



## AP 211 – PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM: SAFETY GUIDELINES

### BACKGROUND

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Saskatoon Public Schools is committed to maintaining a safe environment for all students and staff. Physical activity contributes to students' physical, academic and social well-being and thus is an important part of the educational program. The physical education program is deemed to include those physical activities, developmental games and sports that occur in instructional time during the school day. The Division recognizes that no activity is entirely risk-free. The potential benefits and risks of a particular activity must be weighed to determine the appropriateness of the activity.

The Director or designate will prescribe practices and procedures to ensure reasonable standards of care for the safety of students during physical activities, developmental games and sports undertaken within the physical education program.

### PROCEDURES

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#### 1. Safety Guidelines

- 1.1. Superintendent of Education responsible for Curriculum and Instruction shall be responsible for the development of safety guidelines to be applied within the physical education program.
- 1.2. The safety guidelines suggested in *A Safety Handbook for Physical Education: Saskatoon Public Schools* shall apply to all physical activities, developmental games and sports that occur in instructional time during the school day. Guidelines suggested in *The Yellow Book: Outdoor Education Guidelines for Student Travel, Canoeing, Cycling, Waterfront and Camping; Saskatoon Public Schools* shall apply to outdoor education activities and programs.
- 1.3. Schools are encouraged to consider instructional alternatives to reduce risk in all physical activities. The potential benefits to students of a particular activity should outweigh the potential risks.
- 1.4. Any sport that is deemed high risk in *A Safety Handbook for Physical Education: Saskatoon Public Schools* shall not be implemented in a school without the prior authorization of the Principal.
- 1.5. Sports and physical activities which are not recommended for in-class activity or physical activities not included in *A Safety Handbook for Physical Education: Saskatoon Public Schools* shall require the prior approval of the Superintendent of Education responsible for Curriculum and Instruction and shall require parental consent for student participation.

#### 2. Equipment Safety

- 2.1. Teachers shall require students to wear safety and protective equipment as indicated in *A Safety Handbook for Physical Education: Saskatoon Public Schools*.
- 2.2. The Principal shall have general responsibility for ensuring satisfactory conditions of playground, gymnasium, and personal protective equipment.
- 2.3. The Maintenance Services Branch and the Caretaking Services Branch of the Facilities Section will respond directly and expeditiously to requests made by or on behalf of the Principal to address safety concerns.



- 2.4. The Principal shall ensure that a supply of first aid materials is available in the school.
3. Instruction
  - 3.1. Teachers shall provide appropriate instruction regarding safety procedures and precautions related to specific physical activities, developmental games and sports.
  - 3.2. Teachers shall provide instructional activities which are appropriate to the skill and developmental level of the students and shall be guided by Division safety guidelines, and specific approved activity/sport manuals.
4. Supervision
  - 4.1. Supervision shall be provided that is appropriate to the risk level of the activity, the participants' skill level, and the participants' age and maturity.
  - 4.2. All third-party instructors/supervisors shall be qualified and a teacher shall be present and in charge at all times unless the individual has been approved by the Principal.
  - 4.3. Students shall not be the sole supervisors of any physical activity in the physical education program.
  - 4.4. The Principal shall maintain current medical information on file for all students.
  - 4.5. Regulations cited in Administrative Procedure 310: Safety shall apply to emergencies and accidents.
5. Clothing and Footwear
  - 5.1. Teachers shall be guided by recommendations and requirements for appropriate clothing, footwear, sun protection and jewelry as indicated in *A Safety Handbook for Physical Education: Saskatoon Public Schools*.

Reference: Section 85(1) (b) (d) (w), 188 Education Act

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