

# TEST \* MARK \* PROTECT

## Talking Points/Troubleshooting Tips

Who does this procedure pertain to?

- Any child under the age of 18 who comes for open swim/rentals or other non Y instructional pool activities.

What is the reason for the new Procedure?

- Research shows that the majority of drownings involving children occur in water 3-5 feet in depth (Research by: World Health Organization, CDC)
- By adding the additional testing levels and lifejackets we are proactively planning to keep all swimmers safer in the water
- Lifejackets are a lifesaving device which keeps a swimmer vertical in the water and helps a non-swimmer and/or distressed swimmer remain face up.
- Bubbles are for instructional use and allow a child to swim in a horizontal position but do not keep a distressed swimmer face up in the water

What if a member refuses to comply?

- No child under the age of 18 can be in recreational swimming without having taken a test.
- If a member/guest does not want to take the test they can put all children in lifejackets
- If a member insists on getting in the water without a test the lifeguard (or WC) should get a Deck Supervisor, Aquatic Director or MOD depending on day and time to talk to the member. At no time should an 18 under swimmer be allowed in the water without either a test or a lifejacket

Do they have to be tested every time?

- NO. We will record a child's test and every time a member/guest checks in at the Welcome Center they will be issued the correct necklace color.
  - How is this going to happen? The lifeguard records the test, each day an Aquatic staff enters it into YConnect as a Journal, when a member/guest checks in the journal will show the child's level
- Swimmers can request to be tested for the next level at any time after the initial evaluation
- Lifeguards have the right to retest any swimmer if they are concerned with their placement for the day

My child is under 7 why do I still need to be in the water?

- Children under 7 are the most at risk age group according to the WHO and CDC because they cannot stand in the water, having a parent in the water is an extra layer of protection
- Green banded swimmers: Having a parent in the water even when a child has passed the deep end test helps with swimmer safety and supervision

I want to work on skills with my child/how can I do that in a Lifejacket?

- Children can still work on blowing bubbles and kicking while wearing a lifejacket
- Remember, Swim Lessons are a great way to help your child progress to the next testing category! Most Eels, Polliwog Advanced swimmers will be able to pass the Yellow test

Why Lifejackets and not bubbles?

- Lifejackets are a lifesaving device which keeps you vertical in the water and helps a non-swimmer and/or distressed swimmer remain face up.
- Bubbles are for instructional use and allow a child to swim in a horizontal position but do not keep a distressed swimmer face up in the water

Can I bring my own Lifejacket?

- Yes, as long as it is marked COAST GUARD APPROVED. All lifejackets that meet this requirement have a stamp on them that says "Coast Guard Approved". If it does not have that stamp it is now allowed.
- Why coast guard approved? These jackets are specifically designed to keep a swimmer upright in the water and properly fit to a person's body size

Who tests?

- A Lifeguard or Supervisor who is not currently on the stand

When can someone be tested?

- THIS SHOULD BE BRANCH SPECIFIC – any open swim, specific times, testing parties, etc.