

The intent of this policy is to ensure the safest environment possible when members are using swimming pools. Swimming pool Rules, Regulations, and/or Policies shall be established by each facility and members shall follow them at all times while using the facility. Below are some additional guidelines:

When attending any Special Olympics PEI sanctioned event, members are not permitted to use any pool for leisure activities. This includes when members are required to stay in overnight accommodations that include a swimming pool, the swimming pool is off limits at all times.

Special Olympics Prince Edward Island has set out policy for programs that take place in a swimming pool.

1. Ensure there are enough lifeguards for the number of individuals in the pool.
2. Ensure that all guards are in position to watch the pool at all times.
3. Guards must not be instructors at the same time. The role of the lifeguard is to watch the entire pool area. They cannot teach and lifeguard at the same time.
4. Coaches must indicate to the guard if an athlete is seizure prone, or at risk in the water another way, every time you run your program.
5. If athlete(s) are having medications changed for their convulsive behavior and may be experiencing high incidence of seizures, or at risk in the water another way, and the program is:
 - i. Working in deep water in small/large groups, the athlete must wear a certified Life Jacket or Personal Floatation Device (PFD).
 - ii. Working in deep water with a volunteer it must be at a ratio of 1:1, a certified Life Jacket or PFD is not mandatory, but volunteer must be aware that athlete may seizure; be prepared.
 - iii. Allowing unsupervised athletes in the shallow end, each athlete must be in a certified Life Jacket or PFD.
 - iv. Athletes who cannot maintain a good head position in the water **MUST** be accompanied by a coach while in the pool (one on one).
6. All Life Jackets or PFD's used must be certified by Transport Canada.