

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

NUMBER: 1608

SUBJECT: Inmate Recreational Activities

ACA STANDARDS: 4-ALDF-1A-12, 2A-66; 5C-01, 02, 03

ACTING DIRECTOR: *Julia Childrey*

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/97 REVISION DATE: 7/00, 11/13, 5/15,
12/18



I. POLICY

The St. Louis County Department of Justice Services shall provide recreational opportunities for inmates, including physical exercise and leisure-time activities, in an effort to promote good health and stress management practices.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

All St. Louis County Department of Justice Services' Housing Unit Officers, the Infirmary Officer, and Program staff are responsible for the following procedures.

III. DEFINITIONS

Active Recreation: Activities involving physical exercise and exertion that occur within a recreational area.

Passive Recreation: Leisure-time activities such as television viewing, table games and reading that occur within a housing unit dayroom.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. General Information

1. All inmates shall have the opportunity to participate in recreational activities.

2. Participation in all recreational activities shall be voluntary.
3. Inmates ineligible for participation in recreational activities because of classification status shall have a minimum of one (1) hour out-of-cell exercise each day. (See Policy #903 Disciplinary Segregation Housing)

B. Active Recreation

- [1. Active recreational activities shall include:
 - a. Basketball
 - b. Jogging
 - c. Handball
 - d. Calisthenics
 - e. Walking
 - f. Special programs/tournaments arranged *by staff*]
2. Inmates on sick call or requesting medical attention will be excluded from any active recreation until they have been seen by the Corrections Medicine staff.
3. Inmates who have medical conditions that could be aggravated by recreational activity will not be allowed to participate in active recreation.
4. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior may result in loss of recreational privileges and/or additional consequences as a result of disciplinary action.
5. Use of Recreation area, when not scheduled for organized activities, shall be determined by the Housing Officer.
6. Inmates are required to wear appropriate footwear in the recreation area as determined by DJS staff.

C. Leisure Time

- [1. Leisure-time activities shall include:

- a. Television
 - b. Reading materials
 - c. Radios (only with ear phones)
 - d. Table/board games/cards
 - e. Special programs arranged *by staff*
2. Inmates shall have the opportunity to participate in out-of-cell leisure-time activities on a daily basis, limited only by the classification status.
 - a. Inmates in Disciplinary Segregation shall be allowed one (1) hour out of their cells each day for showers, with activity time limited to walking.
 - b. Inmates housed in the Infirmary and Mental Health units shall be assessed on an individual basis, with any leisure-time activities authorized by the Corrections Medicine staff.
 3. Participation in leisure-time activities shall be allowed at times specified by facility schedule and at the discretion of the Housing Officer.
 4. Table games such as card and board games shall not be used for any form of gambling activities.
 5. Table games and any other equipment or materials provided for inmate leisure-time activities shall not be abused or monopolized by any inmate or group of inmates.
 6. Table games and other leisure-time equipment and materials shall be distributed to the inmates by the Housing Officer.
 7. Abused equipment and materials may not necessarily be replaced.
 8. Table games and other leisure-time equipment and materials are purchased for inmates from proceeds from the Commissary or from donations.

D. Special Programs

1. Program staff, Housing Unit Officers, and Housing Unit Supervisors may arrange for special programs such as:
 - a. Recreational/educational videos
 - b. Active recreational activities including tournaments and leagues
 - c. Passive recreational demonstrations or activities.
 - d. Plays.
2. Program staff, Housing Unit Officers, and Housing Unit Supervisors shall plan, coordinate and schedule active special programs for inmates.
 - a. Organized active recreational activities shall emphasize skill development, good sportsmanship, cooperation with fellow team members and self-esteem building.
 - b. Organized active recreation shall not include competitive activities involving aggressive physical contact.
3. Program staff, Housing Unit Officers, and Housing Unit Supervisors will post a schedule of organized recreational activities in each housing unit.
4. Community volunteers who participate in special recreational programs must be approved. (See Policy #1701 Volunteer Programs and Services)
5. All recreational activities shall be monitored by the Housing Officer and/or assisted by Volunteer Program staff.

E. Scheduling Recreation Areas

Direct Housing Units

1. Recreation areas will be shared by all housing units on floors 4 through 7.

2. Times will be rotated to ensure that all inmates receive one (1) hour per day, and inmates participating in programs may receive more than one (1) hour per day, if the schedule and time permits. (See Attachment 1)
3. Recreation time and space can be forfeited by housing units when problems exist within the unit such as, noise level too high, lockdown status, failure to comply with housing unit rules pertaining to recreation.

Indirect Housing Units

1. Recreation areas in the indirect housing units will consist of smaller areas to meet the needs of smaller groups of inmates housed in these areas, such as Certified Juveniles, Writs, etc.
2. Recreation areas in indirect housing can also be utilized for one individual, depending on classification.
3. All inmates in indirect housing shall be allowed one (1) hour out-of-cell recreation per day, based on inmate's behavior.