

PALMETTO BIBLE CAMP AQUATICS LIABILITY WAIVER

The South Carolina based 501 (c) (3) organization, **PALMETTO BIBLE CAMP** (hereafter, referred to as “**PBC**”) consists of Board Members with decades of aquatic safety experience. These Board Members comprise the PBC Aquatics Committee, which has set forth the following **LIABILITY WAIVER** (hereafter, referred to as the “**WAIVER**”) & **TERMS & CONDITIONS** (hereafter, referred to as the “**GUIDELINES**”), which have been approved by the **PBC Board of Directors**. This **WAIVER** and these **GUIDELINES** apply to all groups executing a Rental Agreement and visiting “**PBC**” during the affiliated contract period. Water activities carry inherent risks that must be mitigated to reduce the dangers to patrons and guests renting the PBC property. The following “**WAIVER**” and “**GUIDELINES**” are provided to release “**PBC**” of any liability related to any incident which occurs during use of **PBC** property during the rental period and to highlight the need for increased safety precautions on and around “**PBC**” property. As such, all aquatic activities at “**PBC**” are conducted “**at your own risk**”. Inherent in all contracting related to your visit to “**PBC**”, the signee and all affiliated visitors agree to abide by these “**GUIDELINES**” and accept any responsibility for damage to persons or property during use.

1. **Aquatics** – Any use of aquatic facilities at **PBC** should be monitored and regulated by certified lifeguards from a recognized agency [such as [American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Sources for Organizations \(link\)](#) , the [United States Lifesaving Association \(link\)](#), [The Greenville, SC YMCA Lifeguarding & Aquatics Training \(link\)](#) [StarGuard Elite #1 Lifeguard & Aquatic Company \(link\)](#)]. **PBC** does not provide lifeguards for rental groups, so the Aquatics Committee recommends that these arrangements be made by the rental group prior to conducting water activities.
 - a. Use of aquatic facilities at PBC without lifeguards is dangerous and PBC will not be held liable for groups visiting the property and participating in aquatics activities.
 - b. Lifeguards must be able to personally see and supervise all patrons in and around the water at all times. Therefore, multiple sites cannot be employed simultaneously unless each site is being guarded (streams, pools, boats, different areas of the lake, etc.).
 - c. Lifeguards are not permitted to change, adapt, or disregard these guidelines in the discharge of their duty while at camp. Only the aquatics committee for PBC can alter these guidelines.
2. **Weather:**
 - a. Lightning and thunder present serious risk of injury and death in and around water. For this reason, no water activities should be conducted for at least 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning or sound of thunder.
 - b. Rain in the absence of lightning does not prohibit aquatic activities, but heavier rainfall can impede safe monitoring of patrons. Therefore, in the event of heavy downpours, aquatic activity should be stopped until the rain lessens.
 - c. Any other significant weather events which affect safety may require cancelling water activities (i.e. tornado warnings and watches, fog, high winds, and cold temperatures below 80 degrees).
3. **Swimming:**
 - a. Swimming in the lake requires the use of properly fitted life jackets, as lifeguards are unable to respond in a timely manner to emergencies in this larger body of water.
 - b. Swimming is NOT permitted in any undesignated area beginning at the dam and extending all the way to the lakeside firepit. The water depth increases significantly where the second stream enters the lake (near the caretaker’s house) and this severely complicates rescue efforts when needed. Consider a line extending from the corner of the enclosed fire pit directly southward to the far side of the lake to be the boundary for any safe aquatic activities.
 - c. If swimming in the larger lake area directly in front of camp is undertaken, the floating dock is positioned in a convenient location to be used for jumping into the water. Boats are NOT to be used for swimming.

4. Jumping/Diving:

- a. Head-first diving should only be done in areas where the water depth is greater than 8 feet. The swimming area has a deep end sufficient for head-first diving, but it is recommended that diving be done parallel to the rope dividing the deep and shallow parts of the pool – do not dive off the deck toward the shallow end.
- b. As the lake is considered ‘dark water’ whose bottom cannot be clearly seen from the surface, do not dive into water of unknown depths. The potential for submerged objects like logs, rocks, etc. provides additional hazards.
- c. Rope swings and other entry methods are not permitted to be installed by rental groups. At times, the Aquatics Committee may approve the installation of rope swings or other entry methods into the lake – rental groups are allowed to use pre-existing structures provided a lifeguard on duty inspects them for safety before use and they are operated in a safe manner.

5. Boats:

- a. PBC maintains several different types of boats for use on the lake: kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, etc. Only those who know how to safely operate any boat should enter or use such equipment.
 - b. Each boat has a recommended weight and/or rider limit specific to that vessel. These guidelines must be followed – only 1 rider per kayak, etc. allowed.
 - c. Boats are never to be used for embarking/disembarking into the lake for swimming, etc. Jumping off boats into the lake risks injury to patrons and damage to camp equipment. Any employee or Board Member of PBC seeing equipment misused in this fashion may prohibit further use by the entire group if necessary to protect people and property.
 - d. Anyone, regardless of age or skill level, using a boat at PBC is required to wear a properly fitted life jacket for the duration of their use.
 - e. Because of the water depth, if boats go beyond the fire pit, lifeguards should be posted in their own boats close enough to respond quickly and safely should any emergency arise.
 - f. DUE TO WATER CURRENT, DEBRIS, ETC. – NO BOATS OR PERSONS ARE TO APPROACH THE DAM PIPES OR DRAIN SYSTEMS WITHIN 100 FEET. It is recommended to stay several hundred yards behind the dam for optimal safety.
 - g. Boats are to be returned to the boat shelter after use and properly put away – kayaks are to be removed from the water after use, and larger boats are to be tied securely to the boat shelter.
 - h. Any other equipment brought to camp by groups is at ‘your own risk.’
6. All other equipment, such as lifesaving gear or medical response (backboards, etc.) should only be used by trained professionals.
 7. Any questions regarding safe and proper use of aquatic facilities and equipment should first be directed to the caretaker, then anyone on the aquatics committee as needed.
- I. The “**GROUP NAME**” hereby agrees to waive his/ her right and or claim.
 - II. From this point forward “**PBC**” will not be held responsible for anything that may arise during rental of its facility.
 - III. The “**GROUP NAME**” hereby understands that this “**WAIVER**” may be used for any legal and or financial purposes.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the “**GROUP NAME**” has executed this “**WAIVER**” as of the date signed below.

Printed Name of GROUP Representative

GROUP NAME

Signature of GROUP Representative

Date