



PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES

(PLEASE ALSO REFER TO THE DODGEBALL OR RELAY AND TAG GAMES)

Only Municipal School Board and Commercial Sites are permitted.

Prior to the activity or game, the Program Leader is to assess the skills of the participants relating to the activity or game. Where a participant does not demonstrate a safe knowledge of the skills, the Program Leader must demonstrate proper execution of the skills or choose a different activity or game.

EQUIPMENT

- A fully stocked first aid kit is readily accessible.
- A working communication device (e.g. cell phone) is accessible.
- Visually inspect that all the equipment is safe for use:
 - Is the equipment bent, warped, cracked or vandalized?
 - Does the equipment have protruding parts or nails?
 - Are wooden surfaces splintered or decayed?
 - Are handrails missing, broken or loose?
 - Do seats have weak attachments?
 - Do all ramps, stairways, ladders and high standing surfaces have hand or guardrails to prevent participants from falling?
 - Are there ropes tied to the equipment?

CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR

- All participants must wear appropriate footwear (e.g. running shoes with a flat rubber sole that is secured to the foot). Bare feet, socks only, flip flops or shoes with slippery soles are not permitted.
- Participants are not to wear any of the following items while playing on the playground structures as they can cause strangulation:
 - Scarves,
 - Drawstrings on hoodies or jackets,
 - Bicycle helmets,
 - Winter clothing with drawstrings or hooks or clips which can become entangled in components of the equipment.



FACILITIES

- Only playground structures found in Municipal, School Board and/or Commercial sites are to be used. Avoid backyard playground structures.
- Visually inspect the site where participants are to be active.
- Ensure the activity surfaces provide safe traction.
- Ground cover underneath the equipment has been visually inspected for:
 - Hazardous materials – animal feces, rocks, glass, etc.
 - Sufficient ground cover is present to absorb a participant's fall.
- Weather conditions are taken into consideration for participation:

SPRING/SUMMER/FALL

 - Rainy weather – playground equipment is off limits.

WINTER

 - Snow, freezing rain – playground equipment is off limits.
 - When ground cover is frozen playground equipment is off limits.

WHERE HAZARDS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED:

- Inform the Program Supervisor immediately.
- Select the safest alternative for the participants, cancel the activity, move the activity to another location or inform participants of the hazard and modify the activity to avoid the hazards (e.g. mark hazards with cones).

SPECIAL RULES/INSTRUCTIONS

- Participants with medical conditions and/or physical limitations have been identified with appropriate accommodations being implemented for their safe participation.
- An emergency action plan is ready for implementation in case of an accident or injury.
- Prior to the activity participants have been informed of:
 - Possible risks associated with the activity,
 - Ways of managing the risks,
 - Established rules and procedures for safe participation.
- Adequate liquid replacement is accessible for the participants.
- If more than one activity is going on, determine that there is a safe distance between the activities.
- Parents/guardians are aware of any off-site activity and the means of transportation used.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY | WEATHER CONDITIONS:

- Know the emergency response to severe weather conditions (e.g. lightning, tornadoes) and provide appropriate instruction to the participants.
- Before activity take into consideration:
 - The temperature of the day,
 - The length of time participants will be vigorously active.



- Participants are to be made aware of ways to protect themselves from:
 - UV rays (e.g. hats, sunglasses, sunscreen),
 - Insects (e.g. mosquitoes repellent).

SPECIFIC PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE SAFETY CRITERIA:

- The participants are using the appropriate playground structures relevant to their age, physical ability or level of dexterity. (Participants under 5 are not to use equipment higher than 1.5 metres (5 feet) Source: Safe Kids Canada).
- The number of active participants on any one structure at a time is limited for safety.
- Rules of acceptable behaviour and expectations for safe play on the playground structure are to be provided to participants at the beginning of the activity and reinforced when needed.
- Rules are to be strictly enforced.

SAMPLE LIST OF ACTIVITIES WITH RULES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

- Playing on the playground structure is permitted only when the Program Leader is present.
- Listen to the Program Leader and follow instructions.
- Do a visual check of the ground and playground structure before use. If you see a damaged ground cover, broken glass, animal feces, needles on the ground, skipping ropes, ropes or strings on the playground structure or a broken piece of the structure, inform the Program Leader.
- Do not use equipment during rainy, snowy or icy weather or when there is snow on the equipment or it is wet.
- Wear appropriate shoes or boots. Bare feet, socks only or shoes with slippery soles are not permitted. Shoes are to be secured/tied onto the foot.
- Wear jackets. Hoods with loose drawstrings, scarves, bicycle helmets and backpacks are not permitted.
- Long hair should be tied back.
- Travel safely when near the playground structure. Walk—don't run—when on the playing structures.
- Take turns.
- Keep your hands to yourself at all times. Pushing and fighting are not permitted.
- Jumping from unsafe heights is not permitted.
- Keep your feet on the structure. Climbing the railings or sitting on parts of structure (e.g. steering wheels) are not permitted.
- Eating while on a playground structure is not permitted.
- Games of tag are not allowed near or on the structure.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:

CLIMBING STRUCTURE:

Steps:

- Walk and hold the hand rails. Running is not permitted.

Slides:

- Wait your turn. Keep your hands to yourself. Pushing or shoving at the top of the slide is not permitted.

PG 3



- Position for a safe slide is on your seat with legs in front. Sliding headfirst, lying down or facing backwards is not permitted.
- Check that no one is at the bottom of the slide before sliding down.
- Once at the bottom of the slide, move away as quickly as possible.
- Walking/running up or down the slide bed is not permitted.

Ladders:

- Wait your turn. Keep your hands to yourself. Pushing or shoving at the ladder base or on the landing is not permitted.
- Hold onto the rung in front or railings when climbing the ladder.
- Once at the top of the ladder, move away.

Platform:

- Walk at all times.
- Jumping from the platform to the ground is not permitted. Use the steps, slides or ladders.
- Keep your feet on platform at all times. Do not attempt to climb onto the railings.

Pole:

- Keep two hands on the pole at all times. Go down the pole feet first. Once at the bottom, move away as quickly as possible.

SWINGS:

- Hold onto the swing with both hands.
- Do not stand on the swing seat.
- Only one person on a swing at a time.
- Stand and walk a safe distance from the front and back of the swings.
- Under-doggies are not permitted.
- Jumping from the swing is not permitted. Remain seated until the swing has completely stopped.
- Twisting the swings' chains is not permitted.
- Climbing the support structures or swing supports is not permitted.

TEETER TOTTERS (SEESAWS):

- Crawling on the plank is not permitted.
- Only one person to each end of the seesaw at a time.
- Bumping the bottom of the teeter totter on the ground is not permitted.
- Getting off while another child is in the air is not permitted.
- When getting off, be sure the other person is aware that you are getting off.
- Standing on the seat or bar between the seats is not permitted.
- Tucking legs, feet or hands under the teeter totter is not permitted.

MERRY GO ROUND:

- Climbing on or jumping off the merry go round while it is in motion is not permitted.
- Always hold on tight to handgrips when in motion.
- Dangling arms or legs or heads over the edge of the merry go round while it is in motion is not permitted.
- Do not overcrowd the merry go round.



MONKEY BARS:

- Climbing on top of the monkey bars is not permitted.
- Keep a safe distance from one another.
- When dropping off the rung, drop feet first and bend knees when landing.

SPRING ROCKERS:

- Leaning too far forward or backward is not permitted.
- Crawling underneath the rocker is not permitted.
- Keep hands away from the spring.
- Jumping to rock harder is not permitted.

▶ SUPERVISION

CONSTANT VISUAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED

- The Program Leader is present during the activity with constant visual accessibility of the participants and the activity.
- The Program Leader meets the criteria for effective constant visual supervision (refer to the Resource Materials Section: Appendix B – Supervision).