

MFG: NBGS INTERNATIONAL  
RIDE: WATER SLIDE

**Operations and Procedures Manual**  
for  
**38-Inch Open Flume Body Slides**  
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This manual provides guidelines and rules for the safe and efficient operation of the 38-inch open flume body slides. NBGS recommends that the contents of this manual be used as a part of a complete operational training program designed by the park's management.

As with any water ride, park operators must monitor the systems for operational problems and unforeseen circumstances. It is the desire of NBGS that its equipment always be operated with the safety of the riding public in mind.

## MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION PROTOCOLS

All power and controls to the body slide must be locked out before beginning any maintenance, inspection, or mechanical work. These lock out procedures serve to prevent injury to the employees inspecting and working on the system and possible damage to the slide itself. All inspections should be performed by qualified operations supervisor or mechanic.

**Note:** Local and state governments may require various inspections and permits issued by other authorities before operation of any amusement park ride. The owner must ensure that the slide(s) are fully operational at the time of inspection to allow various test procedures.

### DAILY INSPECTIONS

**Caution:** The slide surface of the body slide is slippery. Use care at all times when walking on the riding surface during ride inspection without the water on.

1. The pump(s) should be checked for serviceability and structural integrity.
2. All fiberglass should be checked for signs of stress, cracks, spalling, fractures or delamination.
3. Remove any loose objects from the slide before operating the system. Inspect the external walls of the slide for leaks, cracks, broken flanges, etc.
4. The ride's electrical system should be checked for the integrity of the electrical conduit and connections. Tighten any loose fittings.
5. Inspect the overall condition of the fiberglass surface of the slide. Be aware of indications of wear on the surface, bubbling, cracking, or sharp edges that degrades the serviceability of the ride and could cut, scratch or injure riders.
6. Inspect the start tub, safety barriers and guest loading area, including the queue line. Look for chips, cracks, Gelcoat damage, etc., that might expose sharp edges and injure a rider getting into or laying in the start tub. Check the handrails and guard rails for the same kinds of burrs, splinters, sharp points, etc.
7. Inspect the water supply line to the start tub to ensure it is free of leaks and injects sufficient water into the slide path.
8. Be sure all signs intended for rider instruction are up and in good condition. If marketing and/or public advertisements for the facility are printed or broadcast in an language other than English, signs instructing riders of rules and regulations should be printed in both English and the advertised language.
9. The pre-operation checklist included with this manual should be completed and reviewed by the appropriate supervisor. Bring any defects or problems found during the daily inspection to the attention of appropriate authorities. NBGS strongly recommends that any defect in the surface of the slide or the overall integrity of the system be corrected before operating the slide.

## **PERIODIC INSPECTIONS**

In general, the daily inspections outlined herein are sufficient to ensure the continued safety and serviceability of your open flume body slide system.

However, throughout the course of the slide's first year of operation and at least annually thereafter, a qualified mechanic or assembler should check the yoke assemblies, support structure, saddle mounts, etc. Any loose bolts, connections, etc., should be tightened before operating the slide.

## **OFF SEASON PROCEDURES**

During the off season when ambient temperatures may fall below freezing, operators should drain all water from the slide's surface, drain or purge all water from the supply line to the start tub and cover the outlet jets to prevent foreign objects from getting lodged in the ports.

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# INSPECTION CHECK LIST

NBGS strongly recommends that the open flume body slide be locked and placed in a zero-energy state before attempting any inspection or maintenance procedures for the safety of employees. The ride should not be operated until any and all maintenance needs are met.

	SERVICEABLE	YES / NO
START TUB	_____	_____
FIBERGLASS	_____	_____
LANDING POOL	_____	_____
PUMP CONTROLS	_____	_____
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM	_____	_____
STRUCTURAL ALIGNMENT	_____	_____
WALKWAYS / QUEUE LINE(S)	_____	_____
SAFETY RAILS / NETTING / BARRIERS	_____	_____
SIGNAGE	_____	_____

INSPECTED BY \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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## **START-UP PROCEDURE**

Having completed the daily inspection procedures and with personnel in place, the body slide is ready to operate.

When the signal is given by staff members at the entry and exit, the pump(s) should be turned on. A staff member trained in the daily inspection procedure then enters the start tub and rides the full course to confirm suitability for public operation. Upon completion and sign off on the operation inspection, the body slide is ready for the public to ride.

## **SUGGESTED STAFFING**

NBGS recommends a minimum of two water safety staff members. All personnel should be certified lifeguards. The rationale for this staffing level is the need to fully cover the customers getting into the start tub, the need for surveillance throughout the ride duration and the safe recovery of riders upon their exit from the ride. Additional staff may be necessary depending on customer volume and ride design.

Water safety staff must remain alert and attentive at all times when operating these body slides. These staff members should be trained in water safety procedures, able to recognize guests needing assistance, and trained to react to that need in a proper manner.

An assignment rotation and break schedule should be implemented for water safety staff to prevent boredom and the commensurate loss of alertness. Station and assignment rotations occur a minimum of once per hour.

Guests riding these body slides must be monitored at all times from the moment they enter the start tub until they exit the slide.

Work assignments should include two persons: one as loader/dispatcher preparing the rider at the entry station and a second at the exit point of the ride assisting the rider in recovery and transition into the river stream or exiting landing area. Additional lifeguards may be necessary depending on the ride's layout.

## **NORMAL OPERATION**

Once the body slide has been inspected and turned on for the day, the water safety staff is responsible for its operation.

Staff members should periodically remind patrons of the rules and regulations and ask them to review the posted instructions before moving up to the starting tub. Immediately before a rider's entry into the start tub, the staff member controlling the start tub must visually verify that the water flow is unobstructed. Upon safety verification, the guest may now be told to launch. Depending on the ability of the guest, the water safety staff member may need to assist the guest in getting started down the start tub. Riders should not be launched until the previous rider has exited the landing pool.

Riders enter the start tub with help from a water safety staff member. The staff member directs the launch, one rider at a time. Riders should not be launched until the previous rider has exited the landing pool. Riders must lay on their backs with arms crossed on their chests and legs crossed at the ankles.

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## OPERATING RULES AND REGULATIONS

This overview of the rules and regulations NBGS recommends is for water park management use in determining liability issues and security and safety needs.

Remember that the body slide is an intense thrill ride. NBGS does not recommend this ride for expectant mothers, small children, non-swimmers, persons with limiting physical conditions, including individuals who are grossly overweight, or with previous or current neck, back, joint or heart problems. Your water safety staff must have management confidence and authority to prohibit intoxicated persons, persons with debilitating health problems, etc. from entering the ride.

Control of the ride environment must be maintained by the water safety staff at all times whenever the body slide is operating. Your water safety staff may want to incorporate some of these regulations into their ongoing address to riders as they approach the launch ramp and start tub.

1. Horseplay or dare-devil stunts are not permitted.
2. No one should be permitted to start from a kneeling or head first position. Riders must lay on their backs, with arms folded on their chests and legs crossed at ankles.
3. Never ride or attempt to ride in a standing position.
4. The previous rider must exit the landing area before dispatching the next rider.

## SHUT-DOWN PROCEDURES

Standard Shut Down - At the conclusion of the operating day and after the ride surface is clear, turn the pump(s) off. Inspect the ride.

Emergency Shut Down - If any problems develop with the flow of water on the body slide or with a guest on the ride, dispatching should cease immediately.

Do not restart operation until management staff or a supervisor is present and the problem that caused the shut down is corrected. It is crucial that the problem be corrected BEFORE restarting the ride.

## RIDER INSTRUCTIONS / RECOMMENDED SIGNAGE

Management should use its best efforts to ensure that each patron understands the instructions and rules posted on the signs at the entrance to the ride. Riders should not be dispatched until such time as the rules and instructions are understood. Staff should periodically remind patrons of the rules and regulations and ask them to review the posted instructions before moving up to the starting tub.

It is recommended that signs be posted at the queue entrance to the ride stating the minimum requirements for participation (height, weight, health problems, etc.) A second sign detailing the specific requirements once allowed admittance should be posted at the starting area. The signage attached hereto is recommended. If advertising for the body slide is displayed in a language other than English, then all signage should also include the rules and instructions in the advertised language.

These rules should be posted at the start area entrance of the slide.

1. Obey the commands of the lifeguards at all times.
2. When instructed to do so by the lifeguard, enter into the start tub/launch area, your legs extended straight out ahead with ankles crossed and wait.
3. Start yourself down the launch ramp when the lifeguard signals and assists you.
4. DO NOT STAND UP!
5. Do not attempt to slow yourself by holding onto side walls.
6. Failure to abide by these rules may result in injury to yourself or others, or you can be prohibited from riding.

## SIGNAGE, CONT'D.

This sign should be posted at the entry to the queue leading up to the ride start area. The purpose of these policies and instructions is to eliminate those riders for whom the body slide could be perilous.

1. CAUTION! This is a very intense participatory water thrill ride.
2. Riders must be in good physical condition and free from any physical limitation to participate. Pregnant women or persons with or having a history of heart, back, neck, or joint problems should not ride.
3. Slide is not recommended for small children or weak swimmers.
4. Obey lifeguards at all times.
5. When instructed to do so by the lifeguard, enter the start tub/launch area. Sit down facing forward holding on to the handles of slide waiting for dispatch.
6. Do not enter the ride until the lifeguard tells you to do so. Start yourself down the launch ramp when the lifeguard signals or assists you. Lay on your back with arms crossed in front of chest and legs crossed at ankles.
7. No standing, horseplay, kneeling, or aggressive stunts.
8. One person down the slide at a time.
9. Caution! The surface of the ride is slippery. DO NOT STAND UP AT ANY TIME.
10. Failure to abide by these rules may result in injury to yourself or others, or you can be prohibited from riding.

Rules and Regulations signage should be in good condition, and visible to the public.