

Youth Supervision & Check-In FAQs

Purpose & Philosophy

Why did SRA create this policy?

This policy helps ensure safety, fairness, and consistency across campus. It gives families clarity and provides staff with clear guidance when issues arise and allows lifeguards to hyperfocus on water safety without distraction.

Is this policy permanent?

The Board will evaluate how the policy works in real time and will make adjustments if needed. Any changes will be made after the Summer 2026 season so we can prepare to raise the drop-off age to 12 for Summer 2027.

Age & Supervision Requirements

What are the supervision rules by age?

- **Ages 0–10:** A guardian (16+) must be actively supervising their children at all times.
- **Ages 11–15:** May be on campus without a guardian after proper check-in. May check in without a guardian provided the club has a guardian's phone number on file.
- **Ages 16+:** May serve as a guardian. See guardian membership options online.

Does “actively supervising” mean that I now have to follow my kids around wherever they go? Am I permitted to go to the snack bar or use the restroom without bringing my kids with me?

The goal is that guardians have “eyes” on their children at all times. We understand that some children are strong swimmers and others are not. Ultimately, the guardian is the primary person responsible for their children's safety in the pool and other areas, lifeguards being the second person (pool only). We also understand that guardians need to use the restroom, walk to the playground or upper pool, or visit the snack bar, and we do not expect that guardians “follow” children wherever they go. That said – the guardian is ultimately responsible for the safety of their children, so we ask that guardians use discretion as they move around campus, both for safety and behavior. This includes during swim team practice.

Is this necessary – do other pools have policies like this?

Yes. Not only is it a liability for SRA as a club, but safety is our number one priority for all members. Most other local community pools have similar policies. The Board did extensive research, seeking guidance from members of other local Boards for guidance on this topic. This decision was made in consideration of the size of our membership, our facilities, and the unique personality of SRA so that our members' needs are best met.

My 10-year-old is very responsible. Can you make an exception?

So many of our young Swordfish are very responsible! Unfortunately, we can't make exceptions. These rules ensure the same expectations apply to everyone, regardless of maturity level. Clear age guidelines help staff enforce safety consistently and keep all children protected.

One of my children is old enough to be unsupervised (11-15). Can they supervise my younger child (10+ under)?

Unfortunately, we cannot make exceptions to this policy at this time. We understand that your older child or babysitter may be accustomed to caring for your younger child at home, but, for safety reasons, the guardian age is 16 years old at this time.

Check-In & Access Rules

How does check-in work for ages 11–15?

Children ages 11–15 must:

- Check themselves in at the main gate
- Use authorized entrances only
- Re-check in if they leave and return
- Follow all directives from lifeguards and staff
- Comply with all behavior rules

Why can't kids just walk in through side gates like before?

Unauthorized entrances make it impossible for staff and lifeguards to know who is on campus and who is supervised. Main-gate check-in helps maintain accurate attendance and ensures emergency procedures work as intended.

Under this policy, do I or other members of my family need to re-check in every time we go through the main gate – even just to go to the snack bar or playground?

No. We understand that the main gate is the main point of access to the pool area while you are on campus enjoying SRA. Properly following the check-in procedure *the first time you enter for the day* will ensure that you can enter and exit smoothly while you are here. Please be patient with lifeguards and staff at the main gate as they learn to recognize faces and names throughout each day and the season.

Swim Team–Specific Questions

Are swim team coaches responsible for supervision outside practice?

No. Coaches supervise only during scheduled practice time. Guardians are responsible before and after practice. Swordfish 10 and under must still have a guardian on campus during swim team practice.

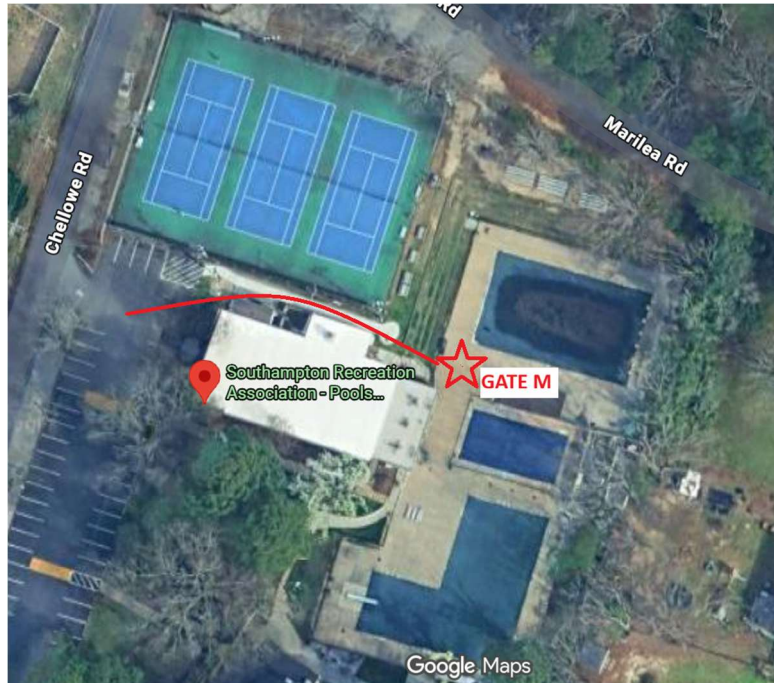
Why do swimmers have to re-check in after practice?

Before opening hours, the pool operates under different safety and staffing rules. Re-checking in ensures swimmers are properly logged under standard member supervision once the pool opens.

What if I'm running late to swim team practice and need to drop off my child (10 and under) while I park?

Dropping off a child ages 10 and under before the pool opens so you can park is permissible, provided:

- The child enters through GATE M (see image below)
- The guardian also enters through GATE M after parking



Facilities & Staff Roles

Why is the living room a designated Quiet Space?

The clubhouse living room is set aside to be a Quiet Space for members. Loud play and horseplay are not permitted in this space. Wet swimsuits are not allowed in this area since the furniture is upholstered and it is carpeted. Disrespectful or destructive behavior in this area will result in consequences.

Why can't my kids wear wet swimsuits in the clubhouse game room?

The flooring in the game room area is extremely slippery when wet and is hazardous. We understand that children will be in their swimsuits while on campus, so we ask that guardians help their children make a reasonable effort at toweling off before entering the game room to keep it safe for all. Guardians are responsible for monitoring children in the clubhouse game room. Disrespectful or destructive behavior will result in consequences. *The exception to the wet swimsuit rule is when lifeguards have closed the pool for an incoming electrical storm.*

Why aren't lifeguards able to provide supervision?

Lifeguards are hired to supervise all swimmers in the water and are not caregivers. It's critical that lifeguards remain fully focused on water safety and are not distracted by childcare responsibilities.

Consequences & Accountability

Are there consequences for repeated drop-off issues?

Yes. Consequences apply to the adult member account and follow the escalation process outlined in the policy.

Why are accounts penalized instead of children?

Children are never disciplined for drop-off decisions under this policy. Adult accounts are accountable because adults make supervision decisions. This protects all children, reduces pressure on lifeguards, and ensures fairness across families. Children are only disciplined for inappropriate behavior as outlined in the policy.

What if I'm only a few minutes late picking up my child?

The one-hour return window allows reasonable travel and parking time. Fees apply only after that hour, and only if a guardian cannot be reached or does not return promptly.

Why is the late fee so high?

When children are left unattended, staff must redirect focus from pool supervision to managing the situation. The fee reflects the seriousness of that responsibility and helps prevent repeat incidents. It is comparable to local babysitting rates.

Isn't suspending an entire family over one issue unfair?

Suspensions apply only after repeated violations according to the escalation model. These decisions are made by the Board in communication with the member.

Why do suspensions apply to swim team, tennis, and camp too?

A suspension represents a temporary loss of full SRA privileges, not just pool access. Applying it consistently avoids confusion, helps prevent repeat incidents, and ensures fairness.

Can we appeal a decision?

Yes. Stage 3 and Stage 4 consequences involve Board review, and families will be contacted directly. The goal is clarity, fairness, and resolution.

Implementation & Support**How will staff enforce this consistently?**

Staff, lifeguards, and coaches receive training before the season begins, and Board members will be present during the first weeks to support consistent implementation.

Additional questions? Submit your questions here for follow-up and answers in the next Board communication: <https://forms.gle/LNghntHwoXEwNBPn8>