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FSU set to open new pool to the public

BY DAVID SÁEZ • DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER • AUGUST 1, 2008

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The Florida State University athletic department is opening the school's new swimming facility to FSU students, FSU employees and the general public beginning today.



The public will be permitted to swim in FSU's new pool starting today. (Courtesy of Florida State sports information)

MORCOM AQUATICS CENTER
Lap-Swim Hours
Competition Pool
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun.
Dive Pool
6 a.m.-9:15 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
7 a.m.-9:45 a.m.; 11:45 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.
Closed Sun.
Daily Admission
FSU students - \$1
FSU employees - \$2.50
General - \$3
Seniors (62+) - \$2

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The Morcom Aquatics Center is primarily for FSU's swimming and diving team, but FSU has made it available for lap swimming for a fee. Both the competition pool and the diving pool will be made available for lap swimming.

The \$11-million facility is located at 2560 Pottsdamer Street near West Lake Bradford Road by the Seminole Golf Course and the College of Engineering for FSU and Florida A&M.

Admission is based on whether the user is an FSU student, FSU employee (staff or faculty), or member of the general public. There will be daily, semester, or annual passes.

Daily passes will cost \$1 for students, \$2.50 for FSU employees, \$3 for the public, and \$2 for seniors.

Memberships are available to all, and users can also rent a locker. If you are not an FSU student or employee, you will be charged a one-time \$10 fee for an FSU card, which will be used for admission purposes.

The earliest time of day the pool will be open for swimming is 6 a.m., Monday through Friday, to use the diving pool, while the earliest the competition pool opens will be 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday.

"Our goal is to have a fitness facility," said Kim Hinckley, aquatics supervisor for facilities and event management.

"This is different than (local) activity pools that have play features."

Because the shallowest point in the pools is eight feet, individuals must be able to swim 25 yards. Center staff will ask anyone seeking to swim if they can swim that distance, and children will be asked to pass a swim test, which involves swimming 25 yards.

Anyone under 12 must be accompanied with an adult.

If anyone is interested in renting the pools, they are invited to call (850) 644-7665.

The center is considering opening the diving boards as well, but for now they will remain closed. If opened, it's likely only the 1- and 3-meter springboards will be available.

FSU has plans to open the facility up to high-school swimming and diving teams when the school season starts. Swimmers from Florida High, Godby and Lincoln will use the facility, as will all divers from Leon County schools.

Parking is available at no cost.

The competition pool was one of several used during the 2005 World Championships in Montreal and constructed by Italian manufacturer Myrtha Pools. After the championships, FSU bid and purchased one of the pools for the new aquatics center.

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