
Policy:	204.081
Title:	Recreation – Juvenile Facilities
Effective Date:	2/26/2025

PURPOSE: To provide experiential learning that engages youth in hands-on experiences and reflection, so they can better connect the theories and knowledge they learn in the classroom to real-world situations and provide a wide variety of large muscle exercise and leisure activities to meet the needs of youth and exposure them to different opportunities that are consistent with program and security considerations.

APPLICABILITY: Minnesota Correctional Facility – Red Wing (MCF-RW), juvenile program

DEFINITION:

Dayton – a living unit for youth who are on safety-based separation (see Policy 301.078, “Safety-Based Separation”).

Experiential education – program activities that re-enforce prosocial, problem-solving, leadership, teamwork, and interpersonal skills and support the Strengths for Success. Programming includes: a ten-element challenge course; a climbing wall; and leisure interests that educate youth on leisure awareness, interactions skills, resources, and other skills.

Full contact sports – physical activities such as tackle football, boxing, and martial arts.

General recreation – structured and scheduled recreation activities such as intramurals, other athletic events, weight training, and game room.

Medical restriction – a status on which youth are placed by a licensed medical professional to ensure specific large muscle activities do not cause re-injury during the healing process.

Recreation areas – outdoor yards and indoor gymnasiums, day rooms, activities rooms, and common areas in living units.

Recreation treatment goals – youth are provided recreation goals that focus on the following thresholds of functioning: leisure, physical, cognitive, daily living, social, and psychological.

Service learning – community activities during which youth practice prosocial competencies learned at the facility and gain an understanding of the importance of restoring the relationships with their own communities. Community activities include such examples as interacting with residents at local health care facilities, assisting with work projects, and participating in charity events/activities.

PROCEDURES:

- A. Recreation facilities and supplies/equipment
 - 1. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium, weight room, game room, and living unit leisure areas.
 - 2. Outdoor facilities include basketball courts and softball fields.

3. Board games, video games, playing cards, and sporting equipment are available in all living units.
4. In consultation with the corrections program director (CPD), the recreation therapists coordinate the purchase, storage, and distribution of equipment and supplies, and process special equipment requests. Recreation therapists maintain and retain an inventory of equipment, according to the appropriate retention schedule.
5. Living unit staff contact the recreation therapists to:
 - a) Reserve equipment or space for recreation activities; and
 - b) Request replacement of any recreation or leisure equipment or supplies.
6. Supervisors must ensure that recreation areas and equipment located in their areas is inventoried, maintained in good condition, inspected daily and repaired/replaced as necessary.

B. Experiential activities and recreation schedules

1. The following therapeutic recreation activities are used to encourage and increase prosocial skills, problem-solving skills, leadership skills, teamwork skills, and interpersonal skills:
 - a) General recreation;
 - b) Experiential education;
 - c) Service learning; and
 - d) Recreation treatment goals.
2. Full contact sports are not permitted.
3. The recreation and leisure-time schedule includes, at a minimum, at least one hour per day of large-muscle activity and one hour per day of structured leisure-time activities (excluding time spent watching television), and include:
 - a) A wide variety of physical activities;
 - b) Physical skill-building to help maintain lifetime health and fitness; and
 - c) Encouragement for youth to self-monitor and set personal fitness goals.
4. Youth on medical restriction are offered alternate large muscle activities when their living unit is scheduled for an activity from which they are restricted.
5. Recreation therapists:
 - a) Create the recreation and leisure-time activity schedules;
 - b) Distribute them to the living units; and
 - c) Retain copies of the schedules according to the appropriate retention schedule.
6. Living unit staff:
 - a) Post recreation schedules where they can be viewed by youth;
 - b) Follow the schedule to ensure youth have the opportunity to participate in recreation and leisure activities;
 - c) Supervise recreation and leisure activities;
 - d) Offer additional unscheduled physical and leisure activities as the facility schedule, unit schedule, and unit culture permit; and
 - e) Document large-muscle exercise and leisure activities on the living unit shift report.

7. Supervisors may cancel outdoor recreation activities dependent on the following factors:
 - a) Visibility, as affected by available daylight or inclement weather;
 - b) Severe weather (for example, temperature, wind chill, lightning, tornado warnings);
or
 - c) Emergency or security situations.
- C. Dayton unit recreation programming
1. Meal and hygiene times are not large muscle or leisure activities.
 2. Indoor and outdoor exercise courts, reading materials, and games are available.
 3. Youth may be denied large muscle and leisure time when they are actively being unsafe to protect their safety or the safety of peers, staff, or facility operations. Staff document the reason(s) for denial.
 4. Due to a high occurrence of incompatibilities between youth, recreation may be provided individually or in small groups.
 5. Due to the intricate nature of scheduling recreation and leisure activities, if youth choose not to participate during their scheduled time, they may not be offered an opportunity to make it up that day based on the needs of the unit and other youth in the unit.
 6. Staff must document youth participation in, or refusal of, recreation and leisure activities in the room time database.
 7. Recreation therapists provide experiential education programming to youth based on their recreation treatment goals.
- D. Recreation programs are conducted in cooperation with other departments, including case management, security, education, behavioral health, spiritual care, and medical. Trained security staff, community resources, and volunteers may be used to facilitate experiential education programming.
- E. Recreation therapists may select and train youth to serve as recreation workers.

INTERNAL CONTROLS:

- A. Recreation schedules are maintained by the recreation therapists.
- B. Equipment inventories are retained by the recreation therapists.
- C. Youth large-muscle exercise and leisure activities are documented and retained in the living unit shift report.
- D. Youth participation in, or refusal of, recreation and leisure activities are retained in the room time database.

REFERENCES: Minn. Rules [2960.0080](#), and [2960.0550](#)
[Minn. Stat. § 241.01, subd. 3a](#)
[Policy 204.080, "Recreation/Leisure Programs"](#)

REPLACES: Policy 204.081, "Recreation – Juvenile Facilities," 4/25/17.
All facility policies, memos, or other communications whether verbal, written, or transmitted by electronic means regarding this topic.

ATTACHMENTS: None

APPROVAL:
Commissioner of Corrections