

**CITY OF WAYNESBORO, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**WAR MEMORIAL POOL**

**Floatation Devices:**

The Waynesboro Department of Parks and Recreation does not allow the use of floatation devices at the War Memorial Pool. With our 40+ years of providing the City of Waynesboro with the service of running the public pool, we have had this in rule in place for a number of years that extends well before my time.

- Our years of experience have shown us that floatation devices give all users a false sense of security in the pool. By our standards, this is not good safety. There have been incidents when safety devices are not properly fitted and they can then become a hazard to the child if something would go wrong. For instance, a little girl years ago had a floatation device that had a ring. This ring went under her arms and had a large sack of air on the back. This sack of air came up the child's back and behind her neck. This sack of air then pushed the child's head under water. The more she kicked, the more she went forward and under water.
- Floatation devices also give a false sense of security to the parents. The parents can put a floatation device on the child and then walk away. If a malfunction occurs with the equipment, the child can be harmed and the parent will not be there since they "thought" everything was fine.
- Another reason we do not allow floatation devices is because they can range in size from arm band devices to full sized rafts. With the number of patrons we serve during the day, the floatation devices can clutter the pool and make it harder for our lifeguards to keep an eye on all that are in the water.
- **If your child does need the use of a floatation device for any medical reason, a doctor's note must be submitted to the Waynesboro Parks and Recreation office. The floatation device must be U.S. Coast Guard approved to ensure proper fit and support to the patron utilizing the floatation device.**

**Shirts:**

Along the same line, The Waynesboro Department of Parks and Recreation does not allow the use of shirts and/or street clothes at the War Memorial Pool. Shirts tend to be more problematic than people think.

- If a child were to wear a shirt that is too big in the pool, this affects their range of motion and doesn't allow the child to use their extremities to swim safely.
- Children can also get caught in other kid's shirts and can cause injuries to other swimmers if this happens.
- Even if a child goes off the diving board or the side of the pool, the shirt can become wrapped around the child's neck from the force of the water.
- Another reason we do not allow shirts in the pool is the risk of the shirt becoming tangled in our drainage system. The chance of this happening is slim, but it is still a chance that we do not want to take.
- **"Aqua" shirts will be permitted at the pool.**