

**REGULATIONS**  
**GOVERNING LICENSURE**  
**OF**  
**YOUTH CAMPS**

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Child Care Facilities Licensure  
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**Title 15: Mississippi State Department of Health**

**Part 11: Bureau of Child Care Facilities**

**Subpart 55: Child Care Facilities Licensure**

**CHAPTER 4: REGULATIONS GOVERNING LICENSURE OF YOUTH CAMPS**

**Subchapter 1: DEFINITIONS**

Rule 4.1.1 The following words and terms, when used in these regulations, shall have the following meanings unless the context indicates otherwise.

1. **Adult** means a person 18 years of age or older.
2. **Board** means the State Board of Health(s governing board consisting of 13 members.
3. **Camper** means any child six (6) to eighteen (18) years of age who is attending a youth camp.
4. **Camping** means a sustained experience which provides a creative, recreational, and educational opportunity in-group living in the out-of-doors.
5. **Camp Director** means the individual who has the primary responsibility for health matters, food, and supportive services, such as business and transportation, at a youth camp. This person may or may not be classified as the Program Manager also.
6. **Assistant Camp Director** means an individual appointed by the director and who must be present and responsible in his absence.
7. **Youth Camp Operator** shall mean any person who owns, operates, controls, or supervises, whether or not for profit, a youth camp. The license is issued to the Youth Camp Operator, and has the ultimate responsibility for the operation of the youth camp.
8. **Program Manager** is the individual responsible for the staff supervision and program administration and shall meet the requirements of CAMP DIRECTOR.
9. **Program Manager Permit** is the permit to operate a camping program of four or more consecutive days in a site rental situation.
10. **Counselor** means an individual who has a supervisory role with campers. This individual shall be at least a high school graduate or 18 years of age.
11. **Health Officer** means the State Health Officer, Mississippi State Board of Health.

12. **Person** means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or organization.
13. **Swimming and Diving Areas** mean and include those aquatic facilities and operations generally known as swimming pools, wading pools, diving tanks, beaches, rivers, lakes, or other natural bodies of water, and similar areas and facilities.
14. **Tent** means any shelter of which 25 percent or more of the walls or roof or both are constructed of, or covered, or protected by canvas or any other fabric material.
15. **Youth Camp** means any camp operating on a permanent campsite for four (4) or more consecutive periods of twenty-four (24) hours and accommodating twenty (20) or more children six (6) to eighteen (18) years of age: provided, however, athletic camps and hunting and fishing camps shall not be included in this definition.
16. **Special Needs Campers** mean those campers who have (1) physical disabilities affecting sense organs, muscles or skeletal structure, (2) mental impairments altering their intellectual performance, reasoning, or judgment, or (3) special medical problems which place restrictions upon their movement or render them unable to function in a normal setting without assistance or special supervisory attention.
17. **Department** means the Mississippi State Department of Health.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

## **Subchapter 2: LICENSING, APPLICATIONS, and PLANS**

### **Rule 4.2.1 General Requirements**

1. No person shall establish, promote, conduct, advertise, or maintain a youth camp without a license or permit issued by the Department.
2. A youth camp, as defined in these regulations, shall advertise and operate only as the type of camp for which it has been licensed.
3. Services for campers with special needs shall not be advertised unless the camp has suitable facilities and staff members qualified to offer such specific services.
4. The Department may at any time evaluate the conditions of a youth camp. Duly authorized representatives of the Department shall have the right of entry and access to any such camps at any reasonable time. Said representative shall notify the person in charge immediately upon arrival and present proper credentials.
5. Each license shall specify the name of the camp, the age, and maximum capacity that may be served, the name of the camp operator and owner and the specific base site(s) where the camp may operate.

6. The license shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the camp.
7. All camps shall report immediately in writing to the Department when the following changes or events occur:
  - a. Change of owner or operator
  - b. Proposed increase in enrollment over number authorized in the license
  - c. Proposed capital improvements or additions to facilities
  - d. Cancellation of camp for the season
8. In camps where the camp director is unable to be present during the hours of operation or is unable to assume full responsibility for the operation and staff of the camp, there shall be an assistant director on the premises who shall be responsible for insuring that all requirements are met during all hours of operation under his jurisdiction.
9. The camp operator (licensee) is responsible for notifying the licensing agency when camps will be conducted by a permitted program manager and the name of said manager.
10. All licensed camps shall apply for renewal of license and inspection on an annual basis to the Department. The licensing year shall be June 1 through May 31.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

#### Rule 4.2.2      **Submission of Plans**

1.      **Sanitary Facilities for New Camps and Modification of Existing Camps** In accordance with applicable state and local laws, ordinances and regulations, plans and specifications for the construction, reconstruction or extensive alteration of any plumbing system, water supply, sewage system, garbage or refuse disposal system, kitchen, food service or dining facilities, swimming and/or diving area at any residential camp shall be submitted to the Department for review at least 60 days prior to the initiation of construction, to be returned by the Department within 30 days. This review is to determine that the facility meets all rules and regulations as stipulated for Youth Camp Licensure.
2.      **Camps on New Site**
  - a.      In accordance with applicable State and local laws, ordinances and regulations, plans and specifications for the construction and operation of a

residential camp on a new site should be submitted to the Department for review at least 60 days prior to the initiation of construction and shall contain at least the following information:

- i. Name and address of owner or operator of camp
  - ii. Location, boundaries and dimensions of campsite and lots
  - iii. Entrance and exit roads, access roads and trails
  - iv. Location, use and floor plans of all proposed and existing buildings; detailed plans and specifications of swimming pools and other swimming areas
  - v. Location of all proposed or existing water supplies and sewage systems
  - vi. Source and method of protecting water supply
  - vii. Documentation of an approved sewage disposal method
  - viii. Method of storm water drainage
  - ix. Method of storage, collection, and disposal of solid wastes
  - x. Location and number of sanitary conveniences including toilets, water closets, privies, urinals, showers, bathtubs, and hand washing facilities
  - xi. Plumbing in plan and elevation of all proposed buildings and sanitary facilities
  - xii. A topographical map showing the relief of the land surface, location of all lakes, ponds, swamps, sink holes, abandoned wells, rivers, streams, abandoned quarries and forests
  - xiii. Method of ventilation of sleeping quarters and food service facilities.
- b. The Department may declare campsites unsatisfactory for camping purposes if, after review of the plans and a visit to the site, conditions are found to exist which are in violation of these regulations.
  - c. The camp operator shall notify the Department upon completion of construction of a camp on a new site for a final inspection.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

### **Subchapter 3: GENERAL SUPERVISION**

**Rule 4.3.1 Ratio of Counselors to Campers** Residential and Groups Camps shall have one counselor to 10 campers. Individuals who are at least 16 years of age may be used as

adjuncts to the counselor staff. However, these individuals shall not be included in meeting the specified counselor to camper ratio requirements. Camps including special needs campers shall have counselors to the special needs campers at a ratio of 1 to 5.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.3.2 Camp Director/Program Manager**

1. Each Residential Camp shall have a camp director or permitted program manager on the premises who shall:
  - a. Be at least 25 years of age
  - and
  - b. Have successfully completed a documented course in camping administration such as those offered by professional camping associations, national agencies or their equivalent as determined by the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council
  - or
  - c. Have had at least two years previous documented experience as part of the administrative staff of a youth camp.
2. In addition to the above, the camp director for special needs campers shall have educational background or experience appropriate to the groups being served.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.3.3 Supervision of Specialized Activities** When campers participate in specialized activities such as, but not limited to, horseback riding, hiking, scuba diving, rock climbing, firearms, canoeing, aquatic events, and ropes challenge courses, the counselors supervising the activity shall possess evidence of appropriate training and experience in their program specialties. When applicable, camp operators shall assure any special training necessary for camp personnel to protect the health and safety of special needs campers.

1. **Aquatics Activities** including those events associated with swimming, boating, canoeing, water craft and water skiing shall be directed by individuals currently certified as having passed American National Red Cross Lifeguard Training, Boy Scouts of America Lifeguard Training, Y.M.C.A. Lifeguard Training or the equivalent, as determined by the Advisory Council on Youth Camp Safety. The aquatics director shall be at least 18 years of age.
2. **Swimming Activity Supervision**

- a. There shall be a minimum ratio of one counselor with at least a current Lifeguard Certificate as issued by the American National Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Y.M.C.A. or its equivalent\* per 25 campers in the water. There shall be a minimum of one to 10 total staff to camper ratio maintained at all times.
  - b. A system shall be devised and on file for checking participants in and out during swimming and boating activities.
3. **Water Craft Activities** A Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) must be worn by all campers and counselors when in water craft regardless of swimming ability. All Mississippi Boating Safety Act regulations must be followed in water craft activities. (Refer to current Mississippi regulations, available through Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliaries)
- a. There shall be a minimum ratio of one counselor with at least a current Lifeguard Certificate as issued by the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, YMCA, or equivalent, as determined by the Youth Camp Advisory Council, per 25 campers on the water. All water craft activities shall be supervised by a minimum of one staff on the water to each 10 campers in water craft. Said staff shall have participated in at least 6 hours of the activity for which he is responsible.
  - b. For **Waterskiing**, in addition to the above:
    - i. The skier must wear a vest approved by the Coast Guard for that activity
    - ii. The driver of the boat must have 6 hours of driving experience and another person on board as an observer.
  - c. For **Salt Water Boating**, in addition to the above part (a), the responsible supervisor shall:
    - i. Have had 6 weeks experience in the salt water activity for which he is responsible
    - ii. Have had practical instruction in survival & water safety as taught by American Red Cross, Mississippi Boat & Water Safety Commission or the equivalent
    - iii. Have in operation a motorized rescue vessel when sailboats are being used.
  - d. For **White Water Activities**, in addition to the above part (a), the responsible supervisor shall:
    - i. Have had practical instruction and experience in white water activity

- ii. Have had the aforementioned survival and water safety instruction
    - iii. All white water activities in the state must be carried out on water determined to be no more difficult than Class III as defined by the International Scale of River Difficulty. No trips shall be taken on unclassified white water.
  - e. Campers participating in White Water Activity must be able to swim. Helmets must be worn by all participants in Class III White Water Activity.
4. **Fishing and Shoreline Activities** shall be supervised.
  5. **Scuba Diving Activities** shall be supervised by individuals who are currently certified by a national or regional scuba training program acceptable to the Advisory Council on Youth Camp Safety.
  6. **Firearm Activities**
    - a. Campers and staff may NOT bring their own firearms to a youth camp
    - b. Supervisors of activities must have certification and/or documented training and experience in that type activity acceptable to the Advisory Council in Youth Camp Safety
    - c. A ratio of one staff to 10 campers must be maintained on the range at all times
  7. **Archery Activities** shall be supervised by a counselor who:
    - a. Possesses a working knowledge of rules covering archery safety
    - b. In addition, a minimum ratio of one staff to 10 campers must be maintained on the range at all times.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.3.4 Personnel Records** The camp shall keep on site a record of all employees and staff, which shall include at least: name, address, age, training, education, experience and other qualifications and the names and telephone numbers of persons to be notified in the event of an emergency.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.3.5** All camps are to conduct an orientation period to acquaint all staff and personnel with health safety and welfare programs of the camp. This must be documented in personnel records.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*



## **Subchapter 4: GENERAL HEALTH and SAFETY**

### **Rule 4.4.1 General Health**

#### **1. Health Records**

- a. Campers records shall be readily available to health authorized personnel and shall include:
  - i. Camper's name and address
  - ii. Name, address, and telephone number of parent, legal guardian and designated adult emergency contact
  - iii. Authorization from the parent/guardian of all minors for emergency care.
- b. Every camper and staff member entering camp shall furnish a health history which should emphasize those potential conditions for which camp personnel should be prepared.
- c. Every camper shall receive a health screening not later than 48 hours after arrival at camp.
- d. All records shall be on file in camp for review by Department personnel.

#### **2. Injury and Illness Reports**

- a. If an injury or illness is judged to be serious by the individual in charge of health supervision, the camp physician shall be consulted immediately. When the patient is a legally defined minor, the parents or guardian shall be notified as soon as possible.
- b. A bound medical log listing date, name of patient, ailment and treatment prescribed shall be maintained at the camp.
- c. A report form (provided by the Department) shall be completed in duplicate for each injury, illness or fatality which occurs at camp and which is attended by a health staff person and as a result of which the child or staff (1) is sent home, (2) is admitted to a hospital or (3) has either laboratory analysis or x-rays performed which result in a positive diagnosis. The original report form shall be maintained at the camp or sponsoring organization for at least 1 year for the purpose of these regulations. A copy shall be forwarded to the Department not later than one week after the event comes to the attention of camp authorities.
- d. Reportable communicable diseases, fatalities and animal bites must be reported immediately.

3. **Health Staff**

- a. There shall be an adult with the youth camp at all times who is charged with health supervision. Said adult may be a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant, a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, a camp health director who has been certified by a national professional camping association, national agency, or an individual who has completed at least the Standard First Aid and Personal Safety Course as prescribed by the American National Red Cross or its equivalent.
- b. There shall be a current written agreement or exchange of letters with a nearby hospital regarding procedures for admitting campers and providing for financial arrangements.

4. **Medication**

- a. Medications prescribed for campers or staff members shall be kept under lock and key by the health supervisor in the original containers bearing the pharmacy label which shows the prescription number, date filled, physician's name, direction for use and the patient's name. Medication shall be administered under the direction of health supervisor or adult supervision. When no longer needed, medications shall be returned to parents, staff member or destroyed.
- b. Administration of **ANY** medications must be documented in the Health Log.

5. **First Aid Supplies**

- a. First aid supplies shall be available to staff in all youth camps at food service operations, program areas, in motor vehicles, office maintenance areas and on camp outings.
  - i. Supplies should be arranged so that the desired item can be found quickly without unwrapping the entire package.
  - ii. Material should be wrapped so that unused portions do not become contaminated through handling.
- b. Kits should include provisions for the area in which camping is being done.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

Rule 4.4.2 **General Safety**

1. **Equipment and Facilities**

- a. All equipment and facilities used in youth camp programs, whether owned by the camp or not, shall be of good quality and not present undue risk.

- b. Archery equipment, firearms, and ammunition shall be stored in a locked cabinet or building when not in use.
- c. Power equipment shall not be stored, operated, or left unattended without proper safeguards in camper areas. All power tools shall be stored in a locked place not occupied by campers. Power tools and outboard motors shall be used by campers only under the direct supervision of counselors.
- d. Equipment used for arts and crafts shall be in good repair, of safe design and properly installed.
- e. Commercial playground equipment shall be securely anchored to imbedded concrete or other approved footing, acceptable to the Department.
- f. All water craft shall be equipped with U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices of types I, II, or III as prescribed for the specific type of craft and number and age of occupants. Water skiers shall wear a vest as approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for that particular activity. Water craft towing a skier shall have an observer on board.
- g. All swimming and diving areas shall be provided with selected safety equipment which is in good useable condition. Appropriate staff shall be trained in the proper use of said equipment.
- h. All piers, floats, platforms, and decks shall be in good repair and, where applicable, the water depth shall be indicated by printed numerals on the deck or planking.
- i. Firearms and archery ranges shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the standards of the appropriate national professional association.

## 2. **Emergency Procedures - Residential Camps**

- a. When telephones are provided, camp operators shall maintain and post by each phone a current roster of telephone numbers of physicians, hospitals, police, ambulance, and fire departments in the immediate area.
- b. The camp program shall include written contingency plans and related procedures dealing with circumstances such as natural disasters and other emergencies.
  - i. Fire drills shall be held within the first 24 hours at the beginning of each camp session and frequently enough thereafter to minimize danger of panic.
  - ii. Each camp shall have at the campsite a written disaster plan. All staff shall be advised of the procedures contained in the plan. Arrangements

for transporting individuals from the camp to emergency facilities shall be included in the plan.

- iii. Lost camper and lost swimmer plans shall be formulated and on file. Appropriate staff shall be trained in the procedures contained in these plans.
- iv. A plan for communicating with emergency medical facilities as well as the nearest fire station regarding responses to emergency situations shall be on file at the camp.
- v. When tents are used for sleeping purposes, whether or not said tents are located on platforms, procedures shall be developed to ensure rapid evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- vi. A plan relating to the control of the movement of vehicular traffic through the camp shall be on file.

### 3. **Injury Control - Residential Camps**

#### a. **Premises shall be reasonably free of hazards such as:**

- i. Old refrigerators with doors, freestanding walls, open cisterns, open grease traps and unsafe fences in which children can be caught or strangled.
- ii. Substances which may be toxic if ingested, inhaled or handled, including, but not limited to drugs, medications, pool chemicals, pesticides and other toxic chemicals which shall be plainly marked and stored in locked cabinets or enclosures located in an area not accessible to campers.

#### b. **Other Precautions**

- i. Gasoline and other petroleum products shall be stored in accordance with existing and applicable State and local laws, ordinances and regulations dealing with safety.
- ii. Radiators, registers, steam, and hot water pipes shall have protective covering or insulation for the protection of campers and staff.
- iii. Floor furnaces, open grate gas heaters, electric heaters or other heaters shall not be operated by campers. When fuel ignition type heaters are used, they shall be properly vented and installed with permanent connections and protectors and shall have sealed combustion chambers.
- iv. Glass doors and glass panels adjacent to doors shall be marked.

- v. Stairways over four steps in height shall be equipped with hand rails.
- vi. Rooms shall not be equipped with open or unguarded stairwells, windows which present a hazard from falling, unsafely located, or constructed electrical outlets, any broken items which may cause injury and elevators or other vertical shafts.

c. **Potentially Hazardous Areas**

- i. Campers shall be informed about potential natural hazards to their safety and, where feasible, "hazardous area" shall be posted. Such natural or potential hazards shall include but not be limited to:
- ii. Noxious plants, harmful reptiles, insects, and rodents
- iii. Steep drop-offs, cliffs or mine shafts in the area
- iv. Swimming or diving areas or streams that contain polluted waters or steep drop-offs or other unusual bottom conditions or currents.

4. **Fire Safety in Residential Camps** Documentation of an annual FIRE SAFETY SURVEY FOR YOUTH CAMPS must be conducted before a license can be issued. (These forms are available from the Mississippi State Department of Health.)

a. **Building Standards** The procurement, construction, and maintenance of resources, equipment, and buildings shall be in conformance with existing and applicable State and local laws, ordinances and regulations dealing with fire safety.

b. **Means of Egress**

- i. The means of egress from all structures shall be maintained in an unobstructed, easily traveled condition at all times. Exposure to inherent hazards of the building such as heating plant, kitchen, flammable storage or other similar conditions is not permitted. Furniture, equipment, and utility materials shall not be stored or maintained in a location or position which may cause them to fall into, be pushed into or be obstructive in any way to the means of egress.
- ii. A building with an occupancy of more than 12 persons, including staff, shall be provided with at least two separate and independent means of egress located as far apart as practical and, in no case, less than 50 percent of the longest dimension of the building. Each door shall be hung in the direction of egress. Where a sliding door is the only means of egress, such door shall be kept open a minimum of three feet while the building is occupied.

- iii. An occupancy above the first floor shall be provided with two separate and independent means of egress and located so that all persons are situated between approved exit facilities. Said exits shall lead to an approved outside fire escape or to an interior stairway enclosed with an assembly of materials affording substantial protection from fire and leading directly to the outdoor at grade.
- iv. A required exit from a facility for an occupancy of more than 25 persons, or where an exit is not readily visible to the occupants, shall be designated by a luminescent exit sign. Directional exit signs shall be installed where needed.
- v. Emergency lighting shall be provided for any stairway, corridor and fire escape that constitutes a means of egress. In new construction or remodeling of existing structures, where electric power is provided, the lighting required by this rule shall be installed on separate circuits from and fused ahead of the main switch or disconnected. In the event electricity is not available, a battery system shall be provided.
- vi. In an assemblage area such as a recreation room, dining hall or chapel, each door from a room occupied by campers shall enter a corridor between exits or there shall be direct egress to the outside from each room.
- vii. In newly constructed buildings, an exit door shall not be less than 36 inches wide.
- viii. A door forming part of a means of egress where door hardware is used shall be of a type that is non-locking against egress and operable with a single motion not to exceed 35 pounds of pressure. The use of bolts, bars and similar devices is prohibited on any door provided for exit purposes or designed as an exit.

c. **Fire Warning Equipment**

- i. All multi-story buildings and all areas of occupancy which are deemed to have high-risk fire hazards shall be protected throughout with a battery operated automatic fire detection system.
- ii. Fire extinguishers of an approved type with a current inspection date so tagged shall be properly located and easily visible in buildings having fire hazards.

d. **Heating** Heating devices, their installation, operation, and maintenance shall be in compliance with existing and applicable State and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

e. **Tents**

- i. All tents shall be of the fiber impregnated flame retardant variety.
- ii. All tents shall be posted with permanent warning "No open flame in or near this tent." This warning may be on a sign or stenciled directly on the tent.
- iii. Campfires and open flames of any type shall be prohibited within 10 feet of any tent.
- iv. Plastic tents of any type shall not be allowed.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

## **Subchapter 5: CAMP CONSTRUCTION**

### **Rule 4.5.1 Building and Living Shelters**

#### **1. General Construction**

- a. Camp structures and facilities shall comply with applicable State and local building and zoning codes with Southern Building Code being the final authority.
- b. Every building, structure, tent, cabin, and premises shall be kept in good repair and shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition.
- c. When electrical systems are installed in camps, they shall be approved, installed, and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the National Electrical Code.
- d. Where floors are provided in buildings, tents or other structures used for sleeping quarters, they shall be easily cleanable and in good repair; shall be constructed and maintained in a safe condition; shall afford adequate protection against inclement weather; and shall be located and maintained so as to provide easy, unobstructed exit in case of fire or other emergency.

#### **2. Shelters for Residential Camps**

- a. In all buildings or tents, sleeping space shall be so arranged to provide a minimum of 25 square feet of floor area per person.
- b. Each camper shall be provided with an individual sleeping space.
- c. All buildings used as permanent sleeping quarters shall have a minimum ceiling height of 7 feet over at least 50% of the floor area.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

## **Subchapter 6: SWIMMING AND DIVING AREAS**

**Rule 4.6.1 Management of Swimming and Diving Areas**

1. All swimming and diving areas shall be operated and maintained in accordance with recommended State and local sanitation and safety standards.
2. A youth camp operator intending to use any swimming or diving area shall first determine that such facilities meet the standards indicated.
3. Boating shall not be allowed in designated swimming areas.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.6.2 Safety and Rescue Equipment**

1. Safety equipment provided for swimming and diving areas shall be in good, usable condition.
2. All piers, floats, platforms, and decks shall be in good repair and, where applicable, the water depth shall be indicated by painted numerals on the deck or planking.
3. There shall be a minimum water depth of 10 feet for a 1 meter diving board. Pools constructed after January 1, 1997 shall have a minimum depth of 12 feet under the board which continues out at least 15.5 feet from the end of the board before starting to angle upward at an angle of not more than 30 degrees
4. For outdoor diving areas, the bottom shall be cleared of stumps, rocks and other obstacles.
5. Diving boards shall be mounted on a firm foundation and never on an insecure base such as a float that can be affected by weight loads and wave action. The entire length of the top surface of diving boards shall be covered with a non-skid surface. Clearance from the sides of and the distance between diving boards shall be at least 8 feet.
6. Each swimming pool shall be fenced to discourage entry of unauthorized persons.
7. Natural bodies of water shall have marked swimming areas and be free of stumps, debris, etc.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.6.3 Plumbing Fixtures**

1. Cross-connections shall not be permitted.
2. A cross-connection shall be considered broken where a minimum air gap of at least twice the diameter of the water pipe is provided, where potable water enters



the pool and where pool water or water from the recirculation system is discharged to a sewer system.

3. Back flow shall not be permitted. A potable water distributing pipe shall be considered as protected against back flow from any plumbing fixture or other piece of equipment or from any appliance capable of affecting the quality of the water in the potable water supply where as air gap of at least twice the diameter of the water supply pipe has been provided. Where it is not practicable to provide such minimum air gap, the connection of the fixture, equipment or appliance shall be equipped with a back flow preventer assembly of a type and at a location provided by the Board.
4. The Board may require that a back flow preventer assembly of an approved type be installed at any fixed potable water outlet to which a hose may be connected and used in contact with liquids and other substances.
5. The Southern Plumbing Code shall be final authority.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.6.4 Electrical Safety**

1. The electrical installation at all newly constructed swimming and diving areas shall comply with and be maintained in accordance with requirements of the latest edition of the National Electrical Code.
2. Existing installations shall, upon application, be inspected and granted a variance if a hazard does not exist.
3. All swimming pools, regardless of construction date, shall comply with the latest edition of the National Electrical Code requirements pertaining to underwater lights.
4. Defects in the electrical installation of underwater lights shall be repaired, removed, or disconnected immediately.
5. All electrical wiring where exposed and accessible to bathers shall be in rigid conduit or electrical metallic tubing and all boxes, fittings, and accessories used in damp or wet locations shall be installed and equipped to prevent the entrance of water.
6. Distribution centers where fused switches or circuit breakers are grouped shall be enclosed in inaccessible to all except authorized individuals.
7. The crossing of outdoor swimming and diving areas by open overhead electrical conductors shall be prohibited.

8. Overhead electrical conductors crossing playgrounds contiguous to outdoor swimming and diving areas shall comply with the requirements of the latest edition of the National Electrical Code.
9. All metal fences or railings on which a broken electrical conductor might fall shall be effectively grounded.
10. All water and other piping to and from the swimming and diving areas, including inlet and outlet pipes, shall be metallically bonded together and adequately connected to the same grouping electrode used to ground the neutral conductor of the electrical system. This shall be in addition to the grounding requirements for electrical equipment and circuits as required by the latest edition of the National Electrical Code.
11. Pumps, filters and other mechanical and electrical equipment shall be enclosed in such a manner as to be accessible only to authorized individuals.
12. Construction and drainage shall be such as to avoid the entrance of accumulation of water in the vicinity of electrical equipment.
13. Electrical installations at all swimming and diving areas and any future additions or modifications to, such installations, prior to being placed in service and every 3 years thereafter, shall be inspected and approved in accordance with these regulations.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

### **Subchapter 7: Water Supply**

Rule 4.7.1 All youth camps shall have a water supply which is potable, adequate and from a source approved by the State Board of Health annually.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

Rule 4.7.2 Only potable water shall be used for drinking, brushing teeth, cooking or reconstituting dehydrated or concentrated products.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

Rule 4.7.3 Supplies shall be constructed, protected, operated, and maintained in conformance with applicable State and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

Rule 4.7.4 The supply servicing a youth camp may consist of:

1. A public water supply system
2. An on-site individual water supply system

3. Water which has been transported to the camp for dispensing to campers
4. Water which has been purified before use in accordance with approved procedures of the board, or
5. A combination of the above sources acceptable to the Board.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

### **Subchapter 8: Waste Disposal and Sanitary Facilities**

**Rule 4.8.1 Solid Wastes** All refuse and other solid wastes shall be stored, collected and disposed of in a manner approved by the Board.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.8.2 Sewage and Liquid Waste Disposal** The sewage and waste water from all youth camps shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Board. This shall consist of:

1. Connection to an approved public sewer system or
2. Connection to an individual on-site sewage treatment system or
3. The use of subsurface disposal system or
4. The use of chemical toilets, privies or similar facilities acceptable to the Board
5. The use of slit-trench latrine or other method acceptable to the Board, or
6. A combination of the above methods acceptable to the Board.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

### **Rule 4.8.3 Sanitary Facilities**

1. **Toilet Facilities**
  - a. Toilet facilities shall be provided in youth camps. The minimum number of toilet facilities shall be provided in a ratio of 1 to 12. In residential camps, flush urinals may be substituted for not more than one-half the required number of toilet facilities.
  - b. Covered trash receptacles shall be provided in all permanent toilets.
  - c. Pit privies and latrines shall be located at least 100 feet from any well, stream, or lake and not less than 50 feet from any sleeping area.
  - d. Pit privies and latrines shall be located at least 200 feet from a kitchen or food service area.

2. **Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Requirements for Toilet Facilities and Urinals**

- a. Water-flushed toilets, chemical toilets, pit privies or latrines (slit-trench, deep pit, mound or bored hole latrines) and urinals shall be provided and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- b. The underground water level and soil conditions shall be considered when determining the appropriate type of toilets and urinals to be provided as shall applicable State and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

3. **Hand-washing and Bathing Facilities**

- a. Camps shall provide hand-washing facilities at a ratio of 1 to 12 and bathing facilities shall meet the ratio of 1 to 15.
- b. Primitive or Outpost Camps shall not be required to adhere to the hand-washing or bathing facility requirements outlined above.
- c. Hand-washing facilities shall be supplied with running water and shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- d. Hand-washing facilities, when provided, shall be adjacent to toilet facilities.
- e. Showers or bathtubs, when provided, shall be in the living areas or in a centrally located structure.
- f. Shower stalls, bathtub areas and dressing compartments shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

4. **Drinking Facilities**

- a. At least one drinking facility shall be provided and centrally located for each 80 campers.
- b. No common drinking utensils shall be provided or used.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Subchapter 9: Insect, Rodent, and Weed Control (Vector Control)**

Rule 4.9.1 **General Statement** Adequate measures for the control of insects and rodents which the Board seems of public health significance shall be taken.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

Rule 4.9.2 **Rodent and Insect Control**

1. Buildings and structures shall be maintained free of insect and rodent harborages and infestation.
2. Extermination methods or other measures to control rodents and insects shall conform to the requirements of the Board.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.9.3 Weed Control**

1. The growth of brush, weeds, grass, and plants shall be controlled in central camp areas to prevent harborage of ticks, chiggers and other insects of public health importance.
2. The central camp area shall be maintained to retard growth of ragweed, poison ivy, poison oak, sumac and other noxious plants considered detrimental to health.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Subchapter 10: Farm and Domestic Animals**

**Rule 4.10.1 Pets and Other Small Animals**

1. The camp premises shall be free of unvaccinated (rabies) dogs or other mammals which may cause injury or disease to campers.
2. Horses, dogs or other domestic animals or pets shall not be permitted at swimming, diving, or food service areas.
3. The camp operator shall promptly report to the Board animal bites inflicted upon any individual in the camp area.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.10.2 Stable Sanitation**

1. Horses or other farm animals shall not be permanently quartered within 500 feet of living quarters, kitchens, or mess halls.
2. A temporary shelter, corral, tie-rail, or hitching post shall not be located within 200 feet of dining hall, kitchen, or other place where food is prepared, cooked, or served.
3. Manure shall not be allowed to remain for more than 24 hours at such locations as temporary shelter, corrals, tie-rails, or hitching posts.
4. Manure from permanent and shelter quarters shall be removed at least weekly. Interim storage shall be in fly-tight enclosures or an area isolated from camp activity.

5. Adequate measures shall be taken at all times to keep fly, mosquito and rodent populations to a minimum.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

### **Subchapter 11: Food Service**

Rule 4.11.1 Food handling establishments which are located on the premises of licensed camps shall meet the Regulations Governing Food Service Sanitation of the Mississippi State Department of Health.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

Rule 4.11.2 Since meals in camp are considered a part of the program, all camps that are serving in a manner known as "family style" should be allowed to continue this means as long as existing guidelines governing food preparation and protection are followed.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

### **Subchapter 12: Transportation**

#### **Rule 4.12.1 Responsibility for Children Being Transported**

1. When a camp provides transportation for a camper, it shall provide adult supervision between the pickup site, camp and delivery site.
2. A maximum of 10 hours travel time in any 24-hour period shall be permitted.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

#### **Rule 4.12.2 Responsibilities in Transit**

1. When two or more vehicles are traveling to the same distant point, there shall be a prearranged method of communication with each other.
2. Only that number of children or adults for whom there is seating space shall be transported in a vehicle. Adequate space for luggage and other equipment shall also be provided.
3. The gross weight of vehicles (GVW) when loaded with passengers, gear and trailer-tongue weight should not exceed the manufacturer's GVW regardless of whether or not the number of passengers is within the specified number of seats.
4. Standing while in transit and projection of head or limbs outside the vehicle is prohibited.
5. In addition to the driver, there shall be at all times at least one adult or counselor in a vehicle on a public thoroughfare when 9 or more campers are being transported where the driver and the campers are not physically separated. When

physically separated, an adult or counselor must ride in the compartment with the campers.

6. Speed limits shall be posted on the campgrounds and observed by all vehicle operators.
7. In all vehicles used, seats or benches must be securely fastened to the floor. Open-body or stake-bed vehicles shall not be permitted for transportation of passengers outside the confines of the campgrounds.
8. Persons shall not be permitted to sit in the front seat unless each such individual is secured with a seat belt.
9. For specialized trips from camp, each camper shall have evidence of previous experience and ability with each method of transportation to be used such as horseback riding, backpacking and canoeing.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.12.3 Responsibility for Drivers and Vehicles**

1. All drivers and vehicles shall be in compliance with applicable regulations of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and ordinances of the municipality in which the vehicle is operated. Drivers operating vehicles designed for 16 or more persons must have a commercial license in accordance with Sections 63-173 through 63-190 of the Mississippi Code, 1972, revised 1989.
2. The driver of a camp vehicle shall be at least 18, shall have at least 1 year's experience as a licensed driver, and shall possess the required license.
3. All camp vehicles shall be maintained in safe operating condition and be equipped with a first-aid kit.
4. A current state inspection sticker shall be exhibited on vehicles transporting campers.
5. All vehicles transporting campers off site shall be equipped with a first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, flares, and reflectors and must meet current seat belt requirements.
6. Campers shall not be allowed to repair, or assist in the repair, of any vehicles where dangers are involved either by the process of repair or from the environment in which the repair is to be conducted.
7. Trailers whose loaded weight when added to the GVW of the towing vehicle exceed the normal braking ability of that vehicle, shall be equipped with auxiliary brakes.

8. Trailers shall be designed and equipped to prevent sway or other influence(s) that significantly affect the control of the towing vehicle.
9. The GVW of towed trailers shall exceed by at least 10 percent the load being carried.
10. Annual inspection schedules for trailer under-pinnings, brakes and hitches shall be documented and maintained.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

### **Subchapter 13: Penalties and Legal Action**

#### **Rule 4.13.1 Emergency Suspension of License**

1. Any license issued pursuant to this regulation may be suspended prior to a hearing if the licensing agency has reasonable cause to suspect that the continued operation of the licensed youth camp facility constitutes a substantial hazard to the health and safety of the children entrusted to or cared for by such facility.
2. Whenever a license is suspended, pursuant to this section, the holder of the license or person in charge shall be notified in writing that the license is, upon service of the notice, immediately suspended and that an opportunity for hearing will be provided if requested in writing within ten (10) days of the receipt of the notice of suspension. If no written request for hearing is filed within ten days, the suspension is sustained.
3. The licensing agency may reverse the suspension at any time if the reasons for the suspension no longer exist.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

#### **Rule 4.13.2 Denial, Revocation, or Suspension of License**

1. The licensing agency may refuse to issue or renew, or may suspend or revoke the license of any facility upon one (1) or more of the following grounds:
  - a. Fraud or misrepresentation by the owner or operator in securing the issuance or renewal of a license.
  - b. Conviction of a youth camp operator of a crime, if the acts for which he or she is convicted are found by the licensing agency to have a direct and detrimental effect on the children entrusted to or cared for by such licensee.
  - c. Violation of any of the provisions of the Mississippi Youth Camp Safety and Health law or of the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to that act.



- d. Any conduct or failure to act, which threatens the health or safety of the children at the facility.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.13.3 Notification** Prior to the denial, revocation or suspension of a license, written notice of the contemplated action shall be given to the owner of the facility. Such notice shall specify the reasons for the proposed action and shall notify the applicant of the right to a hearing on the matter.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.13.4 Hearings**

1. If requested in writing ten (10) days of receipt of said notice, a hearing shall be provided in which the operator may show cause why the license should not be denied, suspended or revoked. Any such hearing shall be conducted by a hearing officer designated by the State Health Officer.
2. Within twenty (20) working days of the hearing, or such time frame as determined during the hearing, written findings of fact, together with a recommendation for action on the license in question, shall be forwarded to the State Health Officer. Copies of the same shall be provided to the owner or applicant. The State Health Officer shall decide what, if any, action is to be taken on the recommendation within the twenty-day period. Written notice shall be provided to the owner or applicant.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*

**Rule 4.13.5 Appeal** Any licensee who disagrees with or is aggrieved by a decision of the licensing agency in regard to the suspension or revocation of such license, may appeal, in accordance with the applicable law.

*Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 75-74-9.*