

Plan Pool Operations To Prevent Trouble

By Adolph Kiefer

Swimming pools now are so generally features of country club facilities that thorough consideration of the pool's operating condition and planning of the season program of pool operation are important matters in club management.

Well in advance of the pool's opening check the filter bed, the chlorinator and the pipes to see that there are no flaws in the equipment and that none of the equipment permits injurious growth. The cleaning equipment must be very thoroughly checked. Load the top of filter beds with HTH to take out algae and other dormant substances. Run the HTH through the filter, circulating it for a couple of hours, then throw it away.

Check the pool for cracks. Scrub it thoroughly and if your pool is not tiled you'll have to paint it every four or five years. Better use rubberized base paint rather than cement base, even though the rubberized material costs more. It lasts longer and looks better.

See that your personnel is well instructed in general use of the mechanical features of the pool. That keeps them sanitation-conscious. It's a good idea to see that members and even the children who use the pool are taken on an inspection tour of the pool equipment.

Get the bulletins on pools from your state health authorities and study this material carefully. It's always wise to ask the advice and cooperation of state authorities before the season opens. Have them meet the personnel who'll be responsible for pool operation, if possible.

Check your life-saving equipment. A rescue pole, two ring buoys and a small first aid kit are minimum equipment.

Remember that you've got a lot of money invested in the pool but the health and safety of your members is worth more than money so don't overlook a single little detail in making your pre-opening check-up.

Plan well in advance your pool operating program. Announce the hours the pool is open, the classes and costs of pool use and individual or class instruction, or if class instruction is free, make a strong point of that in your publicity.

Conduct free classes in life saving and advanced swimming. The Red Cross will send a man to train your instructor (if the instructor already isn't completely qualified) or to train your members. Your instructor should have a Red Cross certificate.

Plan water ballets and water shows. The shows should be staged once a month and

should include races, comedy acts, ballet numbers and diving. The competition and demonstrations will prove highly interesting even to those members who are not aquatic-minded.

Colorful chairs and umbrellas are very important around the pool. These chairs have to stand a lot of wear and must be comfortable. Have a sun-bathing area adjoining the pool and in this area have comfortable sanitary mats. Shuffleboard and table-tennis near the pool also are desirable if you have the space.

Roping an area bordering the pool for bathers generally is advisable. You'll have to figure out your own answers to the matter of drink service to adults and children near the pool.

Another problem is that of towels. Issue the pool users one towel when they register. Registration is important and especially for children. Have a basket close to the pool dressing room attendant in which bathers can drop their towels. Don't allow towels out of the dressing rooms.

Athletes' foot preventive baths are essential and all users of the pool must use these baths before and after using the pool. Cleanliness must be emphasized and enforced at all times.

One of the extremely important phases of pool operation is that of detailing their duties to your pool personnel. If you don't have informed and supervised personnel trouble is likely.

It's also important that boys' and girls' locker-rooms should be separated from adults.

CLUB FINANCES

Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, showed net operating income of \$14,085 for 1947. Restaurant sales were \$190,658. Buffet sales, \$40,158. Dues income, \$128,994. Green fees, \$3,987. Course maintenance was \$29,340. Provision for depreciation was \$8,418. Special assessment of \$13,320. Minikahda celebrates its semi-centennial this year.

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Ft. Wayne (Ind.) CC with a tough book-keeping policy of charging as current expense items that might be booked as capital investment finished 1947 with \$118,178 cash. All accounts payable, including accrued taxes, amounted to \$3,967. Inventories, accounts receivable and revalued U. S. bonds to extent of \$102,065, together with cash, bring club's liquid assets to \$245,305. Property and equipment, less depreciation, is on the books for only \$164,564. Capital stock outstanding at \$250 par value is \$74,250.