

Spencer Family YMCA

Spectator and Visitor Safety Policy

Purpose

The Spencer Family YMCA is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and positive environment for youth, families, members, volunteers, and guests. Large events such as youth basketball and volleyball games, swim meets, community events, and facility rentals bring individuals into YMCA facilities who may not be members and who have not completed YMCA screening or training. This approach directly supports the YMCA's goal of requiring spectators and visitors to be easily identifiable so we are able to manage their access to the facility, protect youth participants, and allow YMCA staff to recognize and address individuals who are in unauthorized areas.

General Expectations

All spectators and visitors are expected to follow YMCA policies, posted facility rules, staff instructions, and the YMCA Code of Conduct while on YMCA property.

The YMCA reserves the right to limit access to portions of the facility based on the event being attended. Attendance at an event, tournament, swim meet, rental, or community activity does not provide general access to the entire YMCA facility.

Individuals who fail to follow YMCA policies or staff directions may be asked to leave the facility.

Youth Sports and Swim Meets

During youth basketball games, volleyball games, home swim meets, and similar events, spectators will enter through the main entrance.

Upon admission:

- YMCA members must scan or sign in as normal at the Member Service Center.
- Spectators will sign in and receive a blue **YMCA event wristband** that must be visible while in the facility.
- Coaches, officials, volunteers, and event workers should be separately identifiable through shirts, badges, wristbands, credentials, or another method designated by the YMCA.
- Individuals without appropriate identification may be asked to return to the event check-in area.

- Spectators may access only those areas designated for the event, including competition areas, spectator seating, designated restrooms, concessions, and other specifically identified spaces.
- Spectators may not enter participant-only areas, staff areas, storage areas, child care or youth program spaces, or other restricted portions of the facility unless specifically authorized.

YMCA Member Areas

A spectator wristband is **not a YMCA membership or day pass**.

Spectators attending a game, meet, or other event may not use fitness equipment, walking track, weight room, nautilus center, spa, pools outside the scheduled event, or other membership amenities unless they separately qualify for access under normal YMCA membership or guest procedures.

YMCA members attending an event may use other areas of the facility consistent with their membership privileges but should scan in at the member Service Center.

Youth Participant Areas

Spectators should remain in designated public viewing areas and should not enter team benches, athlete staging areas, locker rooms, changing areas, or other spaces designated for participants unless authorized by YMCA staff.

Parents or guardians who need to assist a child should contact the coach, program staff, meet official, or YMCA employee so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Supervision of Children

Parents and guardians remain responsible for supervising children who are attending an event as spectators.

Children should not be permitted to roam throughout the YMCA facility unattended. Spectator children must remain in the event area or another authorized area under appropriate adult supervision. Children must be members and in 4th grade or above to be in an authorized area unsupervised.

Participation by one child in a tournament or swim meet does not provide unsupervised facility access to siblings or other children attending the event.

Interaction With Youth Participants

Spectators should maintain appropriate boundaries with youth participants.

Adults should not:

- Enter restricted participant areas without authorization.
- Engage an unrelated youth participant in an isolated or private location.
- Remove a youth participant from the event area without authorization from the youth's parent/guardian or responsible program staff.
- Engage in conduct toward a youth that violates YMCA behavioral or child protection expectations.

The YMCA's broader monitoring procedures emphasize active supervision, identifiable adults, defined boundaries, and reducing situations where adults may have inappropriate access to youth.

Community Events and YMCA-Sponsored Activities

For community nights, open houses, family events, celebrations, educational programs, or other activities where the YMCA intentionally invites the general public into the facility, the YMCA will establish an appropriate visitor identification and access procedure based on the nature and size of the event.

This may include event wristbands, registration lists, sign-in sheets, tickets, name tags, or another identifiable method.

Visitors will be expected to remain within areas designated for the community event. Access to child care spaces, staff offices, program storage, fitness areas, locker rooms, or other restricted spaces is not included unless those areas are specifically part of the event.

Enforcement

YMCA staff have the authority to approach any individual in the facility to determine their reason for being present and whether they are authorized to access that area.

Individuals who refuse to comply with YMCA safety procedures, refuse to wear required event identification, enter restricted areas, behave inappropriately, or otherwise create a safety concern may be redirected or asked to leave the facility.

Our goal is not to create barriers for families and guests. These procedures allow the YMCA to welcome hundreds of visitors into our facilities while maintaining the intentional monitoring, appropriate boundaries, and accountability necessary to protect the youth entrusted to our care.