

SUITABLE CLOTHING POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Suitable Clothing Policy is to demonstrate a commitment to the health and safety of Aquatic Centre patrons.

- Maximise the safety of patrons and staff.
- Reduce the risk of clothing damaging equipment or reducing the high standards of water quality.
- Ensure the appropriate modesty of swimming attire at the Goldfields Oasis.
- Ensure opportunities for all members of the community to participate in activities whilst wearing suitable attire.

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Suitable Clothing Policy are to:

- Provide information about how suitable clothing for aquatic activities contributes to the safety, comfort and enjoyment for patrons and staff.
- Provide a clear statement about the types of clothing that are suitable and inappropriate for aquatic activities.

Safety

Aquatic environments can present potential hazard and risk. In accordance with the Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder will aim to reduce risk to staff and patrons and will take proactive measures to minimise the incidence of accident and injury to staff and service users.

It has been identified that particular types of clothing worn whilst participating in some activities pose possible risks to patron's safety. The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has a duty of care to implement risk management practices at Goldfields Oasis Recreation Centre to minimise risk and maximise participant and staff safety and well-being.

Hygiene

Patron behaviour and attire need to be monitored in order to uphold high standards of water quality. Poor patron hygiene is by far the most detrimental factor to maintaining water qualities – actions such as not showering after using the steam room or spa, spitting, urinating and defecating in the pool greatly reduce water quality and requires chemical control to ensure patron safety.

The use of some types of clothing also pose a water quality risk. Clothing that is dirty, soiled or has been worn for exercise or as street clothes require a greater level of chemical control. Nappies that are not designed specifically for aquatic environments also pose a hygiene threat as the nappies and contents dissolve when in water.

Careful consideration of suitable clothing requirements has been made to ensure patron participation is not discouraged due to personal modesty requirements. As a general rule, if clothing is clean, relatively tight fitting and allows participants to swim safely, the benefits of participation far outweigh any risk to water quality.

Different types of aquatic clothing can be perceived by the public to be a hygiene risk. It is therefore important to educate all patrons about what clothing is deemed suitable and to effectively communicate and enforce this policy to ensure there is a greater level of tolerance and understanding amongst patrons.

Modesty

The type of clothing worn in aquatic and leisure environments needs to be seen as appropriately modest as determined by centre management. This means care needs to be taken to ensure clothing is not unnecessarily revealing or transparent.

These are common practices that many aquatic and leisure facilities adopt to ensure that safety, hygiene and patron comfort are upheld. This policy and centre practices in implementing the policy are done following best practice and industry standards

Suitable Clothing

Suitable clothing is designated swimwear that will maximise safety, hygiene and comfort for staff and patrons. It is specifically designed for water based activities, and is generally compact in design and fit.

Suitable aquatic clothing must be clean and solely worn for the aquatic environment. Appropriate styles of clothing include:

- Swimming costumes, including culturally appropriate swimming costume styles such as a 'burkini';
- Sun tops / rash tops;
- Swim skirts;
- Board shorts; and
- For infants, aquatic nappies that are specifically designed for use in pools

There are often constraints for people to adhere to the suitable clothing requirements. Financial constraints can see people wearing a cotton t-shirt rather than a rash vest, or leggings and a tunic rather than a Burkini. In these situations, where the clothing is clean, relatively tight fitting and does not pose a safety hazard, they can be allowed. Patrons will be prevented from participating in aquatic activities where their clothing poses a health or safety risk.

Inappropriate Clothing

Some clothing styles and fabric presents greater risk to staff and patrons in an emergency situation. Some clothing is considered inappropriate as it does not meet the modesty requirements for a public facility. Street clothing can also place pressure on the performance of filtration systems and impact on water quality (disinfection / hygiene and clarity).

Inappropriate clothing includes:

- Heavy clothing such as jeans, cargo shorts, coats, jackets;
- Loose fitting and/or free flowing fabrics worn as robes, wraps;
- Clothing that is made from fabrics such as cotton, polar fleece, wool or denim regardless of its style;
- Underwear and undergarments worn as outerwear
- Garments that may become transparent when wet; i.e. Pale and light-weight fabrics
- Any type of clothing that has formed part of the patron's street or exercise wear for that day, including items that show signs of dirt or pollutants; and
- For infants, standard disposable or cloth nappies.

One towel per person must also be brought to the centre

Exceptions to these entry conditions exist and must be approved prior swimming and can only be granted by the Centre Manager. All exceptions are to be of a set period.

Exclusions from Activities.

Facility staff reserve the right to prohibit any patron who does not have suitable clothing from entering the water or exercise areas, and to request that any patron who enters the area in inappropriate clothing to exit the water.



Front

Rear

