



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

TEST MARK PROTECT FAQ'S

Why the change to the policy?

This policy change will make the pool a safer environment for our members. Many Y's across the country have similar open swim policies in place. Careful consideration and research was done in creating this policy.

This new policy will make it harder for parents to have their children do open swim, why can't my child swim alone if I am watching them?

This new policy is creating a safer environment. Our intention is to have parents more engaged in their child's swimming. Staying within arm's reach keeps your child safe and allows the lifeguard to more adequately focus on all participants swimming.

What are the benefits to using the puddle jumper rather than a bubble?

The puddle jumper is a Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) swim aid which means that it will hold the child's face above the water in the event that something happens. It also clips in the back making it difficult for a child to remove the puddle jumper on their own. The bubble is a good teaching tool, but can slip off, come unclipped, and be easily removed by the child. The puddle jumper does encourage proper body position in the water and allows the child to freely swim while practicing.

Do I need to be in the water for the 5-10 minutes before my child's swim lessons?

For all swimmers who are a Red Band, you must be in the water while they open swim.

What if my child does not like the restrictive nature of the puddle jumper or the lifejacket, but they like the bubble? Are they able to use the bubble if it's allowed for lessons?

Please connect with the director or the lifeguard on duty.

I have more than 3 children with varying abilities, how can I bring them all swimming?

For swimmers that are a Red Band you may have up to 3 in the water with you at a time. They must wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and you must be within arm's reach. Swimmers that are yellow band or green band do not need to be within arm's reach, but you should continue to keep an eye on them.



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My child swims in the deep end during swim lessons and the instructor is not always in arms reach, why can't they just swim that way in open swim?

This is done under the supervision of the swim instructor and usually with another Instructional Floatation Device (IFD).

What if my child does not like to jump into the water but can complete other parts of the swim test?

Children will need to complete all skills to move onto a green band and use the deep end. We can recommend the most appropriate swim level to help develop those skills. Another suggestion is to continue to practice during open swim time.

I have an infant, should they be wearing a PFD?

You may swim with your infant and hold them as long as you stay in the water that is armpit depth. You may have up to 3 non swimmers (Red Band) at a time and only 1 non swimmer can be without a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).

What if I want to practice with my child, how can I do that if they have the puddle jumper on?

You may work with 1 non swimmer at a time without a Personal Flotation Device (PFD), but this is at the discretion of the lifeguard. They may not use an Instructional Floatation Device (IFD noodles, bubbles, kickboard) in lieu of a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).