

## **GUIDANCE ON STAFFING PLANS AND ZONES OF PATRON SURVEILLANCE**

Lifeguard staffing plans are a new requirement that must be developed and implemented no later than November 2, 2019. Ideally the staffing plans would be developed by a trained lifeguard or lifeguard manager and may include useful operating procedures that are not required by law such as lifeguard staff rotation procedures and emergency notification procedures, but the staffing plan must always contain information required in Circular FCS 3-2018 9.4 Zone of Patron Surveillance. Facilities with changing bather loads may identify multiple zone setups in the staffing plan for slow days or busy days.

### **9.4 ZONE OF PATRON SURVEILLANCE**

**9.4.1** When lifeguards are required by this rule, or when provided voluntarily, the licensee, will determine the number and placement of lifeguards by developing a staffing plan with zones of patron surveillance.

**9.4.2** Zones of patron surveillance are sized so that:

- (a)** the lifeguard is capable of viewing the entire area of the assigned zone of patron surveillance;
- (b)** the lifeguard is able to scan the entire area of the assigned zone of patron surveillance once every 10 seconds. A significant change in the number of patrons using the public swimming pool may change the time required to scan a zone of patron surveillance. The licensee must increase, or decrease, the number and size of zones of patron surveillance, and subsequently the number of on-duty lifeguards, in order to meet this standard scanning time and make efficient use of lifeguard resources;
- (c)** the lifeguard is able to reach the furthest extent of the assigned zone of patron surveillance within 20 seconds; and
- (d)** all areas of the public swimming pool are assigned a zone of patron surveillance.

**9.4.3** The staffing plan will:

- (a)** include diagrams of the zones of patron surveillance and placement of lifeguards;
- (b)** identify the position of each lifeguard (elevated stand, walking, in-water, or other approved position); and
- (c)** identify any additional responsibilities for each zone.

**9.4.4** Each zone of patron surveillance will be staffed by at least one lifeguard while that zone is open for use by the public.

**9.4.5** The licensee may close a zone of patron surveillance and prohibit use of that area by the public.

**9.4.6** Staffing plan and zones of patron surveillance must be developed and implemented within one year after the adoption of this rule.

The following examples illustrate different ways to setup zones of patron surveillance and provide the require information for the staffing plan.

Figure 1 shows a standard pool with a very small number of bathers and a lifeguard posted in a lifeguard tower. The lifeguard is able to see the entire pool, reach the furthest corner of the pool in 20 seconds and is able to scan the entire zone every 10 seconds. The lifeguards only duty is to observe swimmers and ensure nobody is horseplaying on the deck.

Figure 1: Single Zone

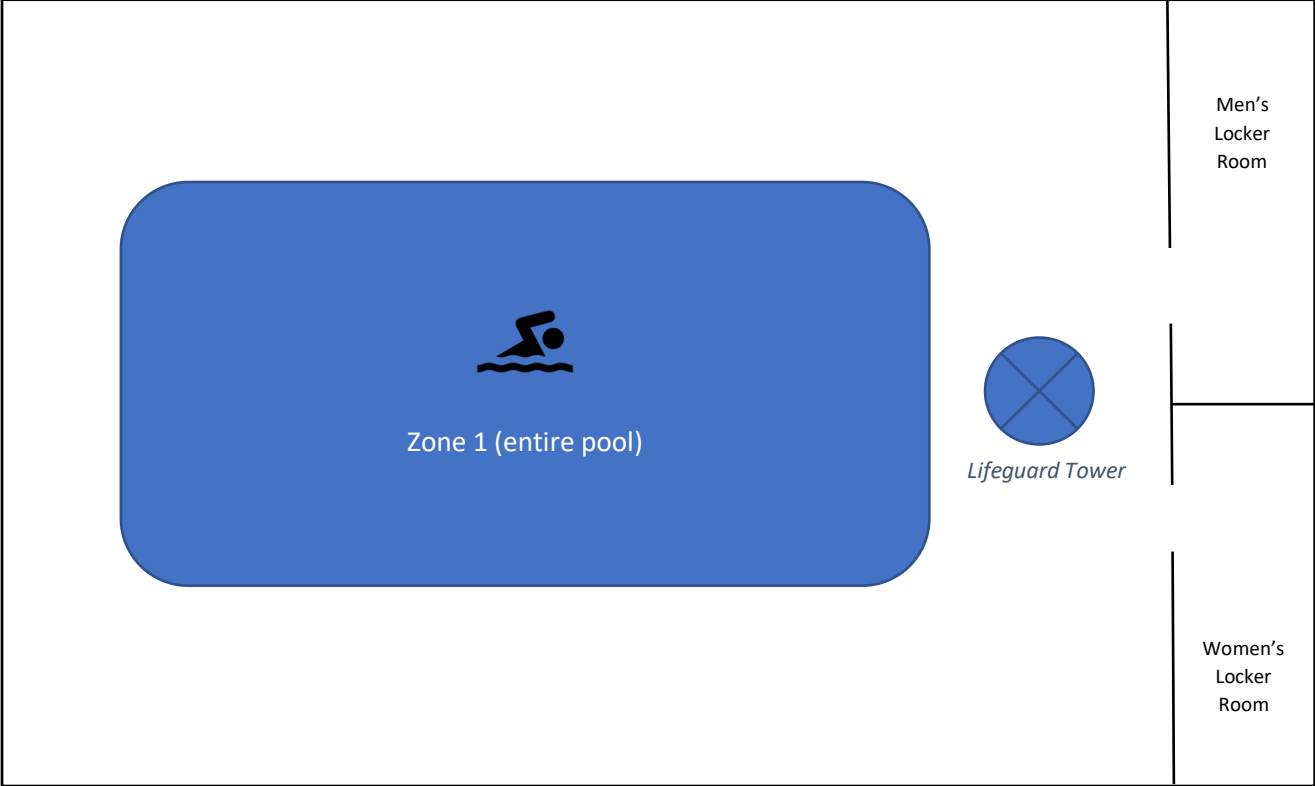


Figure 2 shows a standard pool with a much higher bather load. There is a lifeguard posted in a lifeguard tower on one end of the pool and another lifeguard walking the deck on the other end, perhaps a shallow end with a beach entry. The pool is clearly split into two zones. With the increased bather load this will help to reduce the time for the lifeguard to reach the furthest extent of their zone and ensure they can scan their zone every 10 seconds. The zone 1 lifeguard is responsible for observing swimmers in zone 1 as well as policing the kids playing in the shallow end. The zone 2 lifeguard is responsible for observing swimmers in zone 2 and policing kids on that end of the deck as they come out of the locker rooms.

Figure 2: Multiple Zones

