

NEBRASKA Good Life. Great Mission. DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES	POLICY		
	LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES		
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EFFECTIVE: March 1, 1980
 REVISED: November 20, 2013
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 REVIEWED: October 30, 2015
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 REVISED: June 30, 2020
 REVISED: May 31, 2021
 REVISED: November 30, 2022
 REVISED: September 30, 2023

SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW

PROCESS – IV. – Recreational interests and needs of incarcerated individuals shall be assessed on an annual basis through solicitation of suggestions from incarcerated individuals and other appropriate means. An annual report shall be completed by March 1st of each year.

APPROVED:



Rob Jeffreys, Director
 Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

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PURPOSE

Viable programs of leisure time activities for incarcerated individuals help meet the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services' (NDCS) objective of increasing opportunity for the incarcerated individual's responsibility and self/career development as well as helping create a humane environment for incarcerated individuals. (ACI-7C-01, ACRS-5A-21)

Each facility, consistent with its function and the nature of its incarcerated individual population and programs, shall develop its own version of this Policy within the limits and guidelines that follow.

PROCESS

I. TYPES of ACTIVITIES

Facility Procedures shall provide for a comprehensive recreational program that includes leisure-time activities and outdoor exercise. These should include not only yard, library and auditorium functions in those facilities with auditoriums, but also pursuit of individual hobbies and development of individual talents. In addition to athletic activities, there should be opportunities to pursue such activities as music, painting, writing, handcrafts and similar pursuits. Incarcerated individuals may also be allowed to form clubs and other associations subject to the permission of the warden. Written procedure shall define the purpose and scope of each authorized activity as well as provide for supervision of leisure time activities.

II. STAFFING

With the exception of community facilities, each facility shall employ a qualified recreation supervisor who supervises all recreational programs. The supervisor shall have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in recreation or leisure services, or the equivalent in combined education and experience. The supervisor's position shall be full-time in facilities with more than 100 incarcerated individuals. Where applicable, each facility shall establish procedures for the selection, training and use of incarcerated individuals as recreation program assistants. (ACI-7C-02, ACI-7C-03)

III. MAINTENANCE AND AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND PROGRAMS

Each facility shall acquire and maintain facilities and equipment in good condition for leisure activities. Regular inspections of the facilities and equipment shall be made and repair and replacement recommended as necessary. The facilities and equipment should be available in proportion to the incarcerated individual population. Provisions shall be made for appropriate leisure time activities which are initiated by incarcerated individuals and carried out under staff supervision. (ACI-7C-04, ACI-7C-06)

Written facility Procedure shall encourage leisure time interaction with the community. This may include bringing in volunteers to provide instruction and inviting local teams into the facilities to compete, (appropriate, well maintained recreational clothing will be worn by community participants). Incarcerated individuals of the appropriate custody grade may participate in recreational activities in the community to the extent permitted by the resources of the facility. (ACI-7C-05)

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IV. ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

Recreational interests and needs of incarcerated individuals shall be assessed on an annual basis through solicitation of suggestions from incarcerated individuals and other appropriate means. An annual report shall be completed by March 1st of each year.

Personnel and financial requirements needed to support leisure time activities shall be determined and requested in order to attain and maintain a quality program. There shall be a systematic approach to determine the personnel requirements for the recreational program. This will provide access to staff and services and assures needed support for incarcerated individual activities. The recreation and incarcerated individual activities program shall be evaluated annually to assess the effectiveness of the program against stated performance goals and objectives.

V. PARTICIPATION OF STAFF AND OUTSIDE TEAMS

Only the sports listed below may be authorized:

- A. Outside Teams-Softball, Volleyball, Power Lifting
- B. Staff Participation-Softball, Volleyball

VI. SOFTBALL BATS

The number of softball bats on the field and/or available at any given time shall be limited as follows:

- A. Incarcerated individual-to-incarcerated individual team play-when two incarcerated individual teams are playing each other, a maximum of two bats will be allowed or available for use at any time.
- B. Incarcerated individual to outside team play-when an incarcerated individual team is playing an outside team, a maximum of four bats will be allowed or available for use at any time. An outside team will be prohibited from bringing more than two bats into the facility at any time. This means that the incarcerated individual teams can only have two bats and the outside team can only have two bats for a total of four bats.
- C. Staff will be solely responsible for issuing softball bats. At no time shall any incarcerated individual(s), regardless of the job title or position, issue softball bats.
- D. When an incarcerated individual team(s) is/are practicing, a maximum of two bats will be allowed or available for use at any time.

VII. MOVIES AND TELEVISION

- A. All movies shown at the facility must have written permission from the copyright owner of each movie to be shown. (Permission from a copyright owner for one facility does not authorize other facilities to show the same movie.) NDCS shall follow the guidelines

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of any contracted distributor or licensor services used. Copies of the authorizing document, giving permission to show a movie, shall be kept on file at the facility.

- B. Movies not allowed include those that contain scenes depicting or advocating the following:
 - 1. Rape, sadomasochism, bondage, or other violent sexual acts
 - 2. Sexual abuse of children
 - 3. Drug-induced sexual stimulation
 - 4. Bestiality
 - 5. Gratuitous or extreme violence
 - 6. Gang related activities
 - 7. Other materials which would constitute a threat to the security, safety, or good order of the facility
- C. All movies will be reviewed and approved by assigned staff at the facility.
- D. In accordance with ADA requirements all televisions and movies will be shown with close captioning turned on.

REFERENCE

- I. STATUTORY REFERENCE AND OTHER AUTHORITY– None noted
- II. NDCS POLICIES – None noted
- III. ATTACHMENTS – None noted
- IV. AMERICAN COASSOCIATION (ACA)SSOCIATION (ACA)
 - A. Expected Practices for Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) (5th edition): 5-ACI-7C-01, 5-ACI-7C-02, 5-ACI-7C-03, 5-ACI-7C-04, 5-ACI-7C-05, 5-ACI-7C-06
 - B. Standards for Adult Community Residential Services (ACRS) (4th edition): 4-ACRS-5A-21