



To: **PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL OWNERS/OPERATORS**  
Subject: **2026 Seasonal Swimming Pool Season**

February 3, 2026

Happy 2026 & Welcome to a New Pool Season.

There have been no changes to the 15A NCAC 18A .2500 Public Swimming Pool Rules since this time last year, but there has been some new guidance received from our North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Field Supervisor, Chad Gambill.

**Sun shelves with adjoining stairs.** New guidance indicates that the step from the pool deck down to the sun shelf is NOT to be considered a step, and a handrail is not to be required. This reverses the guidance from this time last year.

**Symmetrical T-Piping.** The State provided a position statement clarifying rules for symmetrical T-piping. In most cases, this would be something reviewed for new construction pools and does not apply to an already-operating swimming pool. This position statement is attached.

**Flow reduction requirements.** The State provided a position statement explaining requirements for proving flow reductions on pools where a pump's max flow exceeds the max flow of the drain covers (when one is blocked). This was changed in the .2500 Rules in November 2024, with delayed implementation until 2026. CHA sent this information out to all owners and operators of pools with flow reduction requirements in November 2025. This position statement is attached. Operators must submit all proof of flow reduction along with their Pool Drain Safety Compliance (PDSC) forms for 2026. **A pool cannot be permitted without the proper flow reduction documentation submitted.**

If you have any questions about this new information, please reach out to CHA and we can discuss.

CHA's permit application can be found on the our website:

<http://www.cabarrushealth.org/133/Swimming-Pools> , along with a blank PDSC form, pool operator log sheet, NCAC .2500 rules, and other information. A new PDSC form must be submitted each year, provide any updated information, and be signed with a current date (rule .2539 (c)). A separate PDSC form is required for each pump at your facility. PDSC forms submitted must be the newest version, dated 4/1/22. **Please only submit the current PDSC form. All areas of the form must be completed. Incomplete forms will be returned and may delay permitting. Do not submit the PDSC form if it is missing information or you did not circle/underline/highlight items that need to be filled out. Contact CHA before submittal and we can help you fill out the form.**

**CHA has created a new email address for our pool program.** [pool@cabarrushealth.org](mailto:pool@cabarrushealth.org). Please use this e-mail address for all paperwork submittals going forward. This email address allows all CHA staff who are working in our pool program to receive the paperwork.

Important notes to consider about permitting inspections:

If your pool pump/motor has been replaced (every time the bonding wire is reconnected to the pump/motor), an electrical inspection by Cabarrus County Construction Standards is required by law. This work must be completed by a licensed electrician. Verification will be required before our staff can inspect/permit.

Night-time inspections are required to ensure adequate lighting for pools before they can be permitted to operate at night. These inspections can be scheduled after the **\$50 night inspection fee** has been received by our office. Night light inspections are valid for three years if there are no lighting changes. Lighting presented during your night inspection must be verified as working on each inspection to maintain your night swimming approval.

**If you are changing/have changed drain covers, please provide a drain cover specification sheet with the PDSC form. Keep the documentation included in the drain cover packaging stating whether the drain cover is rated to 2008 or 2017 standards.**

**If your pool is drained or will be drained, please contact our office and our staff can assist you with sump measurements that are now required for 2017-rated VGB drain covers. Sump dimensions, suction pipe size, and suction pipe orientation are REQUIRED for 2017-rated VGB drain covers.**

If a flow reduction is used on your pool, there must be supporting documentation provided. **Flowmeters must be installed per manufacturer's instructions and working properly, or your permit will not be issued if using a flow reduction. Flowmeters must be accurate to 5% (10% if using permanently installed vacuum and pressure gauges). Please include a photo of your flowmeter before AND after backwash along with your PDSC. If using the vacuum/pressure gauges to claim a flow reduction, you must submit a copy of head loss calculations, photos of the gauges within 2 hours of backwash, and a copy of a pump curve to prove flow reduction with the PDSC.** CHA has also created a flow reduction documentation form to assist pools needing flow reduction approval. This form is attached. Feel free to use this form to assist you when submitting flow reduction documentation if you would like. You are also free to submit your own documentation without this form.

Your emergency phone (or call box) must be working, have dialing instructions posted, pool address posted, and the phone number that rings directly to your emergency phone posted. All emergency phones (or call boxes) are tested by calling the number posted onsite to ensure it rings back to the phone. All emergency phones (or call boxes) are tested by calling 911 who must confirm the address and phone number.

Ensure that all safety equipment is in place. Ensure that all body hooks are attached to a 12'+ non-telescoping pole. Ensure that all life rings are USCG-approved, in good repair, and have the correct length of rope attached (1.5x the pool width or 50 ft, whichever is less).

Check for footholds outside the fence and gate. Check gates to ensure they self-close/self-latch. Check doors opening onto the pool deck which open from occupied buildings such as clubhouses and offices – they must be self-closing or have an audible alarm. Windows opening onto the pool deck cannot open more than 4" unless they have an audible alarm.

Please review your most recent pool inspection. Look over any violations noted, and please address those items before your permitting inspection this year.

Permits cannot be issued if your cyanuric acid (chlorine stabilizer) level is >100ppm.

Your 2026 Permit Application, current PDSC data sheet(s) and permit fee(s) can be submitted by mail to the address below or e-mailed to [pool@cabarrushealth.org](mailto:pool@cabarrushealth.org). Any checks or money orders must be payable to: **Cabarrus Health Alliance**. Credit card payments can be processed by calling our Environmental Health Division front desk at 704-920-1207 once we have confirmed receipt of your paperwork.

**MAIL TO:**

**Cabarrus Health Alliance  
Environmental Health  
300 Mooresville Road  
Kannapolis, NC 28081**

**PERMIT FEES:**

**Seasonal Swimming Pool - \$250  
Annual Swimming Pool- \$300  
Wading Pool - \$60  
Spa - \$100  
Wet deck - \$100**

Appointments are made on a first-come, first-serve basis once payments and all paperwork has been submitted. **Your pool must be 100% ready before your scheduled appointment. All pools, regardless of when built, must comply with sections .2535 Water Quality Standards, .2537 Maintenance and Operations, and .2539 Suction Hazard Reduction before a permit will be issued. There will be a \$50 return visit fee for pools that cannot be permitted on a scheduled visit.** Call or email to schedule an opening inspection at your facility. Our staff looks forward to working with you this pool season.

Public Swimming Pool Program  
Environmental Health Division  
Cabarrus Health Alliance  
[pool@cabarrushealth.org](mailto:pool@cabarrushealth.org)  
704 920 1207