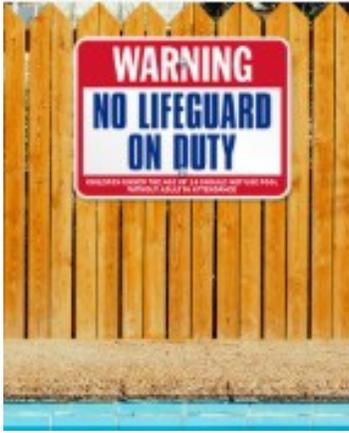


Aquatic Facility Rules Fact Sheet #16

What you should know about the Code

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Public Health Reasons:

In Oregon, signage requirements at public pools and aquatic facilities are in place to help protect the health and safety of everyone who uses these spaces. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) developed these rules to reduce the risk of waterborne illnesses and injuries. Signs are used to clearly communicate important safety messages, such as warnings about swimming while sick, reminders to shower before entering the pool, and rules about supervision for children. They also help people respond quickly in emergencies by providing CPR instructions and information about health hazards that may require pool closure. These signs are part of a broader effort to make aquatic facilities safer and to ensure that everyone from swimmers to staff understands how to keep the water clean and the environment safe for all.

Sign Requirements

New signage requirements for aquatic facilities have been updated to improve health and safety communication. While the changes may seem extensive, they are designed to be flexible, with a lenient phase-in period and adaptable language.

General Guidance:

Operators are not required to replace existing signs unless they are damaged, worn out, or they choose to update them. Facilities also have the option to adjust the wording on signs, as long as the message is clear and meets the intent of the rules.

Before making changes, check with your local county or the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for approval. Some safety messages can be combined into a single sign, but CPR posters and Imminent Health Hazard notices must remain separate to make sure people can easily find critical information during an emergency.

Lettering Requirements:

General Signs:

- Minimum 1 inch high, legible, with contrasting background
- Except “No Lifeguard” Sign - must use 4 inch high lettering

Required Signage by Facility Type (see page 2 for details):

All Facilities:

- Facility Rules (6.4.2.2.1)
- Sign Messages (6.4.2.2.3)

Limited-Use Facilities Must Also Have:

- [CPR Posters*](#) (visual illustrations recommended)
- [Imminent Health Hazard Sign*](#)
- Additional Signage (5.8.5.4.5)
- Sign Messages (6.4.2.2.3)

These signs are required to be posted by January 1, 2026

Facilities without lifeguards (6.4.2..2.3.4)

- No Lifeguard on Duty (4” lettering)
- Hours of Operation: Facility use prohibited outside posted hours
- Bring a Friend: Do not swim alone



Facilities do not need to update existing signs until they are changed or replaced.

Spas:

Additional signage must communicate the following:

- Max water temperature: 104°F (40°C)
- No use by children under 5 or individuals under the influence
- Pregnant people or those with health conditions should consult a provider
- Children under 14 must be supervised by someone 18+
- No solo use (if no lifeguard)
- Limit spa use to 15 minutes per session

Templates and examples are available on the [OHA website](#).

All Facilities

6.4.2.2.1 Facility Rules The operator shall post and enforce the AQUATIC FACILITY rules governing health, SAFETY, and sanitation. **Pools with existing pool rule signs may wait to comply with the requirements of this rule until the signs are replaced, repaired or moved.**

6.4.2.2.2 Lettering The lettering shall be legible and at least 1 inch (25.4 mm or 3- point type) high, unless otherwise noted, with a contrasting background.

6.4.2.2.3 Sign Messages Signage shall be placed in a conspicuous place at the entrance of the AQUATIC FACILITY communicating expected and prohibited behaviors and other information using text that complies with the intent of the following information:

- 1) In case of an emergency, dial 911 or other emergency instructions, per 6.3.4.5.8;
- 2) Hours of operation;
- 3) MAXIMUM BATHER LOAD;
- 4) Do not swim if you have open wounds;
- 5) Do not swim if you are ill with diarrhea or have had diarrhea within the past 2 weeks;
- 6) SHOWER before entering the water;
- 7) No glass items in the AQUATIC VENUE or on the DECK;
- 8) Do not swallow or spit water;
- 9) Diaper changing on the DECK is prohibited;
- 10) No Diving, as applicable per 5.5.5;
- 11) Intentional hyperventilation or extended breath holding activities are dangerous and prohibited;
- 12) No animals in the AQUATIC VENUE and no animals on the DECK, except service animals, if applicable;
- 13) No rough play or running; and
- 14) Children under the age of 14 years must have direct supervision by a person aged 18 years or older.
- 15) BATHERS who are incontinent or not toilet trained must wear a swim diaper.
- 16) Immuno-compromised individuals should use caution when using a public AQUATIC VENUE.
- 17) No food or drink allowed in the pool.
- 18) No person under the influence of alcohol may use the pool.

Limited Use Facilities

5.8.5.4.3 CPR Posters CPR posters that are up to date with latest CPR programs and protocols shall be posted conspicuously at all times.

5.8.5.4.4 Imminent Health Hazard Sign A sign shall be posted outlining the IMMINENT HEALTH HAZARDS, which require AQUATIC VENUE or AQUATIC FACILITY closure as defined in this CODE per 6.6.3.1 and a telephone number to report problems to the owner/operator.

5.8.5.4.5 Additional Signage For any AQUATIC VENUE with standing water, a sign shall be posted signifying a QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD is not on duty and that the following rules apply:

- 1) Persons under the age of 14 years cannot be in the AQUATIC VENUE without direct supervision by a person aged 18 years or older; and

- 2) Youth and childcare groups are not allowed without a QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD providing PATRON surveillance.

Spa Venues

6.4.2.2.3.7 Spa Signs

In addition to 6.4.2.2.3 requirements, SPAS shall also have the following information or text complying with the intent of the following information:

- 1) Maximum water temperature is 104° F (40°C);
- 2) Children under age 5 and people using alcohol or drugs that cause drowsiness shall not use spas;
- 3) Pregnant people and those with heart disease, high blood pressure or other health problems should not use spas without prior consultation with a healthcare provider;
- 4) Children under the age of 14 years must have direct supervision by a person aged 18 years or older; and
- 5) Use of the spa when alone is prohibited (if no lifeguards onsite).
- 6) Bathers should spend no more than 15 minutes in the spa at any one session.



Sign messages can be spread across multiple signs

Splash Pads (Interactive Water Play Venues)

6.4.2.2.3.8 Interactive Water Play Venue Signs

INTERACTIVE WATER PLAY VENUES shall have the following information or text complying with the intent of the information below. If the venue is without an enclosure, the warning signs must be placed on four sides or not more than 50 feet apart, whichever is less.

1. "WARNING: NO LIFEGUARD" in letters at least four inches (100 mm) high
2. Do not use the pool if you have had diarrhea in the last two weeks.
3. All persons, who are not toilet trained, must wear swim diapers.
4. Do not poop or pee in the water.
5. Do not swallow or spit water.
6. Do not leave children unsupervised.
7. If the operator does not provide direct supervision, add: "For emergency assistance please (insert contact 911, or other emergency assistance site staffed during all hours the wading pool is open)" and "Please contact (insert contact person or agency and phone number) with any concerns about this pool".