



Welcome to the  
**Model Aquatic Health Code Network Webinar**

**Putting the MAHC into Action at a Local and Regional Level**  
***Featured Presenter: Dewey Case, Association Aquatics Director,  
YMCA of Southeast Mississippi & Technical Director, CMAHC***

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020**

Listen via your computer speakers  
or  
Call: +1 929 205 6099  
Webinar ID: 472 971 647

Questions may be submitted via the chat box.

This webinar is being recorded.

We will begin at 12:00 PM Eastern.

**Thank you for your interest and  
attendance!**

## Featured Guest Speaker

### **Dewey Case**

**Association Aquatics Director, YMCA of Southeast Mississippi**

**&**

**Technical Director, CMAHC**

**[aquatics@ymcasems.org](mailto:aquatics@ymcasems.org)**





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# PUTTING THE MAHC INTO ACTION

A LOCAL AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON  
IMPLEMENTATION



# YOUR PRESENTER FOR THIS WEBINAR



**Dewey Case**  
**Association Aquatics Director**  
**YMCA of Southeast Mississippi**

# THE MODEL AQUATIC HEALTH CODE (MAHC) AND THE YMCA OF THE USA



# THE Y-USA AQUATIC SAFETY GUIDELINES

The Y-USA Aquatic Safety Guidelines are a series of non-binding best practices recommended by Y-USA.

These guidelines were revised in 2011, 2014, and 2017. In these revisions, references were made to the Model Aquatic Health Code – specifically in regards to the Safety Plan requirements.



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## ENJOYING WATER SAFELY

AQUATIC SAFETY  
GUIDELINES FOR Ys  
YMCA OF THE USA

REVISED MARCH 2017



# THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEMBERSHIP STANDARD

In order to strengthen safety practices, Y-USA proposed an additional standard for the local Y's. Presented to CEOs in 2017, this standard saw approximately 97% of Y's voting to adopt it. This 11<sup>th</sup> Membership Standard went into effect for 2018. In addition to requiring specific Child Abuse Protection practices, it also required that Y's:

- Have lifeguards that are “certified, trained, tested, and deployed” anytime a Y owned or operated pool is in use
- Adhere to the MAHC in the absence of state codes governing swimming pool operations

# REQUIRED SAFETY PLAN

**As part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Membership Standard, Ys across the country are required to develop a Safety Plan (per the MAHC) for aquatics operations. This Safety Plan is required to be approved by the local Ys Board of Directors with a statement of adoption being required to be submitted with annual documentation to Y-USA.**

**To support this, Y-USA created a template per the MAHC requirements that Ys can download and follow.**

# CHALLENGES AND INCONSISTENCIES IN IMPLEMENTATION



## THE Y & THE MAHC NATIONALLY

The requirement to follow the MAHC only applies, per the 11<sup>th</sup> Membership Standard, to 2 states.

Many states have codes that are less stringent (ex: Louisiana and Arkansas) than the MAHC. The 11<sup>th</sup> Membership Standard does not apply to these states as they have a formally adopted code.

Some Y's in Alabama operate under county adopted code, although there is no state adopted code. The 11<sup>th</sup> Membership Standard is silent on which code these Y's should follow.

## CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION REGIONALLY

Y's in Mississippi and Alabama face several challenges to implementation. Some challenges are:

- The size and detail of the MAHC for Y's unaccustomed to following a swimming pool code
- Lack of MAHC knowledge by local and regional pool builders and service contractors
- Gaps in technical knowledge and application by local aquatics staff
- Lack of official local/county/state inspector system that would help enforce compliance
- Lack of a reliable support structure for local aquatics staff dedicated to MAHC compliance

# ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN MAHC IMPLEMENTATION IN MS & AL

- Educational sessions aimed at educating local Y aquatics staff in the MAHC and its application into operations
- Using the YPN as a vehicle to network on MAHC related questions
- Creating a peer-to-peer inspection and accountability mechanism
- Leveraging the Ys regionally to advocate for legislative changes to adopt the MAHC in whole or in part



# HOW LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS CAN SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL Y

- Establish relationships with your local Y aquatics staff
- Understand that, in many cases, the person responsible for aquatics may not have an aquatics background at all – or a minimal one at the very least
- Aquatics staff generally deal with programming and struggle to keep pools staffed – understanding the detail codes may be a lower priority on a daily basis
- Only a handful of Ys have Association Aquatics leadership – health officials may need to take a more educational role



**QUESTIONS?**

# Recent Published Research Brief

## Pool Code Updates and Use of the MAHC IN Local Jurisdictions

<https://www.naccho.org/mahc>

- **Process for Pool Code Updates:**
  - The authority of local public health agencies to update pool codes depends on state and local regulations, with the majority required to keep rules at least as strict as the state's rules.
  - Pool codes updates often lack set schedules, and they require complex legislative processes that may involve local agencies and stakeholders.
- **Barriers and Catalysts for Pool Code Updates:**
  - Barriers: Competing interests of stakeholders and partners; prioritization of other public health policies; and the time, effort, and costs associated with pool code changes.
  - Catalysts: Public pressure following recreational water-related injuries and drownings and state-level commitment to code improvements.
- **Use of the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC):**
  - While local jurisdictions appreciate the MAHC as an evidence-based, comprehensive tool with consistent standards, its length, perceived strictness, and complexity can make it challenging to understand and implement.

# Announcements

- Association of Aquatic Professionals: February 17-20, 2020 in Frisco, TX
  - <https://aquaticpros.org/conference-exposition/>
- NACCHO 360 Conference: July 7-9, 2020 in Denver, CO
  - Registration will open soon!
  - <http://www.nacchoannual.org>
- The World Aquatic Health Conference (WAHC): October 14-16, 2020 in Houston, TX
  - Registration will open April 1, 2020!
  - <https://www.nspf.org/wahc>
- Learn more and join the Model Aquatic Health Code Network:
  - Website: <https://www.naccho.org/mahc>
  - E-mail: [MAHCnet@naccho.org](mailto:MAHCnet@naccho.org)