

LOPEZ SWIM CENTER

Youth Access, Supervision & Independent Use Policy

This policy defines youth access, supervision requirements, independent use expectations, swim test standards, behavioral expectations, and pick-up/drop-off procedures at Lopez Swim Center.

Lopez Swim Center welcomes youth participants and strives to provide a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all guests. While youth are encouraged to use and enjoy the facility, Lopez Swim Center is not a daycare, babysitting service, or after-school supervision program.

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear expectations for youth participants, parents/guardians, staff, and volunteers while maintaining a safe aquatic environment for everyone.

Age & Supervision Requirements

Individuals under age 18 may only use the pools during scheduled lifeguarded swim sessions. Youth are not permitted to swim during adult-only swim periods or any other time when lifeguards are not on duty.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
Under 8	A parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult age 18 or older must remain on the pool deck or within the pool dome at all times.
Ages 8–13	A parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult age 18 or older must remain on-site at all times.
Ages 14-17	May use the facility independently with a signed parent/legal guardian waiver and permission form. Independent use is subject to facility rules, behavior expectations, and staff approval.

Any child using a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket or flotation aid must have a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult age 18 or older within arm's reach at all times, regardless of age.

Independent facility access is a privilege. Lopez Swim Center may deny, suspend, or revoke independent access at any time due to unsafe, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior, failure to follow staff direction, or violation of facility rules.

Independent Youth Access

Youth ages 14 and older may use the facility without a parent or guardian present only if:

- they have a valid membership or admission
- a parent/guardian has signed all required waivers and emergency contact forms
- they have successfully completed any required swim assessment
- they are able to follow all facility rules and staff directions independently

Staff may deny independent access if a participant demonstrates unsafe behavior, inability to follow rules, or conduct that negatively impacts the safety or operation of the facility.

Swim Test Requirements

Swim tests may be required for youth participants using the facility independently or accessing certain aquatic areas or activities.

Purpose of Swim Testing

Swim tests help verify:

- swimming ability
- comfort in deep water
- basic water safety competency
- ability to safely participate without direct guardian supervision

Swim Test Standards

Participants may be required to:

- swim 25 yards continuously
- tread water / float on back unassisted for 30 seconds
- demonstrate safe entry and exit from the pool

Lopez Swim Center may:

- issue wristbands or visual identifiers
- document swim test completion status in CommunityPass or other facility systems

Staff reserve the right to retest or restrict access if safety concerns arise.

After-School & Facility Use Expectations

Students and youth participants are welcome to use the facility within established policies and operating hours. However:

- youth below the approved independent access age may not enter the facility unsupervised
- the lobby and facility may not be used as an unsupervised after-school hangout or waiting area
- students may not remain in the facility indefinitely without participating in facility activities or programs
- all guests must properly check in at the front desk upon arrival

Lopez Swim Center is not responsible for supervising youth before check-in, after leaving the facility, or while waiting for transportation.

Pick-Up & Drop-Off Procedures

Parents/guardians may drop off youth participants who meet the independent access requirements outlined in this policy.

Youth participants are expected to:

- enter through the main entrance

- properly check in at the front desk
- remain within authorized facility areas
- follow all staff instructions and facility rules

Parents/guardians remain responsible for arranging timely transportation and pickup.

Youth may wait briefly in designated lobby areas for rides; however:

- staff are not responsible for supervising youth awaiting pickup
- disruptive or unsafe behavior will not be tolerated
- staff may contact parents/guardians or emergency contacts if a youth remains after closing or refuses to leave when directed

Guardian Responsibility

Parents/guardians remain responsible for the supervision, behavior, transportation, and overall well-being of minors using the facility.

Lopez Swim Center lifeguards are responsible for water surveillance, hazard prevention, and emergency response — not individualized child supervision.

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- ensure youth understand facility rules
- maintain accurate emergency contact information
- arrange timely pickup and transportation
- support staff decisions regarding safety and behavior expectations

Youth Behavior Expectations

All youth participants are expected to:

- follow facility rules and posted signage
- behave respectfully toward staff, volunteers, and guests
- comply immediately with staff directions
- avoid running, horseplay, or unsafe behavior
- refrain from bullying, harassment, abusive language, or disruptive conduct
- use locker rooms and shared spaces appropriately

Lopez Swim Center reserves the right to remove or restrict individuals whose behavior creates safety concerns or negatively impacts facility operations.

Discipline, Removal & Suspension Procedures

Progressive Discipline Process

Depending on the severity of the situation, staff may utilize the following process:

Step 1 Verbal warning

Step 2 Removal from activity or facility for the remainder of the day

Step 3 Parent/guardian contact

Step 4 Temporary suspension of independent access privileges

Step 5 Long-term or permanent restriction from facility access for repeated or severe violations

Immediate Removal Situations

Certain behaviors may result in immediate removal without prior warning, including:

- violence or fighting
- threats or intimidation
- harassment or bullying
- vandalism or theft
- dangerous or reckless behavior
- repeated refusal to follow safety instructions
- inappropriate conduct toward staff or other guests

Lopez Swim Center staff and management reserve the right to determine appropriate disciplinary actions based on the severity of the situation and overall safety considerations.