



TAP into your Resources

Cost to Operate / Pools

The cost to operate a typical indoor aquatic center with two pools, each maintaining different water temperatures, could operate as follows:

Monday through Friday: 6 AM to 8 PM (70 hours)

Saturday: 7 AM to 6 PM (11 hours)

Sunday: 1 PM to 5 PM (4 hours)

This schedule maximizes operational hours, delivering 85 programming hours per week from a total of 168 available hours. Operational expenses include costs for pumps, filters, UV systems, chlorinators, chemical feeders, water, electricity, gas, pool heaters, HVAC systems, security lighting, insurance, and other related items. Therefore, we must recover the costs associated with 168 hours of operation through the 85 hours of programming.

A typical USA Swimming team interested in renting the main pool may wish to book it for 4 hours on weekday evenings and possibly 3 hours on weekends, totaling 7 hours of main pool rental per week. The business plan must outline how to recover the remaining 62 hours of operational costs associated with the main pool.

When developing the business plan for the smaller programming pool, it is crucial to consider the specific population that will utilize this facility. The smaller pool, ideally maintained at 87° to 90°F, is a significant revenue generator and has lower operating costs than the main pool. Successful programming plans often demonstrate that revenue from the smaller programming pool can help offset some of the costs associated with the larger pool, resulting in a positive financial outlook.

Programming Must Precede Design

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