



Splash Park

Recreational activities are pillars of summer/winter camp, summer school, and recreational center experiences. They provide an opportunity for socialization and learning in a fun setting. These activities also provide an increased liability and potential for staff and/or participant injury. The safety of participants and staff should be standard operating procedure. It should be completed to the highest professional standards and in line with federal, state, local, and accrediting agency guidelines. The following checklist template provides a high level oversight to assist with your activity structure. Your organization is responsible for the development of your own written program guidelines and policies for the oversight of your activities. Through consistent management and preventative programs, exposures can be reduced to help ensure a safe recreational experience.

Pre-Activity

- Established written program guidelines which outline participant assessment, liability waivers, instructor requirements, training, emergency action plan, and other additional criteria as required by best practices along with local, state, and federal statutes.
- Participant assessment protocols in place and completed in line with internal written policies. This includes emotional and physical assessment of each participant to assess their ability to safely participate in the activity.
- Participant files contain emergency contact information and legal counsel reviewed liability waivers signed by legal guardians and are kept on file in a secure location.
- Hiring and vetting of all staff for the camp season. Complete training, along with documentation prior to opening.
- Prior to opening, inspect the complete premises, parking lot, sidewalks, fencing/gates, lighting. Repair or replace noticed deficient items.
- Complete all required local health department inspections and obtain permits prior to opening.

Splash Park Site Setup

- Pad area walking surface is broom brushed concrete, pour in place rubber, aquatic tile or coated surface with slip resistive material.
- Maintain a 6 to 10 feet buffer known as over spray area.
- Any elevated equipment (platforms, steps, railing, handrails, etc. should comply with ADA and Playground Equipment Standards.
- Access area should be compliant to ADA standards.
- Posted rules to include be not limited to hours of operation, shower before entering the pad area, swim diaper for children under the age of 4 (verify with local health codes), no food/drink in the pad area, no glass containers, no pets/animals, no bullying, children under the age of 12 must be supervised by parent/guardian or assigned staff member, foot wear recommended, comply with age restricted areas, no climbing on features unless designed for climbing, clear area when there is the treat of storm/lighting, park not responsible for lost or stolen items, park retain the right to revoke park privileges. All documentation should be reviewed by legal counsel.

Safety During Operating Hours:

- Participant assigned a staff member per assessment.
- Monitor age-restricted areas.
- Maintain proper participant to pad area square footage.
- Daily water testing and results posting. Frequency of testing is based on local health codes.

Inspection and Maintenance:

- Obtain all required health department inspections and permits prior to opening.
- Maintain proper water levels.
- Conduct daily water testing for pH, chlorine, etc. (frequency of testing based on local health codes).
- Regularly clean pump strain baskets.
- Regularly clean and replace pump filters, following manufactures standards.
- Maintain a service/inspection log. Document any corrective action.
- Clean and inspect all water feature devices.
- Pad area should be cleaned and inspected to maintain proper traction (coefficient of friction).
- Inspect all fencing and gates to maintain proper security.
- Weatherize park equipment if in cold weather geographic location.

For additional information:

[ADA Standards](#)

[ASTM F 1292-18L Standard Specifications for Impact](#)

[National Recreation and Park Association - Splash Park Certification](#)

[ASTM F1951-99 Standard Specifications for Determination of Accessibility on Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment](#)

[CDC - Model Aquatic Health Codes](#)

[Recreation Management](#)

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and safety needs, contact
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