



Skate Parks

Recreational activities are pillars of summer/winter camp, summer school, and recreational center experiences. They provide an opportunity for socialization and learning in a fun setting. These activities also provide an increased liability and potential for staff and/or participant injury. The safety of participants and staff should be standard operating procedure. It should be completed to the highest professional standards and in line with federal, state, local, and accrediting agency guidelines. The following checklist template provides a high level oversight to assist with your activity structure. Your organization is responsible for the development of your own written program guidelines and policies for the oversight of your activities. Through consistent management and preventative programs, exposures can be reduced to help ensure a safe recreational experience.

Program Pre-Activity:

- Written program guidelines which outline major components including, staff qualifications, participant guidelines, age requirements, liability controls, safety equipment requirements, training and other protocols as determined by your program.
- Participant assessment protocols in place and completed in line with internal written policies. This includes a physical and emotional assessment to assess their ability to safely participate in the activity.
- All participants must be six years of age or older.
- Legally reviewed liability waivers, in line with state and federal guidelines, signed by legal guardians. Kept on file in a secure location.
- If participant meets guidelines and passes program assessment, training program that includes equipment usage policies and expectation for participation is completed.
 - Completed prior to participation and must be renewed per internal written policy.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) program. Outlines equipment usage, inspection process, and storage. Minimal protective equipment includes:
 - Properly fitting helmet meeting Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards completed.
 - Knee and elbow pads
 - Wrist guards
 - Proper Shoes
- Operation must carry a separate accident and health insurance policy/Required Accident & Health policy for participants

Design:

- The park must be professionally designed, engineered, and installed to meet any Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) or American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards, if applicable.
- All design specifications, assembly instructions, and maintenance recommendations from the developer, engineer, and/or manufacturer, should be kept on file. Were ramps and features designed to [industry standards](#)?

Oversight/Program Director:

- Effective supervision of the activities is crucial to ensure safety requirements are enforced and daily inspections are completed.
 - An experienced Supervisor/Skate Guard should always be present when the park is open.
 - They should be stationed so that the entire area may be viewed and monitored.
- Supervisors/Skate Guards should be thoroughly trained in First Aid, CPR and the park's emergency response plan.
- Skating and biking areas should be segregated from one another, or separately scheduled at certain times. The number of people allowed in the skatepark area should be limited to minimize injuries resulting from collisions.
- Safety & Conduct rules must be posted and enforced.
- Security measures should be in place at the skatepark to prevent unauthorized entry while the park is closed or not supervised.

Maintenance and Inspections:

- Daily safety inspections of the skatepark and grounds should be completed, prior to use.
- All debris (trash, mud, broken glass, rocks, etc.) must be removed from the skating floor and structures.
- Equipment (helmets, skateboard, scooter, bikes, etc.) safety inspections should be completed daily to ensure the equipment is free of loose, broken or cracked parts, worn straps, sharp edges, slippery top surfaces, wheels with nicks and cracks, worn bearings/bushings, etc. Proper sanitation protocols should be completed.
- Inspections should be based on statutory guidelines and in line with internal written best practice policies. Any visible hazards or repair needs should be addressed immediately.
- Document all inspections, repairs, maintenance of the park and equipment.

Additional Resources:

[Public Skate Park Development Guide](#)

[Safety and Liability](#)

[International Association of Skateboard Companies](#)

[National Recreation and Park Association](#)

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