

## East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure

### Swimming pool supervision ratios for children under the age of 8 years.

Children under the age of 8 years of age must be accompanied and supervised by an adult aged 16 and over at all times in any East Renfrewshire swimming pool on the ratios highlighted below. (A, B or C)

#### SUPERVISING ADULTS MUST:

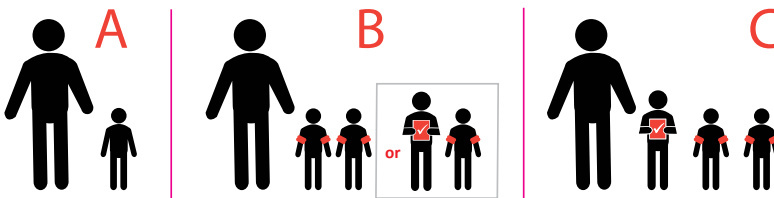
- Familiarise themselves with the pool environment in advance of entering the pool
- Stay in close contact with the children at all times while in the water and on surrounding areas
- Stay within shallow areas of the pool

**Swim aids are available to purchase at Reception.**

*Adults observed by the pool staff who appear to be failing to fulfil their responsibility in relation to these supervision ratios will be asked to leave the pool.*

#### Maximum Adult/Child Ratios

- A) 1 adult to 1 child aged under 8 years (no armbands) or;
- B) 1 adult to 2 children aged under 8 years (both must wear armbands\* or one must be 5-7 years and have a swim competence award); or,
- C) 1 adult to 3 children under 8 years, only if one is 5-7 years and has a swim competence award (under 5 years must wear armbands\*) *not applicable during fun sessions*



*\* Please note: AT ALL TIMES non or weak swimmers must wear armbands or suitable flotation aids to BS EN 13138 standard. Suitable swimming aids are available to purchase at the pool reception.*

Please note that the pool duty manager reserves the right to adjust the above ratios in response to pool conditions at any time. During school holidays it is advised to contact the centre or check online as further restrictions may apply.

Barrhead Foundry  
0141 580 1174

Eastwood Park Leisure  
0141 577 4956

Eastwood High Sports Centre  
0141 577 8697

Neilston Leisure Centre  
0141 577 4811

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## Additional guidance for adults

Reading this guidance is advised to ensure you and young children under your supervision enjoy your pool experience safely.

The term 'Supervising Adult' is used to define the person or persons over the age of 16 who must accompany children under children under 8 years old in the pool.

Parents, if not present, will need to ensure that supervising adults accompanying their child(ren) have the competence to supervise and control children under their supervision while in the pool.

### Admission Guidelines – General for all pools (see over leaf)

#### Children under 5 years

Children under 5 must be accompanied in the water by a supervising adult over the age of 16 on a 1:1 ratio. However the ratio may increase to 1:2 if both children are wearing suitable flotation aids. Flotation aids accepted under this policy are those that fully support that child's weight in the water and remain secure in and out of the water, e.g. armbands or a float suit. Flotation aids that are hand held are not considered appropriate.

#### Competence Award

This award is to allow greater flexibility with relation to adult/child ratios. The competence award involves children under the age of 8 completing the following swimming assessment carried out by ERCL venue staff –

- A:** Jump into the water at the deep end of the pool, fully submerging
- B:** Swim for 12.5m then swim back 12.5m to the point of entry
- C:** Tread water for one minute
- D:** Swim a further 25m

For the first part of this test the swimming stroke must be on a recognised front stroke i.e. Front crawl or Breastroke, the second part can be a stroke of choice. On completion of the assessment and to the satisfaction of the venue staff, the child will be awarded a certificate and a subscription added to their ALL Access card.

Parents need to be aware that the duty manager, in assessing the swimming pools on any given day, may restrict ratios further after assessing the risk to the safety of pool users with young children. This assessment will include:

- The number of bathers in the pool at any given time
- The availability of a shallow water area within the pool
- The availability of approved flotation devices (armbands or float suits with appropriate CE mark)
- The number of children not in approved flotation aids (babes in arms)

Parents are advised to contact the pool they are attending for information on any restrictions that may be in place on any particular day in advance. See details below.

### Responsibility of Parents/Supervising Adults

Supervising adults are responsible for the direct supervision of children in their care at all times.

The following general advice should be considered when bringing children swimming -

- All children under the age of 8 must always be accompanied in the water and changing area during unprogrammed public swimming sessions by a supervising adult
- The supervising adult and the children must remain in the designated safe area of shallow water at all times during their swim and act on the instructions and advice from lifeguards
- The supervising adult must be in the water with the children, maintain a constant watch over them and stay in close contact with children, especially those who are weak or non-swimmers.

### Lifeguard Responsibilities

The primary roles of the lifeguard are to pre-empt dangerous situations from arising, to carry out rescues and administer first aid if required.

The under 8's admission policy for the pools are part of a number of management actions that will be in place to prevent accidents.

Lifeguards will take action if they observe the supervising adult is not adhering to these policy guidelines.

If you have any queries regarding this policy please speak to a member of our staff for further support.

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