



**STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

Policy No. DOC 5.5.2	Subject: <b>INMATE ORGANIZATIONS</b>
Chapter 5: INMATE PROGRAMS	Page 1 of
Section 5: Recreation Activities	Effective Date: July 1, 1998
Signature: /s/ Mike Batista, Director	Revised: 6/7/2013

**I. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Montana Department of Corrections to authorize inmate organizations in its facilities when such organizations are, in the view of staff, productive and facilitate rehabilitative processes and when staff can adequately supervise the programs.

**II. APPLICABILITY**

Adult secure facilities Department-owned and contracted, as specified in the contract.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

None

**IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES**

**A. General Requirements**

1. Inmate organizations may be approved at the discretion of the facility administrator if the organization contributes to the overall positive atmosphere or to the range of programs available.
2. Prospective inmate organizations must have the following prerequisites in place prior to consideration for approval:
  - a. demonstrate the positive contribution the organization would make to the inmate population;
  - b. statement of purpose, constitution, and by-laws that describe nondiscriminatory membership criteria, including that inmates shall not be denied membership due to lack of funds;
  - c. financial management and annual audit plan in accordance with Department policies if funds are involved in the operation of the organization;
  - d. staff sponsor volunteering to supervise all activities; may not be compensated by the organization for services provided, and will be scheduled for these duties by their respective department head; and
  - e. other information requested by the facility administrator.
3. Time, place, and content of meetings and activities of an inmate organization must be approved in advance by the Security Major/Manger, or other comparable facility position, and supervised by the staff sponsor.
4. The facility administrator may disband an inmate organization either temporarily or permanently, at any time without prior notice, if the activities of the organization are

Policy No.: DOC 5.5.2	Chapter 5: Offender Programs	Page 2 of 2
Subject: <b>INMATE ORGANIZATIONS</b>		

deemed disruptive, contrary to the security or safety of the facility, or for failure to meet audit or other requirements.

5. Publications reporting news, editorial content, or other non-program information are not permitted.

## **V. CLOSING**

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the facility administrator.

## **VI. REFERENCES**

- A. [53-1-203](#), MCA

## **VII. ATTACHMENTS**

None