

# SYNOPSIS OF MAJOR CHANGES

## AQUATIC HEALTH ORDINANCE

<b>Proposed Regulations</b>	<b>Current Regulations</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Deregulation of Health Clubs	Health Clubs pay a permit fee and are regulated by the Health Department.	Limited public health risk at health clubs.
Spa pools and interactive water feature facilities must be under the supervision of someone with a pool operator license, but that person does not need to be on site.	All facilities must have a pool operator on site whenever the facility is open.	Allows a pool operator responsible for a spa or interactive water feature more freedom of movement to carry out their duties (Typically, facilities with only a spa pool have a pool operator who also serves in another role, such as maintenance).
Each pool management company must register and pay a fee prior to operating swimming pools in the City.	No current requirement.	Assure that knowledgeable and responsible individuals/companies are operating swimming pools.
The Director will review and act upon a variance request within 20 days.	The Director will review and act upon a variance request within 60 days.	Address variance requests in a shorter time frame.
Doggie swim allowed at conclusion of season (no humans may swim during or after doggie swim).	Not allowed in the code; recently swimming pools have been allowed to have a doggie swim at the end of the season after agreeing to certain requirements.	Allows dogs to swim in aquatic facilities at the end of the season by bringing the regulations in line with current practice.
Each separate body of water at an aquatic facility shall have a separate circulation, filtration, and disinfection system.	Required by current code, but a few (2) facilities are grandfathered.	Wading pools and main pools operating on a single system have issues maintaining proper chlorine residual. Additionally, the chance of an unknown fecal accident in a wading pool is high. This would contaminate the main pool and expose more citizens to this risk. Finally, a wading pool should have a faster turnover rate to compensate for the higher bather load relative to volume of water.
Class One civil violation for falsifying records or credentials (\$5000).	Currently the Health Department's only recourse is to pursue a criminal prosecution	A stronger deterrent is needed to address this issue short of prosecuting a person for a felony.
Class Two civil violation for operating on a suspended permit; operating without a permit; operating without a management company permit (\$1000 for the first violation; \$2000 for the second violation).	\$50 for first violation; \$100 for second violation.	A stronger deterrent is needed to prevent facilities from operating on a suspended permit. Operating on a suspended permit puts patrons at serious risk.
Class Four civil violation for other violations of the ordinance (\$100 for first ticket; \$250 for second ticket)	\$50 for first ticket; \$100 for second ticket for the same violation.	Increases the amount of civil penalties for the first time in many years. In 2009, only 40 tickets were written during the summer season at the 133 non-City owned pools under permit. Tickets are seldom written unless it is for a repeat violation. Ticket revenue goes to the City's general fund, <u>not</u> to the Health Department.
Plan review fee for new facilities. Plan review fee for remodeling.	No current requirement.	Cost recovery.
The gap between ladders and the wall may not be more than 4 inches, and not less than 3 inches.	No current requirement.	Consistent with playground requirements. Would prevent a child from getting his/her head stuck underwater between the ladder and the wall

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Section added to regulate bathing attire. Nude bathing prohibited.	No current requirement.	Street clothes may hinder swimming ability, causing a poor swimmer to drown.
Stricter egress requirements.	Current code requires one means of egress for pools with perimeter under 100ft	Brings Alexandria code into conformance with other local jurisdictions (Fairfax & Arlington).
Main drain outlet requirements were modified to comply with VGB.	Current code allows for single main drains.	Federal Law requires this change.
Increased lighting requirements for indoor pools and outdoor pools that are open after dark.	Current code allows for lower light levels.	Brings Alexandria code into conformance with other local jurisdictions (Fairfax & Arlington).
Thermometer required in skimmer for heated main pools.	No thermometer required in skimmer for heated main pools.	Reduces the number of times the lifeguard leaves the pool deck unattended to monitor heater/water temperature in the filter room.
Exceptions for life line.	Life line must always be in place at the 5' depth point	Common sense regulation to allow residents to swim laps.
Water fountain/water dispenser must provide cold water.	Water fountain must be provided in pool enclosure (no requirement regarding water temperature).	Water fountains can be expensive to install and frequently are damaged over the winter. This would allow facilities to provide a cheaper water cooler (i.e. Deer Park cooler or similar product). Cold water is important to prevent heat stroke.
Wading pool gate must be self-closing and self-latching.	No current requirement.	Prevent unattended children from leaving the wading pool area and falling into a deeper main pool.
Ventilation for indoor facilities.	No current requirement.	Chloramines have been linked to asthma.
Authorized personnel only sign on filter room / chemical room doors.	No current requirement.	Will help keep kids out of an area with hazardous chemicals.
Bather load placards posted.	No current requirement.	Brings Alexandria code into conformance with other local jurisdictions (Fairfax & Arlington).
Ratio of one lifeguard for 25 patrons in pool.	No current requirement.	Most lifeguards are unable to proactively monitor more than 25 patrons in the water.
10 minute break every hour and 30 minute break after 4 hours.	No current requirement.	It is difficult to stay alert when working for 8-10 hours in the sun without a break. Decreased vigilance may lead to a drowning.
Demonstration of skills (lifeguard and pool operator)	No current requirement.	Method to ensure that lifeguards/pool operators have been trained as indicated by their certifications.
Blood borne pathogen kit	No current requirement.	OSHA required.
CPR pocket mask.	No current requirement.	If CPR is necessary, this will help protect the lifeguard from communicable diseases.
Secondary containment for chemical storage.	No current requirement.	Will prevent minor spills from becoming a HazMat incident.
No diving signs.	No current requirement.	Signs would help to prevent a serious spinal injury resulting from a patron diving into shallow water.
Water contamination placard/instructions.	Current requirement is not based on most recent recommendation by CDC.	Recent CDC recommendations suggest a longer contact time to inactivate pathogens present in a fecal accident.
Deck contamination instructions.	No current requirement.	Prevent the spread of communicable diseases via improper/inadequate cleaning procedures.
Increased minimum chlorine residual for pools that are stabilized.	Current requirement is 1ppm minimum for CYA<35ppm; 1.5ppm for CYA=50ppm	Chlorine becomes less effective as CYA increases.
Spa emergency pump shut off switch.		An emergency shut off will allow all systems to be shut down quickly in the event of an emergency.
Hard wired telephone for spa areas.	Telephone may be located within 100 feet of spa.	Same requirement as for swimming pools; patron may be unable to locate the emergency telephone if it is not within the spa area.

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Spa turnover rate of <15 min.	Current requirement is a 30 minute turnover.	High rate of usage relative to volume, coupled with higher temperature requires higher turnover to maintain proper disinfection and water quality levels.
Extra set of cartridge filters.	No current requirement.	Allows pool to be operated while first set of filters are cleaned.
TDS requirement changed to 1,500 ppm.	Current maximum is 3,000 ppm	At TDS of 1,500ppm, chlorine becomes significantly less effective. Other water quality parameters become harder to manage.
Waterpark facility construction requirements.	No current requirement.	Provides clearer guidance for construction of these facilities.
Interactive water feature facility requirements.	No current requirement.	Provides clearer guidance for construction of these facilities.
Secondary disinfection device required for water features that aerosolize water.	No current requirement.	Aerosolized water poses serious public health risk if inadequately chlorinated. Secondary device would provide another layer of protection.
Ring buoy and throw rope not required.	Currently required.	Current generation of lifeguards not trained to use this device.
More detailed requirements regarding returns (number and placement).		Better circulation of filtered/chlorinated water. Brings Alexandria code into conformance with other local jurisdictions (Fairfax & Arlington).
Two light fixtures required in filter rooms.	No explicit requirement for number of fixtures; current requirement is based on number of foot candles.	Numerous filter rooms do not have natural light. If/when the only light fixture breaks, there is insufficient light to safely operate dangerous equipment and handle dangerous chemicals.
Facilities requiring more than one preoperational inspection will be required to pay a fee before the Health Department will conduct a reinspection.	No current requirement.	Cost recovery. In 2009, 118 seasonal pools were opened. 21 of these required reinspection before opening.
Diving board requirements are stricter (>3.0M board refers to FINA standards; 1.0m<Boards<3.0m have stricter requirements.	Current requirement is less strict for boards that are higher than 1.0m.	Stricter distance and depth requirements help to prevent spinal injuries.
Maximum cyanuric acid level is 50 ppm	Max level is 100 ppm.	Increased levels of cyanuric acid prevent chlorine from disinfecting and oxidizing contaminants. At CYA = 100 ppm, chlorine is ineffective.
Provision to exempt bed and breakfasts from code IF a sign is posted indicating that the pool or spa is not inspected by the Health Department.	There is currently no exemption.	Allows bed and breakfasts in a home to have an unregulated pool or spa. Lifeguard and CPO requirements make it financially impractical for a bed and breakfast to have a pool or spa.
Provision to exempt pools or spas located where there is also a child care facility from code IF the pool or spa is locked or otherwise secured while the child care facility is in operation.	There is currently no exemption.	Allows child care facilities to be located at homes with a pool or spa IF children are protected either by permitting of the pool/spa under the code OR by securing the pool/spa when children are present.
Outdoor and indoor maximum chlorine level raised to 5 ppm.	Current requirements allow for a maximum chlorine level of 3 ppm (outdoor) and 2 ppm (indoor).	Allows more latitude for pools trying to adjust for wide fluctuations in bather load
Facilities required to post a sign stating that the pool is inspected by AHD; the sign shall provide contact info for AHD in the event of a complaint.	No current requirement.	Constituents may have a complaint/concern, but may not know which regulatory authority to contact.