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	K2 CRAWLEY	
TITLE: POOLSIDE AREAS OF HAZARD		

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1. Amendment Details

None

2. Scope & Objective

It is the objective of K2 Crawley to ensure that lifeguards are fully aware of the areas of hazard within the pool hall area.

This operating document outlines such hazards in the pool.

3. Reference Documents

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Internal

Risk Assessments

External

4. Operating Details

4.1 General Advice to Lifeguards

4.1.1 The following are physical areas within the pool environment, principally design related, that present a hazard or potential hazard worthy of specific note.

4.1.2 All Lifeguards must:

- a) Be aware of all these areas and issues
- b) Modify their pool supervision accordingly to take them into account
- c) Take all necessary preventative action in order to minimise the risk of an incident occurring.
- d) Educate the swimmers as much as practicably possible about the design of the pool environment and the associated hazards and risks

The operating procedures detailed below are all in addition to these listed above.

4.2 Slippery pool surround and changing room floor

4.2.1 Nature of Hazard: If swimmers move quickly, run or do not take care, they could slip and fall, particularly when the surface is wet. The risk is increased when swimmers are in bare feet. Lifeguards must be aware of the hazard presented by the very hard pool surround and changing room floor surface, and the presence of equipment or fixtures/fittings (eg lockers), and associated risk of a serious head injury occurring.

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4.2.2 Nature of Hazards are as follows;

- Poolside surround
- Boom dividing main pool
- Steps entering and exiting the pool.
- Wet changing room floors.
- Shower floors

4.2.3 Lifeguards must, therefore:

- a) Remove excess water from floors as soon as practicably possible
- b) Prevent actions likely to increase this risk (eg running, misbehaviour)
- c) Prevent users walking on the boom
- d) Undertake regular checks in wet changing room to ensure that floors are not too slippery.

4.3 Restricted access caused by lifeguard chairs

4.3.1 Nature of Hazard: Due to the varying width of the pool surrounds, the lifeguard chairs may cause an obstruction when people pass by them. The risk is increased when swimmers walk closer to the pool edge than they may normally do so. The hazard is greater where the water is deep.

4.3.2 The recommended (SISP) minimum surround width is 2m to allow the free flow of swimmers.

4.3.3 Lifeguards must, therefore:

- a) Ensure the lifeguard chair is positioned as far back from the pool edge as reasonably possible
- b) Supervise swimmers in the area and minimise any swimmers causing further obstruction by (for example) gathering around the lifeguard chair

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- c) Ensure that Lifeguard's face pool when changing over shift and to make change-over is as quick as possible.

4.4 Grilles in pool floor/wall

4.4.1 Nature of Hazard: Swimmers may be able to get fingers or toes caught in the grilles on the pool floor or the small outlets in the pool wall. This may lead to panic and disorientation and could increase the risk of drowning.

4.4.2 To reduce this risk the width of the aperture in these grilles must not exceed 8mm.

4.4.3 Lifeguards must, therefore:

- a) Monitor bather behaviour in and around grilled area's.

4.5 Refraction/Reflection of light on the water

4.5.1 Nature of Hazard: Natural or artificial light may refract or reflect on the water reducing the visibility of swimmers/casualties under the water surface. The impact of the hazard will alter during the operating hours as the position and intensity of natural light alters, and the level of artificial light is changed.

4.5.2 Lifeguards must, therefore:

- a) Position themselves accordingly to minimise the effect of the light. However, the poolside position must not compromise the overall quality of supervision and must take into account all other hazards and risks
- b) Report any concerns to the Duty Manager
- c) Reporting any variance in lifeguarding position to lifeguard on change-over.

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4.6 Steps into pool

4.6.1 Nature of Hazard: Metal "ladder" type steps into the pool. As they are extremely steep and sometimes can be slippery, swimmers must take great care when entering and exiting the pool.

4.6.2 This is especially relevant for children, the elderly and swimmers with physical impairments.

4.6.3 Lifeguards must, therefore:

- a) Visually check the steps on an on-going basis paying particular attention to the sharpness of edges, the slipperiness of the steps/grips and the security/safety of the anchor points
- b) Regularly check disabled steps due to there portability.
- c) Regularly check teaching pool steps for chips and damage to tiles.
- d) Report any damage to Duty manager as soon as possible.

4.7 Channel block/scum channel gratings

4.7.1 Generic Nature of Hazard: The channel that runs around the outside of the pool (overflow water) could be slippery, and swimmers could potentially trap fingers or toes in between the grilles. This may lead to them being disorientated and falling in the water.

4.7.2 The channel gratings may also have gaps between them which will increase the risk of trapping fingers or toes.

4.7.3 Lifeguards must, therefore:

- a) Where possible to advise bathers not touch the grills.

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- b) Lifeguards to monitor bathers when walking around or holding on to side of the pool.

4.8 Disabled hoists

4.8.1 Nature of Hazard: Disabled hoist is a temporary fixture to poolside. Due to awkward shape and size, they could cause injury to customers especially the very young and elderly.

4.8.2 Lifeguards must, therefore:

- a) *Be fully trained in the safe use and operation of the hoist.*
- b) *Check to ensure there is no damage before or after use of the hoist.*
- c) *Report any defects found to the Duty Manager as soon as possible.*

4.9 Pool Boom and Starting Blocks

4.9.1 Nature of Hazard: Booms at K2 Crawley presents several dangers in terms of slipperiness. Also due to the potential shallow or deep water either side of it if any bather were to jump or dive in from it.

4.9.2 Lifeguards must, therefore:

- a) Restrict access to customers except to authorised swimming club sessions.
- b) Clean boom on a regular basis to prevent algae build up
- c) Ensure that signs are always up to warn bathers not to use the starting blocks.
- d) Report any defects to the Duty Manager as soon as possible.

4.10 Diving Boards and Tower

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4.10.1 Nature of hazard: The diving boards at K2 present several dangers both in terms of structure and of usage. The usage guidelines are covered in OD 86.7.37 Use of Diving Boards.

4.10.2 Lifeguards must therefore:

- a) Ensure that 1m boards are only lowered and in place when diving sessions are on
- b) The diving tower is locked closed when the boards are not in use.

4.11 Leisure Pool Raised Structure

4.11.1 Nature of hazard: The leisure pool raised structure does present a couple of hazards, firstly with people trying to climb up the rocky parts of this and secondly with unauthorised access up the stairs to slides and behind the structure when the slides are not in use.

4.11.2 Lifeguards must therefore:

- a) Ensure that customers do not climb on the structure
- b) Put chains in place to prevent unauthorised access to the slide and to the rear when the slides are not in operation.

4.12 Moveable Pool Floors and Booms

4.12.1 Nature of hazard: Both the end sections of the 50m pool floor are moveable along with the booms. The floor could potentially trap fingers and hands if moved with people in the pool. The booms if lowered or raised with people in the pool area could casue injury.

412.2 Lifeguards must therefore:

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- a) Ensure that there are no swimmers in the pool when the floor is moved
- b) Ensure the pool is clear of customers when the boom is moved and that no staff are located on the boom at the time of movement.