



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
MONTANA STATE PRISON
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE**

Procedure:	MSP 5.5.3 RECREATION PROGRAMS
Effective Date:	July 13, 2009 Page 1 of 3 and no Attachments
Revision Date(s):	January 20, 2017, October 15, 2020, March 15, 2021
Reference(s):	DOC Policy 5.5.3
Signature:	/s/ Jim Salmonsens/ Warden

I. PURPOSE

It is the procedure of the Montana State Prison to provide recreational programs and activities to inmates based upon classification, safety and security, and available supervision.

II. DEFINITIONS

Disability – See DOC 3.3.15, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Offender Accommodations, for the definition and an explanation of disability.

Recreation - Non-work-related activity intended to refresh body or mind.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Responsibility

1. The MSP Associate Warden of Security is responsible for inmate recreational activities at MSP including:
 - a. conducting an annual survey of the recreation needs and interests of the inmate population using a systematic approach to assess the effectiveness of the current recreation program and determine the personnel and program requirements. This evaluation report will be submitted to the MSP Administration and will include an assessment of major accomplishments, problems, plans, and goals for the next year;
 - b. maintaining recreation facilities and equipment in good condition, suitable for the planned activities, and in proportion to the inmate population;
 - c. properly inventorying, securing, and storing all recreational equipment, with special emphasis on equipment which has the potential to be used as a weapon;
 - d. providing the necessary staff supervision for inmate recreation activities;
 - e. ensuring inmate recreational workers are carefully screened, assigned, trained, and properly supervised;
 - f. ensuring recreation programs are provided for locked housing and special needs inmates;
 - g. overseeing applicable physical fitness and wellness programs; and
 - h. ensuring equal opportunity to recreational programs for inmates with disabilities, including but not limited to ensuring that recreational areas and equipment are accessible to such inmates that such equipment and other accessible elements and routes are free of temporary obstructions, moving equipment as necessary to ensure access, and providing reasonable accommodations to inmates with disabilities. All accommodations will be documented in OMIS in accordance with *DOC 3.3.15 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Offender Accommodations*.

B. Program Content

1. All recreation activities will be supervised. At least one of the staff supervising recreation activities will be equipped with a radio to maintain contact with Main Control and Command Post.
2. Every general population inmate will be provided an opportunity to have at least one hour of recreation each day. This includes the following:
 - a. recreation for inmates housed in locked housing will be conducted in accordance with procedures outlined in *MSP 3.5.1, Restrictive Housing Unit Operations*; and
 - b. general population inmates will be given an opportunity to attend supervised outdoor recreation on a daily basis. For the safety and security of staff and the inmates, scheduled outdoor recreation times may be cancelled or shortened if weather conditions are such that the supervising staff are hindered in their ability to perform their duties in a safe, secure, and adequate manner.
3. Recreation activities may include softball, basketball, volleyball, table games, sporting competitions, holiday activities, and hobby.
4. Housing unit staff may equip dayrooms with televisions and board games (such as checkers) to provide recreation.
5. Inmates are allowed in-cell hobby craft activities in accordance with procedure outlined in *MSP 5.5.4, Hobby Program* and *MSP 4.1.3, Inmate Personal Property*.
6. Recreation equipment and items will be inventoried on a daily basis and stored in a secure area.
7. Staff will conduct daily searches of recreation areas to detect missing, altered, or damaged equipment, contraband, and security breaches.
8. Inmates housed in restrictive housing will not be recreated with general population inmates, and restrictive housing unit staff will establish procedure to ensure that inmates in their units that need separation from each other are not recreated together.

C. Loss of Gym or Yard

1. If an inmate is involved in inappropriate behavior or conduct while at gym or yard, recreation or security staff may immediately send him back to his unit. The inmate may receive a write-up for a major or minor rule infraction, which may result in extended loss of gym and/or yard.

D. Staffing

1. The Associate Warden of Security or designee will review the staffing pattern for the recreational program at least annually. This evaluation will include a review of the following conditions:
 - a. the number of staff assigned to the recreational program;
 - b. the number of other staff assigned from other sources, including correctional officers assigned to provide security supervision, volunteers, contracted wellness services, and others; and
 - c. any major program revisions that would affect staffing needs.

E. Staff use of Recreation Equipment

1. On-duty staff may use the recreational equipment in the gymnasiums during their paid breaks.

IV. CLOSING

Questions concerning this operational procedure will be directed to the Associate Warden of Security.

V. ATTACHMENTS (none)