

# Weather/Low Attendance Closures Policy

The Board of Directors expects Green-Fields Swim Club to be a safe, fun, family environment. Maintaining full staffing levels when there is no membership demand for use of the club during inclement weather is not cost-effective. Closing the pool due to low use and changing weather can be frustrating if someone travels to the pool or just arrives. The goal of this policy is to set expectations relating to these situations.

## Weather Conditions Closing Procedures:

As a weather-dependent operation, the Manager-On-Duty reserves the right to close for the day, close early, or delay opening due to poor weather conditions. He or she must notify the Board of Directors of these decisions via text message or email and receive acknowledgment of their decision from 2 members.

As a general guideline, when the weather conditions present any of the following characteristics, the facility's operating hours may change:

- Low Air Temperature - Air temperature of  $\leq 68^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Inclement Weather - heavy rain, thunderstorms, hail, high winds, or fog.
- Low membership attendance - Less than 5 membership families\* are checked in

## Low Air Temperature Conditions

- When the air temperature remains  $\leq 68^{\circ}\text{F}$  for the entirety of the day or does not achieve a temperature of  $\geq 68^{\circ}\text{F}$  within 4 hours of the normal closing time the facility will not open.
- If the temperature is predicted to eventually reach  $\geq 68^{\circ}\text{F}$  within 2 hours of opening, the facility may delay opening or open the club at the regularly scheduled time.

## Inclement Weather

### Beginning of the Day

- If there is inclement weather upon the Manager-On-Duty's arrival to the pool, the following procedure shall be followed:
  - The Manager-On-Duty should check the weather forecast to determine the forecasted duration of the inclement weather
    - If the inclement weather is going to terminate before normal opening hours, then the Manager-On-Duty shall proceed as normal

*\*For the purpose of this policy, a membership family is defined as the total number of membership families checked in rather than individual members, each family unit is treated as a single entity.*

- If the inclement weather is forecasted to continue past normal opening hours, then the Manager-On-Duty shall determine if the forecast would allow for a late pool opening.
  - If so, the Manager-On-Duty shall promptly call staff and reschedule their start times in coordination with the new opening time.
- Auxiliary opening hours can occur at 1 pm, 3 pm, or 5 pm.
  - If the inclement weather is forecasted to last through these auxiliary opening times, then the Manager-On-Duty shall decide to keep the pool closed for the day.
  - The Manager-On-Duty shall then promptly notify staffing of the decision

## During the Day

- Rain
  - If the inclement weather consists of only precipitation, the following procedure shall be followed:
    - Swimming activities shall be permitted as long as the main drains can be seen from the lifeguarding stand responsible for monitoring that area of the pool.
    - If the main drains of the pools are not clearly visible from the lifeguard stand, the pool will be evacuated immediately with one long whistle blast and verbal instructions
    - If the forecast indicates that this type of rain is going to persist for at least one hour or longer then the Manager-On-Duty shall close the pool.
    - If the main drains become visible again from the lifeguarding station, then patrons shall be allowed to reenter pools after all lifeguards are in position
- Lightning/Thunder -
  - When inclement weather conditions develop, if lightning is spotted and/or thunder is heard, the pools shall be cleared.
    - Thunder - If inclement weather appears to be approaching the following procedure shall be followed:
      - The lifeguard shall sound out two whistle blasts to notify the Manager-On-Duty of the change in the weather
      - The pool's sound system shall be turned off to allow for thunder to be heard clearly
      - If thunder is heard, the pool will be evacuated immediately with one long whistle blast and verbal instructions
      - If lightning strikes within an 8-mile radius of the facility the pools must be cleared.

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- Members shall not be allowed to return to the water until 30 minutes after the last observed lightning strike and/or thunder.

## Procedure if inclement weather passes after pool closing/late opening

If the weather turns fit for swimming pool activities after the pool has been closed, the following procedure shall be followed:

- The Manager-On-Duty shall determine which auxiliary opening time (1 pm, 3 pm, or 5 pm) will allow for adequate time for staff to return and pool chemicals to be adjusted properly
- The Manager-On-Duty shall attempt to call staffing to return to the pool
  - The Manager-On-Duty shall not reopen the pool if minimum staffing does not return.
    - Minimum staffing is determined by lifeguard requirements described in the New Jersey Department of Health Public Bathing Code
    - If minimum staffing needs are reached the Manager-On-Duty shall reopen the pool

## Low Attendance

During periods of low attendance, the swim club may be closed. This policy and staff reductions are administered at the discretion of the Manager-On-Duty with notification to the board.

In the event there is a situation that has caused poor pool attendance (ex. Cool/cloudy weather, reopening after inclement weather, time of the day) the following guidelines shall be followed:

## Poor attendance caused by Cool/Cloudy Weather

- The Manager-On-Duty shall recognize that there is poor attendance and decrease staffing to the minimum required staffing described by the New Jersey Department of Health Public Bathing Code
  - The Manager-On-Duty shall assess the number of patrons at the pool.
    - If fewer than 5 members are at the pool, the Manager-On-Duty shall start a 1-hour assessment period.
    - The Manager-On-Duty shall notify all current patrons that the pool shall close in one hour if more patrons do not arrive
    - If the number of families increases to 5 or above, the pool shall remain open.
    - If the number of families drops below 5 again, the Manager-On-Duty shall start another 1-hour assessment period

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## Poor attendance with good weather -

If good weather is present and there is poor attendance, the following procedure shall be followed:

- The pool shall not be closed before 7 pm when good weather is present.
- The Manager-On-Duty shall recognize that there is poor attendance and decrease staffing to the minimum required staffing described by the New Jersey Department of Health Public Bathing Code.
  - At 6 pm the Manager-On-Duty shall assess the number of patrons at the pool.
  - If less than 5 membership families are at the pool, the Manager-On-Duty shall start a 1-hour assessment period.
  - The Manager-On-Duty shall notify all present patrons that the pool shall close in one hour if more patrons do not arrive. If the number of families increases to 5 or above the pool shall remain open.
  - If the number of membership families drops below 5 again, the Manager-On-Duty shall start another 1 hour assessment period and repeat the process above.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

If the swim club is required to delay opening due to inclement weather, the Manager-On-Duty will review the weather and attempt to open within a 2-hour delay. If the weather does not allow the club to open within 4 hours of the normal closing time, the facility will be closed for the remainder of that day.

Unscheduled facility closures due to weather will not result in refunds or adjustments to annual membership dues.

To the best of their ability, the Manager-On-Duty and Board of Directors will provide real-time updates regarding closures through the following channels:

- Facebook group: **Green-Fields Swim Club Family**
- Text message updates by texting **@gfsc-wd** to **81010** or click the link to sign up: [Join Remind](#)

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