

## **SPORTS EVENT/OUTING**

### **POTENTIAL HAZARDS/RISKS**

- Injuries related to motor vehicle incidents en route to and from the activity area
- Becoming lost or separated from the group or the group becoming split up
- Injuries related to slips, trips, and falls in the program area or en route to/from it
- Injuries related to colliding with a moving object (e.g., another participant) or with a fixed object (e.g., a post, a wall)
- Injuries related to ill-fitting equipment, equipment malfunction, or failure to use the equipment properly
- Injuries related to the physical demands of the activity and/or lack of activity skill
- If outdoors, sub-optimal weather or weather changes creating adverse conditions students are not properly dressed for; e.g.,:
  - Hypothermia due to insufficient clothing
  - Loss of manual dexterity in hands during cold and wet weather
  - Hyperthermia (e.g., heat exhaustion, heat stroke) due to insufficient hydration, overdressing, and/or overexertion in a hot environment
- If outdoors, allergic reactions to natural substances (e.g., bee or wasp stings)
- If outdoors, injuries related to interactions with animals and plants in the environment
- Psychological injury due to anxiety or embarrassment (e.g., re: body size or shape, lack of fitness and/or skill)
- Illness related to poor hygiene, and
- Other risks normally associated with the activity and environment. If not covered above, the specific unique risks associated with the sport must be identified and addressed.

### **MITIGATION STRATEGIES/PROCEDURES**

#### **Teacher/Leader Readiness**

- The teacher/leader must be competent to organize the activity; to demonstrate, instruct and supervise it, and to effect rescue and emergency procedures as necessary.
- The teacher/leader must be familiar with the area and/or route.
- Assistant teachers/leaders should have adequate capacity to support the group.

#### **Location/Venue**

- Guidelines related to travel by bus or walking to/from a site are covered in Travel to/from Off-site Destinations in the General Considerations. If travelling by a means other than bus or walking, see Transportation in Special Considerations.
- The Team Manager, if one is available, handles travel logistics as much as possible so the coach can focus on coaching.
- Identify a safe, allowable way to transport equipment considering the safety of the students and minimal potential for damage to the equipment. (e.g., some large items such as big instruments, background sets, props, etc. may not be permitted in the cabin of a school bus and need to be transported in a lower luggage hold - which not all buses have). Address any such issues when booking.
- Determine what school and personal equipment will be provided and what will need to be brought. For larger equipment consider the possibility of borrowing or renting rather than transporting to avoid potential loss or damage.
- Label each baggage item with the school's and/or individual's name, school address and phone number.
- Identify and assess venue and activity related risks as these are evident and manage (e.g., by notifying the appropriate officials, warning one's athletes or taking other appropriate action)

- Be informed, and as appropriate, inform one's athletes of:
  - the layout of the venue and where key personnel are stationed,
  - how any transportation within or between venues is being handled,
  - the location of emergency equipment and first aid (equipment and personnel),
  - safe areas to warm up or cool down without interfering with ongoing competition,
  - the rules and regulations governing the sport and the particular event, and the consequences of failing to follow them, and
  - other information, warnings, etc. of relevance to the athletes participating safely and allowing other athletes to do the same.

### **Equipment**

- The weather forecast, duration of the walk to/from or outdoor planned activities will determine what, if any, extra clothing and equipment is needed. Generally, students should carry their own daypacks (e.g., water bottles, snacks, extra clothing and/or other items).
- An appropriate first aid kit should be carried or accessible within five (5) minutes;
- A charged cell phone or other appropriate telecommunications device should be carried.

### **Instruction**

- Instruct students in what to do if they get lost/separated from the group (e.g., stay put, find a venue staff, go to a particular door or gate or other pre-determined re-uniting location, phone the school who can then call the teacher).
- Instruct the students regarding safe participation in the sport or activity, including:
  - Common risks related to the activity and hazards in the environment.
  - The need to follow all rules and regulations related to the sport or activity.
  - The need to remain within the established boundaries of play.
  - The need to wear any safety gear required to participate.
  - The need to use equipment as intended and to work to prevent unnecessary breakage of equipment.
  - The expectation that if a student notes anything they believe is unsafe with respect to the activity area or equipment, they will promptly notify their coach or an official.
  - The expectation to play fair.