

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY – NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL

AQUATIC RESPONSIBILITY CODE

Responsible Department:	Financial and Commercial Services
Responsible Section:	Entertainment and Leisure Services
Responsible Officer:	Manager Entertainment and Leisure Services

1. Conditions of Entry – Narrabri Shire Council Aquatic Responsibility Code

The following is the wording from the Narrabri Shire Council Aquatic Responsibility Code which is a condition of entry that applies to all persons within Council's swimming pool grounds without written exemption from Council. The code will be displayed at the entrance to the pool, on printed handouts and in other prominent places at each facility.

"Narrabri Shire Council is promoting the Aquatic Responsibility Code for patrons attending all Council operated pools. The code is a safety initiative introduced to keep all pool users safe. Regardless of how you enjoy your water activities, always show courtesy to others and be aware that there are inherent risks in all water based recreation activities that common sense and personal awareness can reduce. These risks include shallow water, wet surfaces and patrons of varying age and swimming ability.

It is your responsibility to know and obey this code. Pool safety is a shared responsibility that requires a co-operative and community approach. Observe the code below and share with others the responsibility for a great experience at the Pool.

- 1.1. Observe and obey all signs and warnings at the pool as well as all lawful directives given by Pool Lifeguards and Pool Staff.
- 1.2. Always check the pool depth before entering the water. Enter the water in a safe manner and check for other swimmers before jumping in. You must avoid people already in the water.
- 1.3. Always be respectful of other people and the nature of their particular pool activity.
- 1.4. Never run on wet areas at the pool. Always move around the pool in a safe manner.
- 1.5. If you are involved in or witness an incident at the pool, remain at the scene and identify yourself to the Pool Lifeguard.
- 1.6. Do not swim, bathe or undertake any other aquatic activity if your ability is impaired by drugs or alcohol.

- 1.7. Always swim in water that is a safe depth for your capability. Take lessons from a qualified instructor to progress and learn swimming, first aid and resuscitation skills.
- 1.8. Children under the age of 11 must be actively supervised at all times by a responsible person over the age of 16.
- 1.9. Parents and carers must communicate and establish responsibility for direct supervision of children at all times around water. Designate at least one adult "Water Watcher" to supervise children around pools especially during social gatherings. Don't rely on older siblings or other children to supervise swimmers and don't rely on swimming lessons, flotation devices or other equipment to make a child "water safe."
- 1.10. Always swim with a friend and keep a look out for your mates.

Our Pool Lifeguards are at the pool all day to assist, educate and help you to understand the Aquatic Responsibility Code. This will ensure that all pool patrons enjoy themselves at Narrabri Shire Council Pools. Irresponsible, reckless and anti-social behavior may result in immediate suspension from pool use and/or cancellation of season passes."

2. Watch Around Water

Supervision of young children at public pools has been a concern for the aquatics industry for many years. There is often the misconception by parents and carers that the responsibility for supervision of young children lies solely with lifeguards. Lifeguards are employed on a 1:100 ratio based on the expectation that parents will provide direct supervision of children.

Watch Around Water is an important industry driven program that contributes significantly to ensuring the safety and reducing risk at our public swimming pools. It provides a consistent message in line with best practice to the public about effective supervision of young children at public pools, and demonstrates that the aquatics industry is organised and takes their responsibility for patron safety seriously.

The program is administered by Royal Life Saving Society of Western Australia and was adopted into NSC swimming facilities in 2015. It promotes the following safe supervision policies which are additional conditions of entry:

- 2.1. Children under 5 years must be accompanied into the Centre by a responsible adult over 16 years of age and supervised at arm's reach at all times.
- 2.2. Children under 5 years must wear a Watch Around Water armband whilst in the facility. Armbands are a visual aid to assist Pool Staff in identifying who should be within arm's reach of an adult and a reminder to parents & guardians about the importance of close supervise for small children.

2.3. Children under 11 years must be accompanied into the Centre by a responsible adult over 16 years and supervised at all times.

2.4. In order for parents or guardians to actively supervise they should be dressed ready to take immediate action, including unexpected entry into a pool.

3. Diving

The Royal Life Saving Society of Australia advises that there is a significant body of evidence to suggest that shallow water diving can lead to a range of injuries that include head injuries (broken teeth, scalp injuries and facial fractures), to the more significant spinal cord injury.

As such "No Diving" signs have been applied to the concourses around Council's pools in locations where it is deemed dangerous. A line has also been applied around the main pool of each complex to enable swimmers to more easily identify areas of shallow water. A red line indicates areas where diving is prohibited.

Any group wishing to conduct dive starts into the shallow end of a competition pool for relays must conduct a risk assessment of the activity beforehand and acknowledge full responsibility for consequences arising from the activity. The group acknowledges that the Royal Life Saving Society and Narrabri Shire Council have warned against diving in such areas and that significant injury could result.

4. Additional Conditions of Entry

The following conditions of entry also apply to all persons entering swimming pool grounds without written exemption from Council. A person must:

- 4.1. Pay the entry fee on entering the facility or display a current season ticket.
- 4.2. Comply with Narrabri Shire Council Swimming Pool Management Plan Section 10 Activities Requiring Approval- All Pools.
- 4.3. Not partake in behaviour considered to be anti-social, provocative, abusive or violent.
- 4.4. Not obstruct the entry/exit points to a pool.
- 4.5. Not interfere with any pool safety equipment.
- 4.6. Follow all directions for the safe use of any area of the facility including, spring boards, water slides, inflatable play equipment and children's play equipment etc.
- 4.7. Not enter a pump room, chemical storage area, plant room, and kiosk or staff area.
- 4.8. Not enter a first aid room except to receive first aid or at the invitation of pool staff.

- 4.9. Provide evidence of age, if requested.
- 4.10. Wear an appropriate unsoiled bathing costume at all times.
- 4.11. Be unsoiled before entering a pool.
- 4.12. Not urinate or defecate anywhere in the grounds other than in a public toilet.
- 4.13. Not attempt to enter the swimming pool grounds whilst intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, nor bring or consume alcoholic or non-prescription drugs on pool grounds.
- 4.14. Not cause or permit an animal that is under the person's control to enter or remain in swimming pools grounds. Guide dogs excepted (see Section 16, Access for People Living with a Disability).
- 4.15. Not smoke within pool grounds or within 10m of a pedestrian entrance to a facility.
- 4.16. Not take photographs, video or electronic recordings in change rooms.
- 4.17. Not sit on, dive over, or otherwise interfere with lane ropes.
- 4.18. Not damage, defaces, interfere with or alter swimming pool infrastructure or signage.
- 4.19. Not obstruct any authorised person or employee of, or contractor to perform their required duties.