

Water Games

The better you and your friends get at swimming, the more fun you can have and the more stunts you can attempt. Before you get set to play games in the water, check out the following additional safety rules:

- Don't play any game beyond your ability and comfort level.
- Make sure everyone understands the rules before playing, and have a time-out signal for individuals and for the lifeguard.
- Never hold or dunk people under the water. Don't tackle people in the water.
- Always respect a person's need for a time out.

Games

What Color Is My Umbrella?

How To Play:

Have the group stand/sit in a line or circle. The IT thinks of a random color and then asks each group member "What color is my umbrella?" When a group member guesses the color IT chose, IT dumps a cup/bucket/sponge over their head. This person then becomes the IT. To prevent any "cheating" have bystander verify the correct chosen color.

Water Poison

How To Play:

Have the kids form a circle holding hands. Throw as many balls as you have into the center of the circle. A person is out if they break the circle or touch a ball. The object is to drag your friend's hand in to touch a ball while keeping your hand safe.

Balloon Dodge

Have the kids wait in a designated space (in or out of the water) and toss water balloons at them - similar to Dodge Ball. Every time you break a balloon on someone, they are out. If they catch the balloon and throw it back, breaking it on you, they win.

Underwater Race

Have the kids line up beside a length of a pool. One by one they have to start at one end and swim as far as they can underwater, until they have to come up for air. Once they surface, have them sit on the pool deck, beside the place where they came up. Count the laps they completed. The winner is the one who can swim under water for the longest amount of time before coming up for air.

Diving for Hidden Treasure

This game should be played in clear water, within an area defined by the lifeguard/leader, based upon swimming abilities.

- The players should line up with their backs to the playing area while the game leader drops pennies or other weighted objects into the water.
- The players can count to twenty, or the game leader can notify them when they can turn around and go into the water.
- The person who finds the most pennies within a set amount of time can be declared the winner.
- Note: The game leader should be sure to count the number of items thrown into the pool. Challenge the group to find all of the objects.

Cannonball Contest

Have two groups; one for the cannonballs and the other group a team of judges. The cannonball group line up behind a diving board and have to make the biggest splash to get the highest vote. The judges are the voters and give each person a vote out of ten. An adult is needed to decide what the majority of the judges want to give each person.

Frozen Tag

Preferably in a smaller pool; it's just like regular frozen tag, but once tagged, a person has to swim under your legs to free you.

Marko Polo

This is a traditional summer swimming game for two or more people. One person is IT. IT has to close their eyes and count aloud from 1 to 10. Then, IT swims around and searches the pool for the other players. IT can call out "MARCO" as often as they wish. When IT does, the others must reply "POLO". If IT tags someone, that person becomes the new IT.

Water Limbo

Get a garden hose and turn it on full. Put your thumb over the left or right half of the opening to create one jet of water. Now you limbo under the water stream. Each time the group walks under the water you lower it. The losers are obvious because they get soaked.

Water Balloon Volleyball

Set up two teams with a sheet on either side of a net. While team members are holding on to the sides of the sheet, place 5 water balloons in the middle, have them toss the balloons to the other side. They must catch them with their sheet and toss them back over.