

## **SWIMMER SUPERVISION POLICY**

This policy has been written based on the recommendations of the report entitled *Drowning Review*, published by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario in 2011 and aligns with the *Admission Standards for Class A Public Pools* as published by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Forest Edge Community Club staffs its pool with qualified lifeguards during all swim times. The primary responsibility of the lifeguards is to ensure the life safety of all pool users. Lifeguards do not replace the need for supervision of children by a parent or guardian. It is a concern of the Board of Directors that some parents/guardians may mistake the lifeguards as a substitute for supervision.

### **POLICY**

When requested by a lifeguard, swimmers are required to take a Facility Swim Test, regardless of age. The Facility Swim Test consists of a 25-metre swim completed comfortably by the swimmer, without putting their feet on the bottom. Irrespective of the following, Forest Edge Community Pool reserves the right to require that a parent or guardian be in the water to directly supervise the child(ren), or that any swimmer exit the pool, should the lifeguard feel the swimmer in question requires additional support while swimming. This policy may not necessarily apply during swimming lessons while a child is under the supervision of a qualified swimming instructor. In all cases, the primary concern shall be for the safety of the pool user.

#### **Children born in 2017 and later (children 5 years of age and under):**

- In the water, the child must remain **within arm's reach** of a parent or guardian; use of a lifejacket\*\* is strongly recommended; and may be required at the discretion of a lifeguard.
- The parent or guardian must be at least 13 years of age and be responsible for the child's **direct supervision**.
- No more than two (2) children, aged five (5) and under, may be supervised by each parent or guardian (2:1).

#### **Children born 2013-2016 who do not pass the Facility Swim Test (children 6 to 9 years of age):**

- In the water, the non-swimming child(ren) must remain in the shallow end and swim where the depth allows them to comfortably touch the bottom and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is responsible for the **direct supervision** the child(ren).
- If equipped with a lifejacket\*\*, the child(ren) may enter deeper water only when under **direct supervision** of an adult who is supervising a limit of two (2) children at that time (2:1).
- The parent or guardian must be at least sixteen (13) years of age and be responsible for the child's supervision.
- The ratio of non-swimmers to a parent or guardian may be a maximum of four (4) children to one (1) parent or guardian (4:1). The ratio of non-swimmers to a parent or guardian may be increased to a maximum of six (6) children to one (1) parent or guardian (6:1), if life jackets\*\* are worn by all non-swimmers in their care.

#### **Children born 2013-2016 who successfully pass the Facility Swim Test (children 6 to 9 years of age):**

- The parent or guardian is not required to be in the water but must remain within the pool enclosure at all times and is responsible for the supervision of the child.

#### **Children born in 2012 or earlier who successfully pass the Facility Swim Test (children 10+ years of age):**

- Supervision of the child is subject to the parent or guardian's discretion.
- The child is subject to the same expectations and rules as any other member, guest, or visitor

*\*\*Inflatable or novelty flotation devices (eg. water wings, pool noodles) are not a substitute for a lifejacket approved by Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, and/or Fisheries and Oceans Canada). A limited number of loaner lifejackets are available at the pool on a first-come, first-served basis.*

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