

Aquatic Facility Rules Fact Sheet #4

What you should know about the Code

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OAR 333-062-1000,
CHAPTER 5.4.1.1

5.4.1.1 Closure

If an aquatic venue is not open to the public, the following conditions must be met to ensure public health and safety:

PUBLIC HEALTH REASONS:

Properly managing aquatic venue closures is essential for public health and safety. When a venue is closed, it must be secured to prevent public access, especially to minimize the risk of contamination, drowning hazards, or injury. Closed pools pose significant safety hazards, particularly for children, as they may accidentally enter and drown. Without appropriate safety covers, enclosures, or supervision, the risk of accidental entry is increased.

Violation-Based or Seasonal Closures

Short term and seasonal closures of aquatic venues ensure that when facilities are not in use, they remain secure and safe from public access. The code outlines specific requirements for venues with and without enclosures to protect public safety during periods of closure.

When reopening a venue, owners or operators must ensure that the code is met to ensure it is safe for public use.

Temporary enclosures must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Approved to be installed by OHA or the county conducting plan reviews.
- 2) Must have at least one means for access and egress.
- 3) Gates or access points must swing away from the pool.
- 4) Vertical section may not have any gaps that exceed 4 inches.
- 5) Minimum height of 4 feet.
- 6) No gaps greater than 4 inches at bottom of fence.
- 7) Deck spacing must comply with 4.8.1 or 4.12.1.
- 8) Must be sturdy.



Proper temporary enclosures prevent unauthorized access when the pool is closed.

5.4.1.1.1 Aquatic venues with an enclosure (applies to facilities that have one pool in one enclosure or multiple pools with one enclosure that are all closed at the same time):

- 1) The water shall be recirculated and treated; or
- 2) The water shall be drained; and
- 3) Access to the aquatic venue shall be restricted and routine checks of the integrity of the aquatic venue enclosure shall be made.

Example 1: If a health club has multiple pools in one shared enclosure and one needs repairs, all pools must be closed, unless the pool that needs repairs can be made inaccessible by a safety cover or temporary enclosure per 5.4.1.1.2.

Example 2: A health club has one pool in one enclosure and the pool needs to be closed for repairs or for the season. The pool will need to be recirculated and treated or drained. The enclosure will also need to be locked and the operator must check the integrity of the enclosure at the beginning and end of the each day.

5.4.1.1.2 Aquatic venues without an enclosure but open to the public (*applies to facilities that have multiple pools in one enclosure and one or more pools are open while the others are closed*):

- 1) The water must be recirculated and treated, and the venue must be staffed to keep bathers out;
- 2) The water must be drained, and the venue must be staffed to keep bathers out;
- 3) A temporary enclosure (requires plan review) must be installed to keep bathers out, with routine checks on its integrity (every 4 hours);
- 4) An approved safety cover (certified, listed, and labeled to ASTM F1346-91 by an ANSI-accredited certification organization) must be installed.

Example 1: A hotel has a pool and spa inside the same enclosure. The hotel wants to close the pool for the winter while keeping the spa open. This hotel does not have enough staff to monitor the closed pool. In this case, the hotel may provide a safety cover and provide routine checks or install a temporary enclosure to isolate the spa pool. If these options are not feasible, the hotel will need to either close both pools or keep them both open.

Example 2: A lifeguarded pool has multiple pools inside the same enclosure. One pool needs to be closed for repairs and they want to keep all other pools open. If the facility has adequate staff to monitor the pool that needs repairs during hours of operation, they may recirculate or drain the water and provide staff to ensure bathers stay out of that pool. If the facility does not have enough staff available, the operator may isolate the pool that needs repairs by providing a safety cover or a temporary enclosure.

5.4.1.1.3 Aquatic venues without an enclosure and closed to the public (*typically applies to splash pads that have no enclosure*):

- 1) The water shall be recirculated and treated, and all play equipment turned off;
- 2) The water shall be drained.

Example: A splash pad is closing for the season or for imminent health hazards. The operator may continue to recirculate and treat the water with the play equipment turned off, or they can choose to drain the surge tank.

If you choose to drain your pool, consider the water table in your area to ensure that your pool basin does not pop out of the ground.



Pool safety covers must meet and be installed to the ASTM F1346-91 standard.