

OTLBC 2008 Pool Policy Recommendation

Members have asked the Club to review the adult-only swim times and to provide a clear policy statement in advance of the 2008 season. The information below answers the request.

Background

The OTLBC pool is available for daily use by all members. A pool user could be a tennis member, a lawn bowling member or a pool member. There are tennis and lawn bowling members who do not use the pool at all – other members fall into a broadly defined usage range (seldom, weekly, frequently, etc).

For many years, the OTLBC has offered an adult-only swim time during the week twice daily at 12:30pm and 5:30pm for one hour. The restriction has applied to the pool only and not the entire pool area. There is no adults-only swim on weekends and statutory holidays (a few years ago, there was a weekend adult-swim).

In 2007, the evening adult-only swim was moved from 5:30p.m.-6:30pm to 7:45p.m.-8:45pm (to coincide with the last hour of the pool day). The change was made as a response to dissatisfaction among some pool users about the early evening adult swim time; the dissatisfaction had existed for some years. Early in the 2007 season, an informal search for alternatives to the 5:30pm time was done (by speaking with members in the pool area and by telephoning some active member-parents to inquire about possible convenient times) before the change was implemented.

The pool records for multiple years immediately prior to 2007 indicate consistently low usage during the previously offered adult swim times. The daily pool log tracks number of pool users every two hours starting at 9:00am. However, the pool log is an imperfect indicator of past use because the two-hour marks do not exactly track the adult swim times and the counts are performed manually (i.e. human error).

Members' Concern

The new adult swim time for 2007 was reasonably popular with families. However, the new time has not been well-received by some adult pool users. A formal grievance was made at the end of August 2007 by a group of adult members from among all membership types, who requested a return to the old time. Shortly thereafter another group, also from among various membership types, brought forward a counter-petition requesting that no adult-only swim time be offered at the OTLBC. Both groups offered strong reasons for their preference.

Recommendation

After wide consultation with members, a comparative review of local pools regarding similar use restrictions and scrutiny of five years of OTLBC pool records, and based on the Club's current guiding formal documents, the following pool policies are recommended for 2008:

- Monday to Thursday (excluding Statutory holidays), OTLBC offers *one* adults-only pool time at 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

- During adults-only pool time, no children are permitted in the pool enclosure.
- During adults-only pool time, the Club may offer programming such as aquafit (not new).
- The existing lap lane, in-place during most pool hours, will be removed at 6:30pm on Mondays through Fridays and at 1:00pm on the weekends and Statutory holidays
- As described below, if the adult-only pool time is underutilized in 2008, the offering may be changed promptly and the Club may do so without prior warning.
 - The change may be one of *or* some combination the following: reduce the days when adults-only pool time is designated, shorten the adults-only pool time from 60 minutes.
 - Underutilized means that the adult pool time is used by fewer than 8 people per day on a regular basis, which is 2 or more times per week.
- The lifeguards are in attendance for water safety and emergency response. Parents/adults are always expected to monitor the conduct of all children in their care and ensure that other members' reasonable enjoyment of the pool area is not adversely affected.
- Unacceptable conduct (dangerous, rude or inconsiderate) by any person *of any age* may result in suspension or loss of OTLBC membership privileges.
- The adult pool time is designed for members 19 years and over and may include, for lap swimming purposes only, any member 14 years and over wishing to swim laps while in the pool area during these designated times. These "adult swim privileges" for a junior must be approved by a manager.

Final Note

The recent expression of concern by various pool users has been somewhat of a challenge for us. The adult swim-time topic has re-emphasized the fact that OTLBC members have varying and sometimes conflicting preferences among distinct user groups. Yet, the Club has over 1,200 members. It will be important next season (and always) for all concerned people to consider the reasonable preferences of others. Thanks for your cooperation.

*David Rhynas / Camille Lewis
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 October 10, 2007*