



THE MBC BEACH COMMITTEE PFD POLICY

This policy is following the guidelines of The American Red Cross and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Highlight:

Children shall be permitted to wear life jackets in the Swim Area, provided that:

- (a) any such life jacket shall comply with the Club's Life Jacket Certification Program.
- (b) the child shall stay within arm's reach of a supervising parent or registered adult caregiver who is standing in water shallow enough to support the child as needed.

We will be allowing U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, or III PFDs.



PERMITTED TYPES OF LIFE JACKET

The first step in selecting a life jacket for use at the Club is ensuring that you have the right type of life jacket. In short, the Club will only permit U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, and III Life Jackets. Type IV and V PFDs, although they may be U.S. Coast Guard Approved for use in specific circumstances, are not permitted for use in the Club's Swim Area.

This section of the guide will provide additional information on the different types of U.S. Coast Guard Approved Life Jackets, and how to make sure you choose the right one.

The following table provides an overview of the different categories of U.S. Coast Guard Approved PFDs:

Type	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Approved for use at MBC
Type I (off-shore life jackets)	<p>Designed for boating on all waters, especially open, rough or remote waters where rescue may be delayed</p> <p>Designed to turn most unconscious wearers in the water to a face-up position</p>	<p>Offers the most flotation</p> <p>May help prevent hypothermia</p> <p>Comes in highly visible colors</p> <p>Has reflective material for search and rescue</p>	Bulky in and out of water	YES
Type II (near-shore life jackets)	<p>Designed for calm, inland waters or where there is a good chance of quick rescue</p> <p>Will turn some unconscious wearers to a face-up position in the water</p>	<p>Requires little maintenance</p> <p>Good flotation</p> <p>Good for nonswimmers</p> <p>Less bulky than offshore style</p>	Not recommended for long hours on rough water	YES
Type III (flotation aids)	<p>Often used for general boating in calm inland waters or for specialized activity as marked on the device, such as waterskiing, hunting, fishing, canoeing or kayaking</p> <p>Designed so wearer may have to tilt their head back to avoid turning face-down in the water</p>	<p>Designed for general boating and designated activities marked on the device</p> <p>Available in many styles, including vests and flotation coats</p> <p>More comfortable for active water sports than Types I and II</p>	<p>May not turn unconscious wearer face-up—the wearer may have to tilt the head back to avoid turning face-down in water</p> <p>Not recommended for extended survival in rough water</p> <p>Must be water-tested by inexperienced swimmers before boating activity</p>	YES
Type IV (throwable devices)	<p>Designed to be thrown to a person in the water and grasped and held by the user until rescued</p> <p>Does not take the place of wearing a life jacket</p>	<p>May be thrown from boat or land</p> <p>Provides backup to wearable life jackets</p> <p>Some styles may be used as seat cushion</p>	<p>Not for unconscious persons</p> <p>Not suitable for inexperienced swimmers or children</p>	NO
Type V (restricted use life jackets)	Intended for specific activities, such as whitewater rafting, and may be worn instead of another life jacket only if used according to the approval condition(s) on its label	<p>Designed for specific activities</p> <p>Continuous wear prevents users from being caught without protection; most accidents occur suddenly</p>	Less safe than other life jacket types if used for activities other than those specified on label	NO

Source: American Red Cross Swimming and Water Safety Manual (3rd ed.)

Every U.S. Coast Guard Approved Life Jacket is stamped with a detailed certification label, as pictured below. This label will tell you which Type the PFD is, as well as the size and weight of the intended user. When choosing a life jacket, carefully inspect this label to ensure you are getting a Type I, II or III PFD, and that it is appropriately sized for the intended swimmer.

PUDDLE JUMPERS

Although “Puddle Jumper” style PFDs have gained popularity in recent years, they are NOT permitted at the Club. They are certified by the U.S. Coast Guard as a Type V device.

LIFEGUARD INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

Once you have chosen a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Life Jacket that is the correct Type and size, the next step is to get that life jacket inspected by the Club’s lifeguards. Life Jackets may only be used after they have been properly inspected and approved.

During an inspection, the lifeguard will check for the following issues:

-  The life jacket must be a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, or III device.
-  The life jacket must be the correct size for the intended user.
-  The life jacket should be in good condition:
 -  Buckles and straps should be in good working condition.
 -  There should be no rips, tears, holes or shrinkage of the buoyant materials.
-  The life jacket must be properly worn by the intended user:
 -  A properly fitted life jacket should feel snug, keep the user’s chin above the water, and allow the user to breathe easily.
 -  The life jacket should not ride up on the user’s body in the water.
 -  All straps, buckles, and ties should be secure.

Once a life jacket has passed inspection, the lifeguards will affix a patch identifying the life jacket as certified for use by a particular user. Please note that life jackets should not be shared among different users UNLESS each user is separately certified to wear it. Although a life jacket may be certified for use by one user, it may be too large or too small to be safely used by another. Certifications are only valid for the season in which the lifeguard’s inspection is performed. All life jackets should be re-inspected and re-certified at the beginning of each season.

To get a patch everyone must be taught by, or demonstrate to, a lifeguard their ability to properly put the life jacket on the intended user.

SWIMMING WITH A LIFE JACKET — THE “ARM’S REACH” RULE

The Red Cross recommends that young children and weak swimmers stay within arm’s reach of a parent or adult supervisor whenever they are in the water—even when they are wearing a life jacket. The Club’s Rules reflect this guidance. Club Rule Forty reads as follows:

“Children shall be permitted to wear life jackets in the Swim Area, provided that (a) any such life jacket shall comply with the Club’s Life Jacket Certification Program; and (b) the child shall stay within arm’s reach of a supervising parent or registered adult caregiver who is standing in water shallow enough to support the child as needed.”

So, once your child is outfitted with a life jacket that complies with the Life Jacket Certification Program, as detailed in the previous sections of this guide, he or she may swim in the Swim Area while wearing that certified life jacket. However, whenever the child is in the water, he or she must stay within arm’s reach of a supervising adult as described in the rule above.

TYPES OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES



**TYPE I:
OFF-SHORE LIFE JACKET**
Over 20 lbs of buoyancy, designed to turn an unconscious person face-up.



**TYPE II:
NEAR-SHORE BUOYANT VEST**
Minimum 15.5 lbs of buoyancy, designed to turn and unconscious person face-up.



**TYPE III:
FLOTATION AID**
Minimum 15.5 lbs of buoyancy, not designed to turn and unconscious person face-up; more comfortable for water sports.



**TYPE IV:
THROWABLE DEVICE**
Minimum 16.5 lbs of buoyancy, designed to be grasped, not worn.



**TYPE V:
SPECIAL USE DEVICE**
Must be used in accordance with any requirements on the approval label.

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FLOTATION AID - TYPE III
INTENDED USE: CHILD’S FLOTATION VEST

SIZE: CHILD	MODEL
USER WEIGHT 30-150LBS	MV3265

U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVAL NUMBER 160.064/4793/0
USCG approved wearable device for uninspected commercial vessels less than 40 feet in length, not carrying passengers for hire, and for recreational boats.

WARNING - TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DEATH BY DROWNING:

- **READ MANUFACTURER’S “THINK SAFE” PAMPHLET BEFORE USING THIS DEVICE AND “THINK SAFE” CHECKS EACH SEASON**
- **CHOOSE THE RIGHT TYPE AND SIZE PFD AND WEAR IT - FASTEN ALL CLOSURES AND ADJUST FOR SNUG FIT**
- **FOLLOW MANUFACTURER’S USE AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS**
- **DO NOT CARRY HEAVY OBJECTS - HEAVY OBJECTS IMPAIR FLOTATION**

STRENGTH TESTED AT 50MPH - NOT TESTED FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION FROM IMPACT



**MARINE
UL
LISTED**

**FLOTATION AID
ISSUE NO: L-7109**

Sample of a PFD label

