

28 REASONS WHY YOUR AQUATIC PROGRAM AND/OR  
FACILITY MAY NOT BE LIABILITY FREE!

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Safety must not be taken lightly. One serious accident can permanently disable a youngster, destroy a person's professional career, and create a lifetime of guilt.

The following checklist is provided to assist you in evaluating your performance with respect to the safety of your program. It will give you an insight to the adequacy of your professional preparation.

1. Have you, as an administrator of an aquatic program, achieved a personal level of competency as it relates to an understanding of safety and hazard prevention in all aquatic activities?
2. Have policies with regard to safety been established by your agency or school and distributed to all persons involved in the aquatic program?
3. In the development of safety policies and procedures were all levels of leadership involved in the process?
4. Is there a program for updating safety policies?
5. Have you an understanding and a genuine concern for the potential legal implications resulting from an accident that might occur in your pool?
6. Have definite steps been taken to assure that participants in your aquatic program are aware of their responsibility for their own safety as well as the safety of others?
7. Have you familiarized yourself with the activities that your instructors or coaches are conducting in terms of their potential risk to participants?
8. Have you satisfied yourself that ever precaution has been taken in high risk activities to prevent the occurrence of an accident?
9. Have you established a standard system for reporting accidents that happen in your pool?
10. Have you developed, written, and rehearsed a complete emergency procedure to assure prompt attention for the injured person?
11. Do you conduct emergency drills on a regular basis?
12. Do you make available current published safety material to instructors or coaches under your supervision?
13. When an accident is reported, do you carefully investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident and when indicated take corrective action?

14. Do you convey to the manufacturer or local supplier of pool equipment any defect or deficiency in the equipment that you have observed that might contribute to an accident?
15. Do you conduct safety workshops with your staff on a regular basis?
16. Are you acquainted with school and state laws, bathing codes, and all local ordinances and regulations which in any way affect the conduct of your aquatic program?
17. When you become involved in planning a new facility, do you make certain that all aspects of safety are incorporated into the plans? In this connection, do you review the final architectural plans to assure that the recommendations you make initially have been carried forth?
18. Have you established evaluative criteria for assessing the need for repair or replacement of equipment at the end of a season or program?
19. Do you involve yourself sufficiently in the process of equipment procurement as to assure that the equipment not only is of high quality but that it possesses all the essential safety features?
20. Have safety rules governing the use of equipment been conveyed to all leaders and where desirable posted for all to see?
21. Have you read your emergency procedures with local hospital authorities and any physician that has been designated as liaison with your program?
22. Are all students who participate in your program covered by accident insurance? Are you and your school or your agency covered by liability insurance for any wrongful acts committed by employees which result in injury to a participant?
23. Do you insist that all participants in your program have an examination by a physician to determine their fitness for participation?
24. Have safety rules governing the use of such equipment as diving boards, slides, scuba gear, floatation devices been established and are they conveyed to all participants and instructors in an appropriate manner?
25. Do you insist that your instructors or coaches inspect and examine equipment each day before they are used in order to assure they are safe?
26. Are you aware of the high risk activities in the field of aquatics?
27. Do you employ only those persons who are currently certified in first aid and CPR basic life support?
28. Is your pool presently equipped with the essential first aid, life support, and lifeguarding equipment?