Kids’ Playgrounds,
Swimming Pools are
Big Assets to Clubs

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Conventional equipment at hundreds of pools is the one-meter diving unit. It should be constructed of 1 1/2-in. tested steel pipe with the frame locked together rigidly by certified malleable fittings. All metal should be rust-proofed for enduring protection.

For pools where the walk areas are limited an extra heavy duty regulation one-meter streamlined diving unit is recommended. Its frames, supports and guard rail assembly should be constructed of larger pipe, preferably 2 1/2 ins. in diameter.

The three-meter diving unit should consist of a frame, main braces and stairway risers of hot-dip galvanized steel pipe, preferably 1 1/2-ins. in diameter. All stairways should be slanting, with non-slip treads and safety handrails.

For larger pools, triple diving units provide greater enjoyment and accommodate more divers. This equipment should include one official three-meter and two one-meter units, fan-shaped to assure absolute safety for the divers. One 16-ft. and two 14-ft. diving boards are recommended for the triple diving unit.

Diving Boards

Proper selection of diving boards greatly reduces maintenance work and expense. A type which gives years of good service is the regulation Douglas fir board of solid laminated construction. Where boards receive severe use and abuse, the Lifetime aluminum diving board is highly recommended.

Use a regular style fulcrum. Either a standard bar-type or rocker-type fulcrum
assure good diving board performance, providing the fulcrums are properly designed and covered with a heavy thickness of live, resilient rubber to absorb the shock of the board when in use. A rocker type fulcrum is preferable, however, because it is curved to follow the action of the board, thereby distributing weight and strain over a large bearing surface.

Increased safety is assured by covering a Douglas fir board with extra heavy duty cocoa matting, approved regulation covering for diving boards and springboards.

Another important accessory is the life-line with floats of Tenite plastic, a material said to be superior to wood, cork or balsa. Ladders should be roomy and equipped with non-slip treads for added safety. Durable non-rusting ladders, made entirely of metal, are recommended. An approved type has risers spaced 12 inches apart, and with the top tread 12 inches below walk level.

Lifeguard chairs should provide unobstructed views of deep water areas. Their use minimizes patrons' conversation with the lifeguards, thereby assuring greater alertness.

Pool cleaning and sanitation problems may be satisfactorily met with a unit that includes a cleaning tool, pump and 50-foot suction hose. Larger pools should add a diving mask to the equipment list, thereby eliminating the need for draining the pool, a costly process. This permits the lifeguard or attendant to work more efficiently with the cleaning unit on the floor of the pool. Use of a diving belt assures maximum safety during the cleaning operation.

**Inexpensive Playground**

For about $600 a club can purchase a high grade set of playground equipment. This investment provides an all-steel slide, with a 12-ft. stainless steel chute bedway, a primary castle walk, merry-go-round, two-board see-saw set, a three-swing set on a 10-foot high frame, and a 7-foot high swing set, with three chair-type nursery seats for very small tots.

It isn't necessary to make a big investment in gaudy but flimsy playground equipment. More important is to select sturdy and well-designed equipment. Install it correctly to promote safety and reduce maintenance expense.

Alignment of all frame members is necessary to assure the best appearance and maximum structural strength. While the concrete is still wet and the fittings loose, a level should be used to make sure that the top beams are level and straight, with vertical supports perpendicular to the ground.

After alignment, fittings can be pulled down tightly, and concrete allowed to harden. No apparatus should be attached to frames or any playground unit placed in use until the concrete footings have hardened for at least 48 to 72 hours.

Concrete around the base of all frame support members should be troweled smooth and shaped conically so that it is highest at the pipe members proper. It is recommended that at least four inches of turf cover all concrete footings level with the ground line.

Finally, a regular maintenance program should be carried out. Timely repairing and repainting of playground equipment will make it last longer and assure greater safety.

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