the front end of the board, and this unobstructed area must extend horizontally at least sixteen (16) feet forward of the plummet, at least eight (8) feet behind the plummet, and at least eight (8) feet to both sides of the plummet. (3-15-22)

**131. DIVING AREA: WATER DEPTH.**

The dimensions of the diving area on public pools must conform to the following:

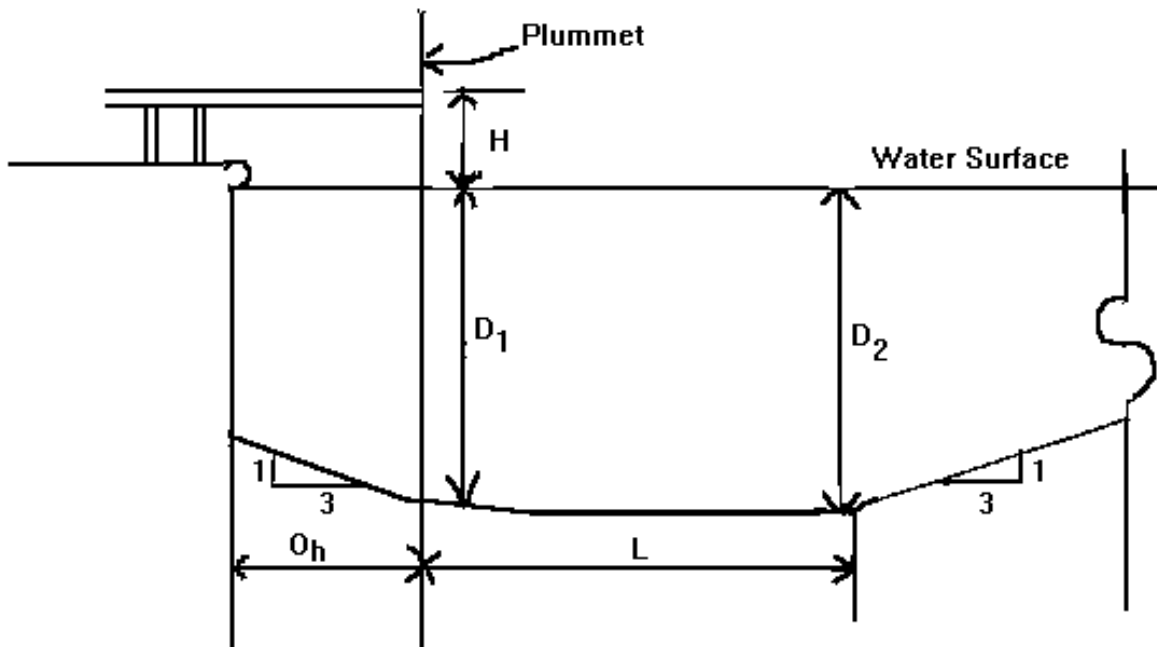
Minimum Dimensions					
Height of the diving board above the water level		Depth of water at the plummet	Distance ahead of plummet	Depth of water at the distance L From plummet	Overhang of diving board beyond edge of pool
H		D-1	L	D-2	O-H
Meters	Feet	Feet	Feet	Feet	Feet
0.00 to 0.50	0'0" to 1.7"	8'6"	11'6"	8'6"	3'0"
0.51 to 0.75	1'8" to 2'6"	9'3"	11'6"	9'3"	4'0"

Minimum Dimensions					
Height of the diving board above the water level		Depth of water at the plummet	Distance ahead of plummet	Depth of water at the distance L From plummet	Overhang of diving board beyond edge of pool
0.76 to 1.00	2'7" to 3'3"	10'0"	14'0"	10'0"	5'0"
1.01 to 3.00	3'4" to 10'0"	13'0"	20'0"	13'0"	6'0"
*Diving boards and platforms in excess of three (3) meters or ten (10) feet in height are not allowed in a pool without special provisions, controls, and definite limitation on their use, which has been approved by the Director's designee.					

(3-15-22)

132. ILLUSTRATION OF DIMENSIONS OF DIVING AREA.

Illustration of Dimensions of Diving Area



(3-15-22)

133. SEPARATION OF LOW DIVING BOARDS.

All diving boards installed on pools at heights not greater than three (3) feet three (3) inches or one (1) meter above the water level must be separated from adjacent diving boards of the same or less height by a distance of not less than eight (8) feet, and must be located not less than ten (10) feet from the side wall of the pool. (3-15-22)

134. SEPARATION OF HIGH DIVING BOARDS.

All diving boards installed on pools at heights greater than three (3) feet three (3) inches or one (1) meter above the water level must be separated from adjacent diving boards of the same or less height by a distance of not less than ten (10) feet, and must be located not less than twelve (12) feet from the side wall of the pool. (3-15-22)

**135. ANCHORING OF DIVING BOARDS.**

All installed equipment must be firmly anchored.

(3-15-22)

**136. -- 139. (RESERVED)**

**140. LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS.**

All electrical appliances and wiring must conform with and meet the provisions of IDAPA 07.01.06, "Rules Governing the Use of National Electrical Code." Defects in the electrical system, including underwater lights, overhead lights, and their respective lenses, must be immediately repaired.

(3-15-22)

**141. PORTABLE ELECTRICAL DEVICES.**

Portable electrical devices such as announcing systems and radios, unless battery operated, are prohibited within the pool enclosure.

(3-15-22)

**142. OVERHEAD WIRING.**

There may not be any overhead electrical wiring within twenty (20) feet horizontal distance of the pool enclosure.

(3-15-22)

**143. UNDERWATER LIGHTING.**

Where underwater lighting is used, the lights must be spaced to provide illumination so all portions of the pool, including the bottom, may be readily seen without glare.

(3-15-22)

**144. -- 149. (RESERVED)**

**150. VENTILATION.**

All indoor pools, bathhouses, dressing rooms, shower rooms, and toilet spaces must be ventilated either by natural or mechanical means to prevent corrosion or the build-up of mold or mildew.

(3-15-22)

**151. -- 159. (RESERVED)**

**160. DRESSING ROOMS, TOILETS, AND SHOWERS.**

Dressing rooms, toilets, and showers must be made available to all users of a pool. Dressing rooms must be finished in light colors and planned so good sanitation can be maintained throughout the buildings at all times. No glass containers are permitted.

(3-15-22)

**161. LOCATION OF DRESSING ROOMS.**

Dressing rooms must be located near toilets and showers, and should be adjacent to the locker or checkroom, and have a layout such that bathers, on leaving the dressing room, should pass the toilet and shower en route to the pool.

(3-15-22)

**162. FLOORS IN DRESSING ROOMS, TOILETS, AND SHOWERS.**

Floors must be constructed of non-absorbent materials with non-slip finishes, slope to properly located drains, and have a sufficient number of drains installed to prevent water from collecting on the floor.

(3-15-22)

**163. CONSTRUCTION OF DRESSING ROOMS.**

The material used for walls, partitions, and furniture must be such that it can be easily cleaned and will not be damaged by frequent hosing, wetting, or disinfection.

(3-15-22)

**164. TOILETS.**

Toilet facilities must be provided for both men and women, be accessible to disabled persons, and be kept clean and properly maintained.

(3-15-22)

**165. SHOWERS.**

The following must be provided:

(3-15-22)

- 01. Showers.** Showers for both men and women that are accessible to disabled persons.

(3-15-22)

- 02. Fixtures.** Fixtures that are kept clean and properly maintained. (3-15-22)
- 03. Water Temperature.** Hot water for showers that is no less than ninety (90) degrees and no more than one hundred twenty (120) degrees. (3-15-22)
- 04. Scald Prevention.** Thermostatic tempering, or mixing valves, to prevent scalding of bathers. (3-15-22)
- 05. Soap.** (3-15-22)
- 166. HAND SINKS.**  
A minimum of one (1) hand wash sink with hot and cold running water and soap must be provided in each toilet room. (3-15-22)
- 167. EXCEPTION.**  
The requirements of Sections 160 through 166 of these rules do not apply to any pool operated solely for and in conjunction with a hotel, motel, or other place of lodging or other facility containing multiple dwellings. However, dressing rooms, toilets, and showers must be in compliance with Sections 160 through 166 of these rules, if provided in the pool area of hotels, motels, or other facilities containing multiple dwellings. (3-15-22)
- 168. -- 169. (RESERVED)**
- 170. WATER SUPPLY.**  
The water supply serving a pool must meet the water quality requirements of the Director's designee for potable water except the Director's designee may approve the use of geothermal waters. Drinking water must be approved and, if applicable, meet the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.08, "Idaho Rules For Public Drinking Water Systems." All portions of the water distribution system must be protected against backflow and cross connections. (3-15-22)
- 171. -- 179. (RESERVED)**
- 180. SEWER SYSTEM.**  
A sewer system must be provided and be adequate to serve the facility, including bathhouse, locker room, and related accommodations. The sanitary sewer serving the pool and auxiliary facilities must discharge to a public sewer system wherever possible. Where no such sewer is available, the connection must be made to a suitable disposal system designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.03, "Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules." (3-15-22)
- 181. -- 189. (RESERVED)**
- 190. HEALTH AND SAFETY: POOL CLOSURE.**  
The operator must immediately close the pool when a pool is in violation of Sections 191, 192, 198, and 230 of these rules, or when ordered by the Director or the Director's designee, and keep the pool closed until such time as conditions are brought into compliance or the order has been rescinded. (3-15-22)
- 191. HEALTH AND SAFETY: OPERATOR.**  
All pools must have an operator. (3-15-22)
- 192. HEALTH AND SAFETY: LIFEGUARD REQUIREMENT.**
- 01. When Lifeguards Are Required.** Lifeguard(s) are required at any public swimming pool when:  
(3-15-22)
- a.** The numbers of bathers within the pool enclosure exceed thirty-five (35); and (3-15-22)
  - b.** Children under the age of thirteen (13) are allowed to swim without adult supervision. (3-15-22)
- 02. When Lifeguards Are Not Required.** When lifeguard services are not required, a warning sign

- must: (3-15-22)
- a. Be placed in plain view for all swimmers; (3-15-22)
  - b. State, "WARNING NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY" with clearly legible letters at least four (4) inches in height; and (3-15-22)
  - c. Also state, "CHILDREN UNDER 13 YEARS OLD SHALL NOT USE THE FACILITY WITHOUT AN ADULT IN ATTENDANCE," and "DO NOT SWIM ALONE." (3-15-22)

**193. HEALTH AND SAFETY: LIFEGUARD CHAIRS.**

If lifeguard chairs are provided, they must be located and constructed to provide a clear, unobstructed view of the pool bottom in the area under surveillance. (3-15-22)

**194. HEALTH AND SAFETY: LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT.**

- 01. Rescue Tube.** Each lifeguard on duty must have a rescue tube. (3-15-22)
- 02. Shepherd's Crook, Backboard, and First Aid Kit.** Every pool must have: (3-15-22)
  - a. At least one (1) shepherd's crook or life-saving pole, having blunted ends, at least twelve (12) feet in length; (3-15-22)
  - b. A readily accessible full-length backboard that complies with American Red Cross specifications or equivalent; and (3-15-22)
  - c. A readily accessible first aid kit and a pocket face mask to assist with CPR. (3-15-22)
- 03. Equipment Accessibility and Condition.** Equipment must be readily accessible, be mounted in a conspicuous place, and be kept in good repair and ready condition. (3-15-22)

**195. HEALTH AND SAFETY: SAFETY AND SANITATION.**

A lifeguard or operator must be in full charge of bathers and have authority and responsibility to enforce all rules of safety and sanitation. Suitable placards embodying sanitation requirements are to be conspicuously posted in the pool enclosure. Safety and sanitation requirements are as follows: (3-15-22)

- 01. Shower.** A cleansing shower should be taken before swimming. (3-15-22)
- 02. Disease.** Persons having an infectious or communicable disease that may be transmitted through water are excluded from swimming. (3-15-22)
- 03. Running and Roughhousing.** No running or rough play are permitted. (3-15-22)
- 04. Contamination.** Contamination of water, walkways, or dressing room floors in any way is prohibited. (3-15-22)
- 05. Glass.** Glass containers are prohibited in the pool area. (3-15-22)

**196. HEALTH AND SAFETY: ACCESS.**

When the pool is not open for use, access must be restricted. (3-15-22)

**197. HEALTH AND SAFETY: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION.**

A means of contacting emergency medical services must be readily accessible and be provided on the premises. (3-15-22)

**198. CLARITY.**

Water must have sufficient clarity at all times so the main drain can be clearly visible from the deck. Failure to meet



this requirement is grounds for immediate closure of the pool. It is the responsibility of the operator to close the pool when conditions exist that the main drain is not visible from the deck. (3-15-22)

**199. (RESERVED)**

**200. SUPERVISION.**

Every pool must be operated under the supervision of an operator who assumes responsibility for compliance with all parts of these rules. The operator is responsible for operating the pool in a safe and healthful manner. (3-15-22)

**201. OPERATIONS MANUAL.**

Each pool must have a readily accessible pool operations manual to ensure proper operation and maintenance. The operations manual should include instructions for such items as maintenance schedules, records and reports, water chemistry, accidents, emergency procedures, care of filters, operation of pumps and other equipment, and proper handling and storage of all chemicals used. (3-15-22)

**202. RECORD KEEPING.**

The following information must be recorded each day the pool is open, and be kept on the premises and available for review: (3-15-22)

**01. Disinfectant Levels;** (3-15-22)

**02. pH Readings;** (3-15-22)

**03. Clarity Readings;** (3-15-22)

**04. Amount and Type of Chemicals Used; and** (3-15-22)

**05. Accidents Requiring Professional Medical Treatment.** Accidents requiring professional medical treatment, including drownings or near drownings. (3-15-22)

**203. REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS.**

Accidents requiring professional medical treatment, including drownings or near drownings, must be reported within twenty-four (24) hours of occurrence to the Director's designee. (3-15-22)

**204. -- 209. (RESERVED)**

**210. DEPTH MARKING LOCATIONS.**

**01. Water Depth.** Water depth must be plainly marked at or above the water surface on the vertical wall of the pool and on the horizontal edge of the deck or walk next to the pool. (3-15-22)

**02. Depth Markers.** Depth markers must be placed at: (3-15-22)

**a.** Maximum and minimum depths; (3-15-22)

**b.** The five (5) foot break between the deep and shallow portions; (3-15-22)

**c.** Intermediate one (1) foot increments of depth, where the water depth is five (5) feet or less; and (3-15-22)

**d.** Regular intervals around the pool, not more than twenty-five (25) feet apart. (3-15-22)

**211. DEPTH MARKERS.**

Depth markers must be numerals a minimum of four (4) inches high of a color contrasting with the background, and plainly visible to persons both in and out of the pool. Where depth markers cannot be placed on the vertical walls above the water level, other means must be used. (3-15-22)

212. -- 219. (RESERVED)

**220. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.**

Pools must be designed to provide for continuous disinfection of the pool water with a chemical that has an effective disinfectant and imparts an easily measured, active residual. A test kit for measuring the accurate concentration of the disinfectant must be provided at each pool. (3-15-22)

**221. CHLORINE DISINFECTION.**

When chlorine is used, a minimum free available chlorine residual of not less than one (1) part per million (ppm) with a maximum of five (5) parts per million (ppm) must be maintained whenever a pool is in use. (3-15-22)

**222. BROMINE DISINFECTION.**

When bromine is used, a minimum residual of not less than one (1) part per million (ppm) with a maximum of five (5) parts per million (ppm) must be maintained whenever a pool is in use. (3-15-22)

**223. CHLORINATED ISOCYANURATES DISINFECTION.**

If chlorinated isocyanurates are used, the maximum allowable concentration must be one hundred (100) parts per million (ppm). When isocyanurates are used, a test kit for measuring the concentration of the stabilizer must be provided. (3-15-22)

**224. ORP OR HRR DISINFECTION.**

If a pool uses an oxidation reduction potential (ORP) controller or a high resolution redox (HRR) controller as a method of measuring an effective index of disinfection, the chemical used should be introduced in quantities needed to maintain levels at a minimum of six hundred and fifty (650) millivolts (mV). (3-15-22)

**225. OTHER DISINFECTION METHODS.**

Other disinfecting methods may be used when it can be demonstrated to the Director's designee that a pool provides a satisfactory residual effect that is easily measured. Other disinfection methods may also be allowed if demonstration and analysis provide assurance that results are effective and not dangerous to public health, create objectionable physiological effects, or impart toxic properties to the water. (3-15-22)

**226. ACID BASED CHEMISTRY.**

Pool water must be maintained in an alkaline condition as indicated by a pH of not less than seven and two-tenths (7.2) and not over seven and eight-tenths (7.8). The total alkalinity of the water should be within the acceptable range of eighty (80) parts per million (ppm) to two hundred (200) parts per million (ppm). An accurate pH testing kit must be provided at each pool. (3-15-22)

**227. OTHER CHEMICALS.**

Any chemical must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and not cause irritation to the eyes or skin of the bathers, or have other objectionable physiological effects on bathers. (3-15-22)

**228. CHEMICAL STORAGE.**

All chemicals must be kept from the reach of the general public, be stored in original containers, and be stored in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer or, in the absence of such instructions, as directed by the Director's designee. (3-15-22)

**229. CLEANING.**

**01. Pools.** Pools must be maintained and operated in a clean, safe, and sanitary manner at all times. Pool walls and bottom should be vacuumed or brushed as needed to remove visible material. (3-15-22)

**02. Decks.** Decks must be kept clean, safe, and maintained in good condition. (3-15-22)

**03. Bathrooms, Showers, and Dressing Rooms.** Bathrooms, showers, and dressing rooms must be kept clean, safe, and sanitary at all times. (3-15-22)

**230. BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF POOL WATERS.**

The water in public pools must not contain the presence of fecal coliform bacteria. If fecal coliform bacteria are present in any sample, a confirmation sample must be taken within twenty-four (24) hours. Should any two (2) consecutive water samples taken show the presence of fecal coliform bacteria, the pool must be closed immediately until the bacterial quality of the water is found absent for the presence of fecal coliform bacteria. (3-15-22)

**231. MONTHLY SAMPLING.**

Pools not required to have a disinfection system, or those pools having a disinfection system but do not meet the requirements of Sections 220 through 225 of these rules, are required to sample the water for the presence of fecal coliform bacteria on a monthly basis. Sampling must be done during hours of peak bather loads. (3-15-22)

**232. -- 239. (RESERVED)**

**240. DISINFECTANT AND CHEMICAL FEEDERS.**

**01. Feeder.** Pools must be equipped with a disinfectant feeder or feeders that meet the following requirements. Equipment must be: (3-15-22)

**a.** Capable of being easily disassembled for cleaning or repair and be constructed of corrosion-resistant materials; (3-15-22)

**b.** Constructed to permit repeated adjustments without loss of output rate accuracy and be constructed to minimize stoppage from debris that may be contained in aid chemicals used; (3-15-22)

**c.** Designed specifically for the type of disinfectant used; and (3-15-22)

**d.** Provided with controls for adjusting the flow rate of disinfectant. (3-15-22)

**02. Backflow Prevention.** When the disinfectant is introduced at the suction side of the pump, a device or method must be provided to prevent air lock of the pump or recirculation system. (3-15-22)

**03. Chlorine Gas Equipment.** When compressed chlorine gas is used, the following additional features must be provided: (3-15-22)

**a.** Chlorine rooms must have a ventilating fan with an airtight duct beginning near the floor and terminating at a safe point of discharge to the outdoors, away from any occupied area or any fresh air intake. A louvered air intake must be provided near the ceiling. The ventilating fan must provide one (1) air change per minute and operate from a switch located outside the door. (3-15-22)

**b.** Chlorinator equipment must be designed to withstand wear without developing leaks. (3-15-22)

**c.** Chlorine cylinders must be anchored in an upright position to prevent falling over. A valve stem wrench must be maintained on the chlorine cylinder so the supply can be shut off quickly in the case of an emergency. Empty chlorine gas cylinders must be tagged as such. Full and empty gas cylinders must be stored only in the chlorine room and have protective hoods in place when not in use. (3-15-22)

**d.** A new washer or gasket approved for use on chlorine gas must be used each time a chlorine cylinder is connected to the chlorinator. Spare washers/gaskets must be kept on site. (3-15-22)

**e.** A self-contained breathing apparatus designed for use in a chlorine atmosphere must be provided, and be located in an area outside the chlorination room easily accessible to pool employees. (3-15-22)

**f.** An automatic chlorine leak detector or commercial twenty-six (26) degrees Baume Aqua Ammonia must be provided for chlorine gas leak detection. (3-15-22)

**g.** Installation of chlorinator equipment, and operation thereof, must be carried out by or under the supervision of personnel trained in the installation and operation of such equipment. (3-15-22)

**04. Hypochlorite Equipment.** When a hypochlorite solution is fed through hypochlorinator equipment, such equipment must also provide the following additional features: (3-15-22)

- a.** Positive feed under all conditions of pressure in the circulating system, without artificial constriction of the pump suction line whether this line is under vacuum or pressure head; (3-15-22)
- b.** Constant feed with varying supply or back pressure; (3-15-22)
- c.** Prevent backflow from the circulation system to the solution container; and (3-15-22)
- d.** Prevent siphoning of hypochlorite solution when recirculation pump and hypochlorinator are both turned off. (3-15-22)

**241. -- 249. (RESERVED)**

**250. RECIRCULATION SYSTEM: FLOW RATE.**

A recirculation system, consisting of pumps, piping, skimmers, filters, water disinfection equipment, and other accessory equipment must be so designed and sized as to completely recirculate the pool volume of water at least once every eight (8) hours. (3-15-22)

**251. RECIRCULATION SYSTEM: SIZING.**

All equipment and connecting piping must be designed to reduce friction losses, and for the piping to carry the required quantity of water at a velocity not to exceed six (6) feet per second for suction side pipe, and not more than ten (10) feet per second for filter discharge pipe. Piping must be of non-toxic material, resistant to corrosion, and able to withstand normal operating pressures. It is recommended all plastic pipes conform with NSF Standard 14 for potable water applications of the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) and bear the NSF seal. (3-15-22)

**252. RECIRCULATION SYSTEM: CLEANING.**

- 01. Cleaning System.** A cleaning system must be provided to remove dirt from the bottom of the pool. (3-15-22)
- 02. Integral Vacuum.** When a vacuum is used as an integral part of the recirculation system: (3-15-22)
  - a.** Connections must be located in the walls of the pool, at least eight (8) inches below waterline, and at such point the floor of pool can be cleaned; and (3-15-22)
  - b.** The vacuum system must also be designed to preclude any possible entrapment. (3-15-22)

**253. RECIRCULATION SYSTEM: FLOW INDICATOR.**

A functioning rate-of-flow indicator must be installed and located so the recirculation rate will be accurately measured, be accurate within five percent (5%) of true flow, and be located in a position that is easy to read. (3-15-22)

**254. RECIRCULATION SYSTEM: CLEANING.**

A pump and motor unit must be provided for the recirculation of water that has been selected to meet the quantity of water required for filtering, and cleaning the filter, with the total dynamic head developed by the complete system. It is recommended the pump comply with requirements of NSF Standard 50, "Circulation System Components and Related Materials for Swimming Pools, Spas/Hot Tubs," of the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) and bear the NSF seal. (3-15-22)

**255. RECIRCULATION SYSTEM: THERMOMETERS.**

Pools equipped with heaters must have a minimum of one (1) fixed thermometer located between the heating outlet and the pool. (3-15-22)

**256. RECIRCULATION SYSTEM: STRAINER.**

The recirculation system must include a corrosion-resistant strainer, readily accessible for frequent cleaning. (3-15-22)

257. -- 259. (RESERVED)

**260. FILTRATION SYSTEM AND FILTERS.**

**01. Filtration System.** All pools must be equipped with a filtration system for the purpose of clarifying the water so it meets or exceeds the minimum clarity requirement. (3-15-22)

**02. Filters.** All filters must: (3-15-22)

**a.** Be designed and sized to achieve the proper turnover rate without exceeding the maximum flow rate; (3-15-22)

**b.** Be equipped with pressure or vacuum gauges; and (3-15-22)

**c.** Comply with all applicable requirements of NSF Standard 50, "Circulation System Components and Related Materials for Swimming Pools, Spas/Hot Tubs," or in the absence of applicable requirements, be approved by the Director's designee. (3-15-22)

**261. DISPOSAL OF WASTE.**

Provisions must be made to dispose of material cleaned from filters and backwash water in a manner that will not create a nuisance. If drainage to a sanitary sewer or storm drain is permitted, an air gap must be provided that will positively preclude against surge or backflow introducing contaminated water into the pool or recirculation system. (3-15-22)

262. -- 269. (RESERVED)

**270. WALL INLETS.**

**01. General Inlet Requirements.** Except as otherwise provided in this rule, inlets must: (3-15-22)

**a.** Be rounded and smooth and installed not less than eighteen (18) inches below the normal operating level and located to produce a uniform circulation, without the existence of dead spots; and (3-15-22)

**b.** Not extend from the pool wall or floor so as to create a hazard. (3-15-22)

**02. Wall Inlet Requirements.** If wall inlets are used, there must: (3-15-22)

**a.** Be at a minimum of one (1) per each six hundred (600) square feet of pool surface area. (3-15-22)

**b.** Be a minimum of two (2) inlets. In case of a shallow pool, the Director's designee may grant an exception to this requirement if inlets cannot be installed at the depth otherwise required. (3-15-22)

**271. FLOOR INLETS.**

Any pool having a width greater than forty (40) feet must have floor inlets or a combination of wall and floor inlets that meet the requirements of Section 260 of these rules and are located so they provide general circulation and do not direct flow to floor drains. (3-15-22)

272. -- 279. (RESERVED)

**280. OVERFLOW SYSTEMS.**

All pools must be designed to provide continuous skimming, have overflow gutters or surface skimmers, and have an overflow system designed and installed so the water level of the pool is maintained at the operating level of the rim or weir device. (3-15-22)

**281. OVERFLOW GUTTERS.**

The gutter, drains, and return piping to the surge system must be designed to rapidly remove overflow water caused by recirculation displacement, wave action, or other causes produced from the maximum pool bathing load. (3-15-22)

01. **General Requirements.** Overflow gutters must: (3-15-22)
  - a. Extend around the entire perimeter of the pool except at steps or recessed ladders; (3-15-22)
  - b. Have the gutter lip be level within three-tenths (.3) inch; (3-15-22)
  - c. Be capable of continuously removing fifty percent (50%) of the recirculated water and returning it to the recirculation system; and (3-15-22)
  - d. Be designed to prevent entrance or entrapment of bathers. (3-15-22)
02. **Overflow Gutters Connected to the Recirculation System.** All overflow gutters connected to the recirculation system must be connected in an approved manner, such as a surge tank. (3-15-22)

**282. SKIMMERS: REQUIREMENT.**

01. **Minimum Requirements.** There must be provided: (3-15-22)
  - a. A minimum of one (1) skimmer for each four hundred (400) square feet of water surface area or fraction thereof; and (3-15-22)
  - b. No fewer than two (2) skimmers in every pool. (3-15-22)
02. **Standard Requirements.** Any skimmer used in a pool must comply with all applicable requirements of NSF Standard 50 "Circulation System Components and Related Materials for Swimming Pools, Spas/Hot Tubs," of the NSF International or in the absence of applicable requirements, be approved by the Director's designee. (3-15-22)

**283. SKIMMERS: CAPACITY.**

01. **Total Capacity.** The total capacity of all skimmers used must be a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the required filter flow. (3-15-22)
02. **Piping.** Piping for skimmers used must be designed for a capacity of not less than eighty (80) percent of the required filter flow of the recirculation system, and in no case less than thirty (30) gallons per minute per eight (8) inches of weir. (3-15-22)

**284. SKIMMERS: EQUALIZERS.**

01. **Equalizer Valve and Line.** All skimmers used must be equipped with an approved equalizer valve and an equalizer line with an inside diameter of not less than two (2) inches, installed not less than twelve (12) inches below the normal operating level of the water. (3-15-22)
02. **Inlet to the Equalizer Line.** The inlet to the equalizer line or lines must: (3-15-22)
  - a. Be designed to prevent the creation of a holding force whenever the body or limb of a bather comes into contact with the inlet; and (3-15-22)
  - b. Be protected by a grill or shroud that will prevent a bather or any limb of a bather from entering the inlet. (3-15-22)

**285. SKIMMERS: LOCATION.**

All inlets must be spaced at least five (5) feet away from any skimmer. One (1) skimmer must be placed at a point in

the pool opposite the direction of the prevailing winds. (3-15-22)

**286. -- 289. (RESERVED)**

**290. LOCATION OF DRAINS.**

Every pool must have a tandem main drain located in the deepest section of the pool and have the ability to empty the pool through this drain. (3-15-22)

**291. MULTIPLE DRAINS.**

Multiple drains must be provided. Outlet drains must not be further apart than twenty (20) feet on center. (3-15-22)

**292. DRAIN GRATING.**

The main drain outlet grating must: (3-15-22)

**01. Area of Openings.** Have an area of openings four (4) times the area of the discharge pipe or provide sufficient area so the maximum velocity of water passing through the grate will not exceed six (6) feet per second; (3-15-22)

**02. Maximum Width of Openings.** Have grate openings with a maximum width of not more than one-half (1/2) inch; and (3-15-22)

**03. Securely Fastened.** Be securely fastened in such a way that they cannot be removed without the use of tools. (3-15-22)

**293. -- 299. (RESERVED)**

**300. FENCE AND BARRIERS.**

**01. For Pools Under 1,800 Square Feet.** A fence or barrier a minimum of four (4) feet high to exclude unauthorized persons from the pool area must enclose each public pool with less than one thousand eight hundred (1,800) square feet of surface area. (3-15-22)

**02. For Pools 1,800 Square Feet or Greater.** A fence or barrier a minimum of eight (8) feet high to exclude unauthorized persons from the pool area must enclose each public pool with one thousand eight hundred (1,800) square feet of surface area, or greater. (3-15-22)

**301. -- 309. (RESERVED)**

**310. GEOTHERMAL POOL EXEMPTIONS.**

**01. Exemptions.** Geothermal pools are hereby exempt from the following rules: (3-15-22)

**a.** If a geothermal pool can meet the bacterial requirements of Section 230 of these rules and the clarity requirements of Section 198 of these rules, it will not be required to meet any requirements of Sections 220 through 225, and Sections 240, 250, and 260 of these rules. (3-15-22)

**b.** Section 226 of these rules, "Acid Base Chemistry." (3-15-22)

**c.** If an existing geothermal pool has a gravel bottom, Sections 075, 271, and Sections 290 through 292 of these rules. (3-15-22)

**02. Remodeling.** Remodeling of an existing geothermal pool will not change exemptions. (3-15-22)

**311. -- 319. (RESERVED)**

**320. TECHNICAL WAIVERS OR MODIFICATIONS.**

**01. Director Waiver.** The Director or the Director's designee may waive or modify the requirements of these rules as a condition of the permit to operate a pool, except no technical waiver or modification will be granted from the health and safety portion of these rules. (3-15-22)

**02. Waiver Requirements.** The person requesting a technical waiver or modification must submit a written request to the Director's designee specifying: (3-15-22)

**a.** The section number of these rules and the rationale for considering a modification or waiver of the requirements; (3-15-22)

**b.** An analysis of the potential public health, safety hazards, and issues associated with the proposed action; and (3-15-22)

**c.** Scientific data or other information, as appropriate, showing safety or public health will not be compromised by the proposed action. (3-15-22)

**321. -- 999. (RESERVED)**