

5.2 Swimming Pool – Operational Hours Variation

1. POLICY PURPOSE

To ensure that the community has access to Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool (Pool).

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to the Merredin Pool opening hours during specific weather conditions.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

NIL

4. POLICY STATEMENT

Varying the operational hours at the Pool during specific weather conditions maximises community usage and offers a more cost-effective management, where the facility is closed when not in use.

1. Hot Weather

Where staff are available and temperatures are high, the pool hours may be extended beyond 7pm. In the event of pool hours being extended, it will be at the discretion of the CEO as to length of extension, and subsequent closure time. It should not be taken for granted that all hot days will have extended hours. This decision is also at the discretion of the CEO.

2. Cold Weather

Where daily duties are completed and weather conditions are cold and inclement, the swimming pool may close prior to 6pm with prior approval of the CEO. On days of cold and inclement weather the pool may be closed early in the event of minimal general attendance. Any pre-organised programs will not be affected by any such closure. Patrons shall be made aware of this policy verbally and by signage internally at the swimming pool.

3. Lightning

As per Royal Life Saving Australia Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations, the Pool facilities (including the Hydrotherapy Pool) will be closed to the public where there are lightning strikes within 10km of the location of the water body (as shown on "Lightning Alarm" App). All patrons will be required to leave the facility until further notice. The Aquatic Co-Ordinator is to monitor the Lightning Alarm App and may reopen the facility once the natural event has passed (30 minutes past last strike in the 10 km zone). Where this extends to within 1 hour of closure, the day is considered abandoned the pool will not be reopened. Closure due to lightning is delegated by the CEO to the Aquatic Coordinator. Reporting requirements as listed below are to be followed.

4. Power outage

As per Royal Life Saving Australia Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations, where there is a power outage to the pool facilities including the hydrotherapy pool, patrons are to be removed from the water however may remain on site until power is restored. Entry to the pool on resumption of power supply will only be permitted where water quality parameters (pH & free Chlorine) are within acceptable levels. Where a patron leaves, they may return once power is returned to the facility to re-enter the pool at no extra

charge. Closure due to power outage is delegated by the CEO to the Aquatic Coordinator. Where this extends to within 1 hour of closure, the day is considered abandoned the pool will not be reopened. Reporting requirements as listed below are to be followed.

Any other circumstances requiring closure

Code Brown – Code of Practice to be followed including closure of the Pool all patrons to leave, super chlorinate and the reopen next day.

Reporting Requirements

Where the pool is closed due to lightning or power outage, the Aquatic Coordinator is to verbally advise all patrons. The Aquatic Coordinator is to e-mail and advise the CEO, EMSC and Recreation and Aquatics Manager of this action. The Aquatic Coordinator is to contact the Media Officer to arrange communication to the public via social media. Notices are to be placed at the pool entry.

5. KEY POLICY DEFINITIONS

CEO – Chief Executive Officer
EMSC – Executive Manager of Strategy and Community

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Aquatic Co-Ordinator is responsible for the implementation of this policy. The Aquatics Co-Ordinator will notify the Recreation and Aquatics Manager, Media Manager and the CEO when required.

7. MONITOR AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the Governance Officer every two (2) years.

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