

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

June 23, 2020

Certified Number: 9590 9402 4839 9032 0575 70

Robert Pinter, Head Coach and Owner
Gator Swim Club
4420 Northwest 19th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32605

RE: Swimming Pool/Bathing Place Variance Request, Application #3471
Gator Swim Club Special Purpose Pool, 7010 Northwest 23rd Way B, Gainesville, Florida

Dear Mr. Pinter:

The Advisory Review Board for Swimming Pools and Bathing Places reviewed your application for variance on May 13, 2020. When a variance is requested, the Advisory Review Board considers whether the hardship was caused intentionally, whether a reasonable alternative exists, and whether the health and safety of pool patrons are at risk.

The Board recommended to approve your variance application to install indoors a prefabricated SwimEx 600T 'Endless Pool' brand swim spa, which is a special purpose pool that has the following Florida building code violations:

- The step below the intake bench has been eliminated creating a ~21-inch bottom step riser from the top of the bench to the bottom of the pool. This is a violation of section 454.1.8.4 of the Florida Building Code: Step treads shall have a minimum width of 10 inches for a minimum continuous tread length of 12 inches. Step riser heights shall not exceed 12 inches.
- No handrail is mounted on the prefabricated set of steps. This is a violation of section 454.1.8.4.1: Handrails shall be provided for all sets of steps and shall be anchored in the bottom step and in the deck.
- The fan propulsion system drafts directly from the spa. This is a violation of section 454.1.8.6.2: Therapy or jet pumps shall take suction from the collector tank.
- The fan propulsion system is constructed onto the pool wall creating an underwater obstruction. This is a violation of section 454.1.2.6: The pool water area shall be unobstructed by any type structure unless justified by engineering design as a part of the recirculation system.
- The applicant is requesting to construct a wet deck around approximately 48 percent of the pool. This is a violation of section 454.1.8.5: Decks shall have a minimum 4-foot wide unobstructed width around the entire pool perimeter except that pools of less than 120 square feet of pool water surface area shall have a minimum 4-foot-wide unobstructed continuous deck around a minimum of 50 percent of the pool perimeter.

Florida Department of Health

Division of Disease Control & Health Protection • Bureau of Environmental Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08 • Tallahassee, FL 32399
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FloridaHealth.gov



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- The proposed swim spa does not have a floor slope. This is a violation of section 454.1.2.2.3.1: Floor slope shall be uniform. The floor slope shall be a maximum 1-unit vertical in 10 units horizontal and a minimum of 1-unit vertical in 60 units horizontal in areas 5 feet deep or less.
- The applicant is requesting to install a mirror-like metal surface on the bottom of the swim spa so that the patrons may monitor their own movements. This is a violation of section 454.1.2.1: Pools shall be constructed of concrete or other impervious and structurally rigid material. All pools shall be watertight, free from structural cracks and shall have a nontoxic smooth and slip resistant finish.

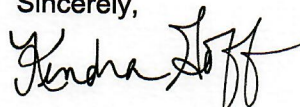
Based upon the information submitted, I concur with the Advisory Review Board recommendation to approve the above variance with the following proviso:

Due to the numerous deviations from the safety aspects of the Florida Building Code and Chapter 64E-9 Florida Administrative Code, the swim spa trainee shall be supervised by a Florida Department of Health pool code certified swimming instructor at all times when the special purpose pool is in use by a trainee.

This variance, as approved, applies only to the section(s) of the Florida Building Code for which the variance was requested. This variance in no way exempts compliance with other state and local regulations.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call August Ursin at 850-901-6517.

Sincerely,



Kendra F. Goff, PhD, DABT, CPM, CEHP
State Toxicologist & Chief

KFG/jt

Enclosure

cc: Anthony Dennis, DOH-Alachua County
Kent Kimes, P.E., Kimes Engineering