

Water Walkers

Operating Policy

Last Revised On: 03.01.2019
Qualification: Trained and assessed externally by in2action.

This operating Policy must be read in conjunction with any existing onsite pool management safety policies.

Location and Site Specification

- A swimming pool, with a designated marked off area.
- A suitable area with no obstructions or hazards.
- Adequate space for the size of the group and nature of the activity.

Equipment

- Suitable equipment specific to the activity must be used.
(Water Walker, Water Walker pump, mats, zip-care lubricant)
- Water Walker ball must be checked for any rips or perforations around the zip and a daily operation form completed.
- A Member of staff must ride inside the Water Walker and safety check from the inside.
- If any damage is found, please contact the Site Manager who will decide whether the ball is safe to use.
- Each Water Walker will be uniquely coded and recorded safety checks will be carried out and logged every 2 weeks.
- All participants must wear an appropriately sized helmet.
- Helmets must be uniquely coded and inspections need to be logged on a monthly basis.

Pre-Activity:

- Ensure area to be used is appropriate and free of hazards.
- Ensure area for use is clearly roped off for the public to see.
- Session must be set up in accordance with training given.
- All equipment should be checked to ensure that it is suitable for use i.e. daily operational check completed as detailed above.
- Lane ropes must be attached in a safe manner that will cause no trip hazard to the public or participants e.g. clipped inside the pool and not attached to grates or sunbeds etc.
- The Staff Member must ensure that the pump is tethered no closer than 2 metres from the water's edge.
- Pump must have a circuit breaker attached.
- Pump must be kept upright (lighter pumps may need to be attached to wooden blocks).
- The zip must be lubricated all the way along its length using zip-care lubricant.
- All participants must be checked that they are not wearing shoes, or carrying anything in pockets or wearing any sharp clothing i.e. Belts, Jewellery, Buckles etc.
- A rope must be tethered to the Water Walker in order to control its use on the water.
- *All guests taking part must have read and understood the health disclaimer before agreeing to take part in the activity and booking a slot.*

During Activity:

- Any equipment not in use must be placed in a safe area.
- Staff Member to ensure a relevant warm-up is carried out prior to the activity starting i.e. a simple game/ exercise involving arm and leg movements to prepare them for running in the ball.
- The Staff Member must demonstrate the correct procedure for fitting helmets.
- All participants must wear helmets whilst on the water. Helmets must be checked by the Staff Member and constantly monitored.

- The Staff Member must ensure they do not push guests into the pool. They must also ensure participants/spectators do not push each other into the pool.
- Anyone under 3 years of age must not use the water walker.
- The maximum weight limit is 14 stone
- The Staff Member must give a safety brief before launching the water walker, to include:
 - How to get on and off the water safely
 - That they need to sit down whilst the ball is put onto the water
 - How to communicate if they wish to end their turn
 - To try and keep away from the pool sides
 - To keep their helmets on at all times
 - No pushing each other into the pool from the pool side
 - Staff member to brief participants to be careful when in the Water Walker ball, and not to over-exert themselves.
- The Staff Member must double check that the guest has understood the health disclaimer prior to putting them into the ball.
- The Staff Member must explain the dangers of equipment and emphasize the need to use it as directed.
- Only the Staff Member should operate the pump.
- The Staff Member should ensure that the cable and pump are kept as dry as possible.
- The Staff Member must ensure that the pump remains tethered no closer than 2 metres from the water's edge.
- The Staff Member must ensure they always hold the handle and always pull away from the handle when moving the zip (opening or closing the water walker).
- The Staff Member must ensure participants crawl in and out of the ball to avoid tripping.
- When inflating the ball, the Staff Member should close the zip 70% and place the blower tube through the gap left.
- The Staff Member must ensure the ball is inflated at least a metre away from the pool edge so that the ball cannot make contact with the water during inflation (i.e. when the ball is lying flat and deflated on the ground, there should be at least a metre's gap between the edge of the pool and the edge of the ball).
- The Staff Member must ensure participants sit down whilst the ball is being inflated and when entering and exiting the pool.
- Once the ball is fully inflated, the Staff Member is to check the zip is done up fully and correctly before launch.
- The Staff Member must ensure that the Velcro is correctly done up on the plastic covering before launch (if applicable - if the Velcro is no longer attached to the water walker, this is not a safety issue).
- The Staff Member must keep control of the water walker by keeping hold of the tether rope whilst the participant is on the water and spotting round the edge of the pool to prevent the water walker hitting the side.
- When exiting the pool, the Staff Member must ensure the participant is sat down and crawls slowly and carefully onto the pool side. The Staff Member can support this, by holding (not pulling) the handles.
- The participant must crawl so that the ball is at least one metre from the pool edge before the zip is opened and the participant can exit the ball.
- Competitions must be relevant to the groups/individuals age and ability.
- The Staff Member must remain vigilant and ensure participants are using the equipment in the correct manner.
- The Staff Member must ensure waiting participants and spectators are kept a safe distance from the pool side so that they cannot fall into the pool or collide with the water walker/ pump/ tether rope.
- The Staff Member must ensure the lifeguard stays by the pool for the entire session (this applies if the staff member is not trained in water competency or the pool is deeper than 1.5m).

Post Activity:

- The water walker must be cleaned inside and out with anti-bacterial wipes or spray and dried thoroughly.

- The lubricant must be washed off the zip.
- The water walker must be laid flat with the zip flat. The zip should not be fully closed whilst stored.
- The equipment must be checked and secured in a safe place.
- Activity area must be left tidy and ready for next session.