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	Department of Corrections Policies and Procedures	Effective:	Reviewed:
		Distribution: Public	Due for Rev:
	Chapter: Recreation and Prisoner Activities		
Subject: Recreation Programs and Personnel			

Policy

- A. The Department will ensure that each institution has the recreation facilities, equipment, and staff supervision necessary to meet prisoners' recreation needs.
- B. The Department will allow prisoners to participate in community activities, depending on their custody levels and security considerations.

Procedures

- A. Responsibility for Recreation Programs, Facilities, and Equipment
 1. The superintendent at each institution shall develop and maintain recreation programs for prisoners compatible with the security level of the facility and the prisoners' custody levels. The superintendent shall designate staff to coordinate these programs. 22 AAC 05.165(a).
 2. The superintendent shall ensure that the recreational facilities and equipment are available, in proper conditions and suitable for the planned activities. The superintendent shall buy and repair equipment as necessary.
 - B. Personnel
 1. Program Coordinator. The designated program coordinator shall prepare a status report on the recreation program's staffing needs annually. The coordinator shall forward this report to the superintendent for review and comment. The superintendent shall give the report to the Director of Institutions during the Director's annual inspection.
 2. Prisoner Program Assistants. The superintendent may select prisoners to serve as recreation program assistants.
 3. Staffing Review. The superintendent shall review staffing patterns for the recreation programs during April of each year. The review shall include an evaluation of the following:
 - a. Major program revisions that affect staff needs;
 - b. Number of staff assigned to supervise the recreation program; and
 - c. Number of time-share staff assigned or necessary for the program (including loans from security staff, volunteers, or other staff).
 - C. Programs. The recreation programs must include:
 1. staff supervision for activities initiated by prisoners and approved by the superintendent;
 2. community interaction through leisure time recreation activities and volunteer involvement in the institution; and
 3. prisoner participation in community activities, consistent with custody levels and security considerations.
 - D. Availability. The institution shall offer outdoor recreation to prisoners a minimum of seven hours per week which must be available at least five days per week, except during severe weather conditions. 22 AAC 05.165(b). The Department may substitute indoor recreation and exercise for outdoor activities if weather prohibits outdoor activities. 22 AAC 05.165(c).
 1. A windchill factor of 20 degrees Fahrenheit or colder is generally too cold for outdoor recreation. The institution shall provide suitable clothing for prisoners depending on the weather conditions.
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2. The superintendent or designee may offer a mix of outdoor and indoor recreation to accommodate staff resourced and scheduling limitations as long as the indoor recreation space is adequate and outdoor recreation is offered at least 50 percent of the time.
- E. Exceptions
1. Security Risk. A prisoner is limited to exercise in a gymnasium or exercise room if the institution makes an individualized determination that he or she is an escape, smuggling, or security risk. In such a case, the superintendent or designee must:
 - a. Provide written, specific facts applicable to the prisoner that justify the decision that the prisoner is an escape, smuggling, or security risk and, therefore, not entitled to outdoor recreation. The superintendent or designee shall give the prisoner notice of this decision as soon as practicable, either before or upon denying outdoor recreation.
 2. Prisoner Under Medical Care. A prisoner under medical care has the same right to recreation as other prisoners, unless health care personnel determine that a particular activity or activities endanger the prisoner's health.
 3. Administrative Segregation. A prisoner in administrative segregation has the same right to outdoor recreation as the general population for at least one hour per day, seven days per week, unless an individualized determination is made that the prisoner is a security risk as in section 1 above.
 4. Punitive Segregation. A prisoner in punitive segregation has the same right to out-of-cell exercise at least one hour per day seven days per week and shall have access to fitness equipment sufficient to exercise the large muscle groups in an area large enough to reasonably accommodate the equipment and activity. 22 AAC 05.165(e)
- F. Review. The superintendent shall periodically review the recreation programs, including:
1. recreational goals and accomplishments, including any major problems;
 2. prisoners' use of leisure time and recreational areas;
 3. records related to recreational activities from prisoner-initiated activities such as baseball, basketball, volleyball, drama groups, sporting competitions, holiday activities, musical groups, and hobby or craft interest group;
 4. activity limitations because of the physical plant constraints;
 5. major problems in the areas of benefits to prisoners, staff and prisoner relations, or to community interest and participation; and
 6. plans and goals for the upcoming fiscal year.

July 7, 1995
Date

Margaret M. Pugh
Margaret M. Pugh, Commissioner
Department of Corrections

Authority

Cleary Final Order 3AN-81-5274 CIV, Sept. 1990
22 AAC 05.165
