

Communication Regarding Co-Educational Swimming

Subject: Co-Educational Swimming

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to inform you that swimming in a mixed gender environment is not permissible in Islam due to the lack of modesty involved. According to all Islamic denominations a woman is required to observe hijab, which is a principle of modesty. Modesty includes a particular dress code, which in this case, more specifically entails the covering of a woman's body aside from her face and hands. A woman's body is not to be exposed to the opposite sex. Therefore, swimming with the opposite sex, including the instructor, would violate a person's right to observe hijab.

We hope you understand this religious obligation and choice and would kindly request you to consider and discuss reasonable accommodation with the student and his/her parents which would not impose on the right to practice one's religious duties.

This communication was issued in response to the high number of requests from the guardians of Muslim students for an official letter explaining this intricacy of the Islamic religion. I.M.A.M. is a non-profit religious organization authorized and commissioned by the supreme religious authority of Shia Muslims, which has been based in the Seminary of Najaf in Iraq for more than a millennium, to support and serve the Shia Muslim community in North America.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us through any of the communication channels listed below.

Sincerely,

I.M.A.M.