

July 3, 2021

Water Fitness Club Membership

On Friday, July 2, 2021, I attended a meeting with Jim Riley and Karen Libby representing the Sun City West Facilities for the RH Johnson Pool.

The meeting was to discuss the issues related to having water bottles poolside at RH Johnson. This is a fairly lengthy message, but well worth reading.

There have been many emails and discussions about having water bottles poolside, and while there have been several attempts to find a reasonable solution, there continued to be a lot of controversy and often times displays of inappropriate behavior that concerned many people, and we wanted to find a resolution that would accommodate not only the Water Fitness Club, but also the Fitness Club that has deep water classes several times a week, and the Swim Club members who also use RH Johnson.

There are both factual issues and liability concerns that the SCW Facilities are cognizant and are diligent in trying to mitigate any potential risk to every resident/member/guest to RH Johnson and continue to be compliant with the Maricopa County guidelines.

FACT: Maricopa County does have specific regulations for public pools that clearly state that there will be no food, liquid etc. in or near the pool, that are primarily focused on protecting the contamination of the pool water.

FACT: The SCW Recreation Facilities are continually evaluating potential risks and taking corrective actions to appropriately mitigate those risks wherever possible.

It was agreed during our meeting that having a water bottle poolside likely did not pose a contamination issue. But what became apparent to me during that meeting was the risk these water bottles presented if someone was to inadvertently kick the water bottle (average 16 oz), causing it to potentially become a projectile object with so many members in the pool area, often located only inches away from poolside.

Now, I am not a Physics major, but I think everyone can easily understand that getting hit in the head, face, or if you are lucky, upper body could cause some serious damage and most certainly significant pain.

For this reason, the concept of using the bright orange cones at various areas of the pool was designed by the facilities manager at RH Johnson to prevent just such an occurrence. So, whether you have an exemption label that allows you to have a water bottle poolside or not, this same risk applies. For that reason, you might have noticed that the orange cones were again present poolside. It was not a sign that we had defeated the evil giant and won a victory, but it was a sign that despite the fact that we were still in discussion's regarding the water

bottles poolside, they wanted to mitigate any risk. For that, we should all be grateful and not gloating.

During the meeting, it was decided that the high-risk areas that are around the back circle of the walking area, and the areas that follow to the right of that circle, would have 3 sets of cones set out to accommodate the Water Fitness Club. There will be 2 cones placed in 3 locations. Those cones will be a few feet apart and placed far enough apart to hopefully accommodate the members of our club. If your water bottle is not set between the 2 cones, it must be moved, or it will be removed by the monitor if they see the issue.

If your water bottle is moved, you must not admonish the monitor for following the direct orders of the facilities manager. If you feel that you need to discuss the situation, you are welcome to email the facilities manager or the Water Fitness Club President for further clarification. If you choose to admonish the monitor poolside or upon existing the pool for moving your water bottle, you will be warned one time, and if it happens again, you will be excluded from any club activities for 2 weeks.

Again, there will be 3 sets of cones placed around the pool. If it is important that you be near your water bottle during our 50-minute workout, please be sure to arrive early enough to place your bottle near where you will be working out. Experience has shown that there are relatively few people who find this to be a significant issue for them out of our 400+ members, and I hope other members will cooperate with them if they need this accommodation, but no one owns an area of the pool. It is first come first served. So, you do not have the right to order anyone to move to accommodate your water bottle and workout area, you may ask, but you may not intimidate or otherwise make the other member uncomfortable by working out too closely or creating an otherwise hostile situation. Again, you will receive a warning and then excluded from any club activities for 2 weeks.

This message has been reviewed and approved by the Facilities Manager and the Water Fitness Club President and will be adhered to going forward.

My thanks to the facilities manager and the Recreation Center Management for helping us find the best middle of the road solution.

Anne Becknell
Water Fitness Club
President