**Minnesota Department of Corrections**

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| **Policy:** | **204.081** |
| **Title:** | **Recreation – Juvenile Facilities** |
| **Effective Date:** | **4/25/17** |

**PURPOSE:** To provide a comprehensive recreational program for juvenile residents that includes a wide variety of large muscle exercise and leisure activities to meet the needs of the juveniles, improve juvenile exposure to different opportunities, and to reflect the expressed interests of juveniles, consistent with program and security considerations.

**APPLICABILITY:** Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC facilities housing juvenile residents

**DEFINITION:**

Experiential education – program activities that re-enforce the Strengths for Success and other cognitive intervention programming. A ten-element high ropes course and an indoor climbing wall are used during this course.

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.

Leisure education – program or activities promoting appropriate leisure pursuits, educating residents on the role such leisure pursuits play in prosocial functioning, as well as developing leisure skills and identifying leisure resources.

Prosocial functioning – social skills, problem-solving skills, leadership skills, teamwork skills, and interpersonal communication skills.

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

Restricted status – residents placed on medical restriction by a licensed medical professional, residents whose behavior creates an immediate risk to their safety or the safety of other residents, staff, or facility operations.

Service learning – community activities during which residents 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, and playing cards are available in all living units.

4. In consultation with the recreation program supervisor, the recreation lead/designee coordinates the purchase, storage, and distribution of equipment and supplies, and processes special equipment requests. The recreation lead must maintain and retain an inventory of equipment, according to the appropriate retention schedule.

5. Living unit staff must contact:
   a) Recreation staff if they want to reserve equipment or space for recreation activities; and
   b) The recreation lead/designee to 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. Recreation activities and schedules

1. The following therapeutic recreation activities are used to encourage and increase prosocial functioning:
   a) General recreation;
   b) Experiential education;
   c) Service learning; and
   d) Leisure education.

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;
   c) Encouragement for juveniles to self-monitor and set personal fitness goals; and
   d) A means to individualize the intensity of activities and measure individual improvement.

4. Recreation staff create the recreation and leisure-time activity schedules and distribute them to the living units. The recreation lead retains a copy of the schedules according to the appropriate retention schedule.

5. Living unit staff:
   a) Post recreation schedules where they can be viewed by residents;
   b) Follow the schedule to ensure residents have the opportunity to participate in recreation and leisure activities;
   c) Supervise recreation and leisure activities;
   d) Are encouraged to 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.

6. Supervisors may cancel outdoor recreation activities dependent on the following factors:
   a) Visibility, as affected by available daylight or inclement weather;
   b) Severe weather (e.g., temperature, wind-chill, lightning, tornado warnings); or
   c) Emergency or security situations.

C. Security unit recreation programming
   1. Meal time is not a leisure activity.

   2. Security units have indoor and outdoor exercise court, stationary bikes, and reading materials.

   3. Due to a high occurrence of incompatible between residents in the security unit, recreation may be provided individually or in small groups.

   4. Due to the intricate nature of scheduling recreation and leisure activities, if a resident chooses not to participate during his scheduled time, he is not offered an opportunity to make it up later.

   5. Security unit staff must document residents' participation in, or refusal of, recreation and leisure activities on the Disciplinary Room Time (DRT) recreation/leisure log.

D. Recreation programs are conducted in cooperation with other departments, including security, education, social service, religious service, and medical. Trained security staff, community resources, and volunteers may be used to facilitate recreational and leisure activities.

E. Recreation staff may select and train residents to serve as recreation workers.

**INTERNAL CONTROLS:**

A. Recreation schedules are maintained by the recreation director.

B. Equipment inventories are retained by the recreation director.

**ACA STANDARDS:** 4-JCF-5G-01 through 4-JCF-5G-06

**REFERENCES:** Minn. Rules 2960.0080, 2960.0270, and 2960.0550
Minn. Stat. §241.01, subd. 3a
Division Directive 204.080, "Recreation/Leisure Programs"

**SUPERSESSION:** Division Directive 204.081, "Recreation – Juvenile Facilities," 7/1/00.
Instruction 204.081RW, "Recreation Program," 6/7/2016.
All facility policies, memos, or other communications whether verbal, written, or transmitted by electronic means regarding this topic.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

/s/
Deputy Commissioner, Facility Services

Deputy Commissioner, Community Services