



SCRD Pools Amended Opening Hours – FAQ

What are the amended pool hours?

Sechelt Aquatic Centre

Monday – 6:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday to Friday – 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday – 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday – Closed.

Gibsons and District Aquatic Facility

Monday – 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. / 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday to Friday – 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday – Closed

Sunday – 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre (No change to current hours)

Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday to Thursday: 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Why are amended hours being implemented?

The SCRД is experiencing a lifeguard labour shortage that is being felt across the Province. This shortage has resulted in reduced hours and closures in other jurisdictions too. Right now, the SCRД is in a difficult situation where there are not enough qualified lifeguards to safely keep swimming pools open at regular operating hours.

How long will the new hours be in place?

Unless the availability of qualified lifeguards improves, these changes will be in place until June 2022 and will be reassessed at that time. SCRД swimming pools go through annual maintenance and closures in the Summer. When a pool is closed for maintenance, staff will be moved to other pools which may allow for increased operating hours at the open pools.

Why is the Sechelt Aquatic Centre being closed on Sundays?

Our staff have looked at a number of ways to reduce the impact of these schedule changes on swimming pool users. Closing the Sechelt Aquatic Centre on a Sunday, allows for the Gibsons & District Aquatic Facility to open on Sundays instead. This ensures that residents along the Sunshine Coast will have equal access to their local swimming pools.

Throughout 2021, SCRД staff were regularly in a position of having to cap the number of people who could access pools at any one time due to the unavailability of qualified lifeguards. This is due to a mandated lifeguard to pool user ratio which must be maintained for safety reasons.

Q: Can I visit the Sechelt Aquatic centre outside of the pool hours for the weight room or to receive front desk services outside of the new pool hours?

A: The Sechelt Aquatic Centre will only be open with front desk services during the amended pool hours above. The weight room and fitness studio at the Sechelt Aquatic Centre and Pender Harbour Aquatic & Fitness Centre will remain closed until the current provincial health order is lifted. As restrictions allow, these facilities and programs will return. Further information will be shared when the current provincial health order ends on January 18

What is the SCRD doing to recruit more lifeguards?

The SCRD has promoted available lifeguard positions online through the SCRD website, social media and various employment websites. Staff have also been working with local high schools to recruit students and are working on implementing a training program with each of the schools on the Coast. Training incentives are also being offered for new staff.

How do I become a lifeguard?

There are four certifications required to become a lifeguard as outlined below:

Steps to becoming a lifeguard:

1. Bronze Medallion: Teaches an understanding of the lifesaving principles embodied in the four components of water rescue education: judgment, knowledge, skill and fitness. Rescuers learn advanced lifesaving techniques for challenging rescues of increased risk involving conscious and unconscious victims in varying water depths.
2. Bronze Cross: Designed for lifesavers who want the challenge of more advanced training, including an introduction to safety supervision. As the Lifesaving Society's Assistance Lifeguard program, Bronze Cross hones judgment, knowledge, skill and fitness to prepare candidates for success in National Lifeguard (NL) and instructor certifications.
3. Standard First Aid & CPR C: Provides comprehensive training covering all aspects of first aid, CPR and AED use! Whether you need training for employment or simply want to be prepared to respond to life-threatening emergencies, this course will give you the skills and knowledge to act with confidence.
4. National Lifeguard: The primary role of a lifeguard is to prevent incidents and, where this fails, the timely and effective resolution of emergencies. National Lifeguard builds on the previously learned lifesaving principles and is designed to prepare candidates to be professional facilitators of safety in aquatic environments.

For more information, please visit the Lifesaving Society Website and the SCRD Recreation Websites below for specific course information and to register:

www.lifesaving.bc.ca/lifeguarding-courses
www.scrd.ca/aquatic-leadership