



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®  
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

*Les experts en surveillance aquatique*

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## Safety Standards for Canadian Swimming Pools and Waterfronts Swimming Pool Standard

### Rope Swing Installation Standard

#### Standard

When installing a rope swing, every owner and every operator shall ensure that:

1. The rope swing be installed over a landing zone where the minimum depth of water is not less than:
  - 2.5 m where the bather starts from a launching point elevation that is not greater than 1 meter above the water surface with a foot first entry into the water.
  - 3.2 m where the bather starts from a launch point elevation that is not greater than 1 meter above the water surface where a head first entry into the water is permitted.
  - 3.8 m where the bather starts from a launching point elevation that is greater than 1 meter to a maximum 3 meters in height above the water surface where any type of entry is permitted.
2. A rope swing rule sign be posted on a vertical surface adjacent to the rope swing. Rules should include: user requirements (e.g. swimming ability), release point, bather entry options (foot first restrictions if stipulated), applicable facility specific rules and any other restrictions as indicated by the manufacturer.

#### Definitions

**Rope Swing:** a rope connected to a structure over the water that is designed to swing bathers from a starting point out over a designated landing zone in the water, where the bather releases and enters the water.

**Landing zone:** a dedicated area where the bather enters the water after releasing or dismounting the rope swing.

## Rationale

There is insufficient guidance in the marketplace with regard to the safe installation and operation of rope swings. To ensure the safety of bathers, the Lifesaving Society provides guidance on the installation of rope swings.

## Implementation

Pool owners and operators should ensure that ongoing safety checks of a rope swing installation are conducted and logged. Checks should include but are not limited to: platform and/or launching point, ceiling connection system, loose bolts, rust, and rope damage to include fraying, mould, rot, etc.

A professional structural engineer should be consulted and a review of local regulations and codes should be conducted prior to installing a rope swing.

## References

- Ontario Building Code, 1997, section 3.11.4 (6)
- RLSS Australia, Facility Design 1.01, 1996
- Nova Scotia Aquatic Guidelines, Section 5: Aquatic Play Features and Other Pool Types
- FINA Handbook, FR 5 Diving Facilities

## Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 18 September 2017.

## Disclaimer

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards are developed using Coroners' recommendations, the latest evidence-based research, and reflect the aquatic industry's best practices at the time the publication was approved or revised.

The purpose of these standards is to encourage swimming pool, waterpark and waterfront owners, managers, operators and regulators to adopt these standards in order to prevent drownings in aquatic environments.

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards do not replace or supersede local, provincial/territorial or federal legislation or regulations, but they are considered the standard to which aquatic facility operators should work towards in order to enhance safety within their operations and to prevent drowning and aquatic-related injury.