

Hillsmere Shores Pool Operating Rules

Updated 2026

We are a Community Pool. Members' and guests' language, attire, and behavior should be appropriate for a family environment. The Pool is for everyone's enjoyment. Please respect the rights of others.

HSIA has entered a contract with an independent pool management company, which delegated to that company the responsibility of maintaining and managing the pool during regular pool hours and special events staffed by the pool management company.

The lifeguards and pool managers, who are agents of the pool management company, will enforce these operating rules. Failure to observe and obey these rules or to comply with the lifeguard or pool manager's interpretations of them will result in suspension of a member's or guest's pool use for the day. Repeated or serious violations may result in loss of membership without a refund.

FACILITY RULES

- All persons using the pool or pool area do so at their own risk and sole responsibility. HSIA and the pool management company assume no responsibility for any accident, injury, loss, damage, or theft of personal property.
- No one is allowed on pool premises except authorized personnel unless a lifeguard is on duty.
- Entry into the pool is permitted at the lifeguard's discretion. Members and guests must check in at the guards desk upon entering the pool area.
- No cutoffs, trousers, shorts, jeans, socks, or street shoes may be worn in the pool.
- Only Coast Guard-approved flotation devices, with the exception of noodles, may be permitted at the lifeguard's discretion.
- No access to the pool office or equipment room is permitted without the express permission of the lifeguard.
- Pool users are responsible for all personal property brought to the pool. Personal property left over 72 hours will be disposed of.
- A limited number of trash and recycling containers are provided onsite, but members are urged to "Carry In, Carry Out" whenever possible.

RULES FOR CHILDREN

- Parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children at all times.
- An adult-only swim period is scheduled for 15 minutes each hour. During adult swim, all persons under 16 must be completely clear of the pool and the immediate surrounding area. Rafts may be permitted at the lifeguard's discretion during adult swim.
- Children under 3 and any child not toilet-trained are prohibited in the main pool.

WADING POOL:

- Lifeguards do not monitor the wading pool. An adult or caregiver must always accompany all children in the enclosure.
- Any child not toilet trained must wear a swim diaper covered by tight-fitting swimsuits in the wading pool.
- Only children under seven may use the wading pool unless they are with their siblings and parents.

NON-SWIMMERS:

- A non-swimmer is anyone under 16 who cannot pass the swim test.
- Non-swimmers may not come to the pool without supervision.
- When using the pool, the adult or caregiver must be engaged and within arm's reach of their non-swimmer.
- For the safety of non-swimmers, non-swimmers who are not adequately supervised will be asked to exit the water.
- Children under 11 who have not passed the swim test must be accompanied by an adult or caregiver (15 years or older) while on pool premises.

SWIM TEST:

The swim test consists of swimming the length of the main pool and treading water continuously for one minute.

- Children under 16 must pass a basic swim test administered by the lifeguard before using the main pool without direct supervision by a parent/guardian or caregiver.
- Children under 16 who have passed the swim test must always wear their lifeguard-issued wristband when using the pool.
- Members under 11 who have passed the swim test may be accompanied by a caregiver (13 years or older) while on pool premises.
- Members aged 11+ who have passed the swim test may come to the pool alone if their parent or guardian signs a Child Attendance Waiver. Children not accompanied by an adult must be familiar with the pool rules and follow the lifeguards' instructions.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

- The lifeguard may ask disruptive persons or persons suspected of being under the influence to leave the pool premises. Should the need arise, Anne Arundel County Police will be called for assistance.
- Running, pushing, wrestling, and boisterous behavior are prohibited in the pool. Spouting water and similar unhygienic acts are also prohibited.

- Failure to follow the rules and the instructions of the lifeguards will result in the following disciplinary actions:

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CHILDREN:

- 1st written offense in the discipline log – warning letter to parents
- 2nd written offense in the discipline log – removal from the pool for the day
- 3rd written offense in discipline log – 1-week suspension, no longer able to use the pool without parental supervision
- 4th written offense in discipline log – loss of membership for the remainder of summer

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR MEMBERS:

- Verbal warning
- If a member does not comply with a verbal warning, 1st offense will be logged.
- 2nd written offense will be logged, a written warning will be provided to the primary member, and the member may be removed from the pool for the day.
- 3rd written offense will be logged, and membership may be suspended for one week.
- 4th written offense will be logged, and pending Board approval, membership may be revoked without refund.

POOL CLOSURES & WEATHER

- The pool may be closed for inclement weather, maintenance, or other health and safety reasons as determined by the lifeguard staff. As circumstances permit, notice of such closings will be posted at the gate and announced to the community.
- Thunderstorms:** The pool enclosure must be cleared immediately after the first sound of thunder or lightning. The facility may reopen 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or lightning.

FACILITY USE

- Diving is only permitted in the diving well. Only one person at a time is permitted on the diving board. No back dives or multiple bounces are permitted. Divers must ensure that the previous diver has cleared the diving area. Swimming and games are permitted in the diving area only when the lifeguard closes the diving board.
- No pets of any kind are permitted in the pool enclosure.
- One swim lane is continuously reserved for lap swimmers.

FOOD & BEVERAGES

- No glass or breakable containers are permitted on pool premises.
- No food within 3' of the pool edge.

- No smoking or vaping is permitted. Smoking is permitted outside the pool fence and away from the pool entrance.

GUESTS

- Guests must always be accompanied by the member who registered them as guests.
- Members may bring guests to the pool using a guest pass. Guest pass use may be restricted on certain dates (“blackout dates”), which will be posted on the HSIA website.
- A maximum of **eight (8) guests per household at one time** is permitted.
- Any gathering that meets the definition of a party and/or uses the party area must have a reserved party and comply with all party rules.**
- Guest passes may be pre-paid or paid by check at the gate. Make checks payable to HSIA. Lifeguards are not permitted to accept cash.
- Hillsmere Shores or Black Walnut Cove residents will only be permitted as guests on Tuesdays unless they attend a pre-scheduled private party. All Hillsmere residents are permitted to be guests of the pool on Tuesdays. Hillsmere residents are not permitted to be members' guests on other days of the week.
- Members aged 11-15 who are authorized to come to the pool alone may:
 1. Bring adult (16 years or older) guests following the guest policy.
 2. Bring one guest aged 11-15 daily. The minor guest **MUST** pass the swim test to be admitted to the pool.

PARTIES

Requirements:

- You must be a pool member to reserve the party area or host a party at the pool. The party area consists of the concrete area adjacent to the grill. Any gathering that uses the party area **and/or** includes **nine (9) or more non-member guests** is considered a party.
- No parties on holidays (Memorial Day, Independence Day & Labor Day)
- Reservations are for 3 hours (12-3 pm or 4-7 pm) on a first-come, first-served basis. For other hours, contact pool@hillsmershores.org for details.
- Complete the HSIA Pool Party application. [link to application]

Party Fees:

- Party fees include:
 - \$100.00 location fee for the picnic area
 - \$75.00 (refundable) clean-up deposit
- All fees must be paid in advance to the HSIA Administrator. Make checks payable to HSIA.

Party Reservations:

- To make a party reservation or check the availability of time slots, call the 24-hour Voice Mail at 410-263-4456 or email pool@hillsmereshores.org with the subject "Pool Party Reservation Request."
- Pool Party Reservation Application forms are available below.
- Reservations made by phone or email will be canceled if the signed application and checks are not received within 72 hours after the reservation is made.
- A party canceled by the host with less than five days' notice will forfeit the \$100 party fee.

Party Size:

- To use the designated party area, you must make a party reservation.
- No open invitations (general invitations sent to an unknown or large number of people).
- Parties over 30 guests require:
 - Pool committee approval
 - Anchor Aquatics pool party application
 - Surcharge to cover the costs of additional lifeguards. Contact pool@hillsmereshores.org for details.

Party Expectations:

- Upon arrival, guests must provide the requested information to the gate attendant. Guests under 16 must follow the rules regarding swim tests.
- Hosts must make sure all non-member guests leave promptly after the party.
- No amplified music except for HSIA Board-sanctioned events.
- The reservation includes the use of the grill. Please share grill space with pool members if requested.
- Alcohol may be served at parties with the prior approval of the HSIA Board or its representative, and an Anne Arundel County one-day liquor license must be obtained. (One-day liquor license applications must be completed no less than 10 days before the party.)
- The HSIA Administrator must approve any games, equipment, or activities not provided by HSIA in advance. Special requests may also require the approval of the HSIA Board.
- Clean-up includes depositing all party trash and recyclables in the outdoor recycling and trash dumpster.