



Sports, Culture & Recreation Office

Gravelbourg

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Gravelbourg & District Aquaplex Centre T-Shirt Policy

The safety of all guests using the Gravelbourg & District Aquaplex Centre is the foremost concern of the Sports, Culture & Recreation Office and to the Town of Gravelbourg. To that end we follow the most stringent safety guidelines for aquatic facilities as endorsed by the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Lifesaving Society.

The Gravelbourg & District Aquaplex Centre prohibits the wearing of T-shirts in the swimming pool unless an exemption letter has been accepted and filed in our Aquatics Office. Exemptions are granted based on medical and/or religious reasons, for the **wearing of plain white T-shirts only**.

Swimmers wearing T-shirts in pools are at a higher risk of drowning or being injured. The primary reasons for this risk are as follows:

- Lifeguards are trained to scan zones while paying strict attention to detail. It is extremely important for the faces of swimmers to be clearly visible at all times whether they are submerged or not. T-shirts tend to “balloon up” thereby covering the face of the swimmer; thus, the lifeguard cannot see the swimmer’s facial expressions, and sudden change of facial expressions is among the first signs of swimmers experiencing distress in swimming pools.
- In addition, swimmers wearing T-shirts can be grabbed, either intentionally or inadvertently, causing possible strangulation. If this occurs while the swimmer is underwater, the swimmer will swallow some water, which is the beginning stage of drowning.

The reason for only allowing the use of plain white T-shirts (with no writing) as opposed to T-shirts with print or other colors is to avoid offending anyone with the various statements, pictures and phrases some people wear on their T-shirts. More importantly, the dye in colored T-shirts causes the need to increase the amount of chemicals it normally takes to maintain water quality.

If swimmers have a medical condition that a physician deems necessary to wear protective clothing or the swimmers’ religious affiliations require cover, our staff will work with the swimmer to ensure their total comfort at our pool. With safety as our primary concern, we are confident that the precautions we take with the T-shirt policy are warranted to avoid the potential for danger to swimmers using our facility.

Sincerely,

Guyline Green
Manager of Sports, Culture & Recreation
