

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

**WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS
& REHABILITATION**

NUMBER: 502.01

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01 October 2026

**SUBJECT: RECREATION IN JUVENILE
FACILITIES**

POLICY DIRECTIVE

PURPOSE:

To provide policy ensuring juvenile residents are provided with a comprehensive recreational and leisure program that promotes fitness, health, and wellness through a variety of activities that facilitate a juvenile learning the appropriate use of leisure time.

REFERENCE:

CIYJ Outcome Measure Health 15; and ACA Expected Practices 5-JCF-6G-01 through 05; 3-JDF-5E-01 through 04; and 2-CO-5C-01.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Superintendents are responsible for enacting facility-specific Operational Procedures to ensure compliance with this Policy Directive.

CANCELLATION:

Any previous written instruction on the subject.

APPLICABILITY:

All juvenile residential facilities within the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR). This Policy is available for general distribution.

DEFINITIONS:

Large Muscle Exercise: As defined by CIYJ, aerobic exercise and/or movement activities for youth. *Examples include playing basketball, aerobics, running, jogging, weight lifting.*

Leisure-Time Activity: As defined by CIYJ, includes any time the youth are engaged in staff supervised primarily self-directed activities that engage youth, are multi-sensory and offer opportunities for youth to develop socialization skills, their strengths, talents and interest and learn to use leisure time constructively. *Examples may include board games,*

cards, crafts, reading or other leisure activity not included in the definition of education, recreation activity, other facility programs.

POLICY:

- I. A juvenile residential facility of fifty (50) or more residents has a full-time, qualified recreation director who creates the recreation schedule, plans for constructive leisure time and activities, and supervises all recreation programs and staff. Facilities of less than fifty (50) juveniles have a staff member supervising the program who is trained in recreation or related field.
- II. Staffing is adequate to ensure proper recreation and security supervision of residents during activities.
- III. The recreation and leisure-time schedule must provide, at a minimum:
 - At least one (1) hour of large-muscle activity per weekday (may occur during school hours (e.g., gym classes);
 - At least two (2) hours of large-muscle activity per weekend day; and
 - At least one (1) hour of structured leisure-time activities daily.
- IV. Recreation programs are conducted in cooperation with other departments including security, education, social service, religious service, and medical. The recreation program includes the following:
 - A wide variety of physical activities.
 - Physical skill-building to help maintain lifetime health and fitness.
 - Encouragement for juveniles to self-monitor and set personal fitness goals.
 - A means to individualize the intensity of activities and measure individual improvement.
- V. Recreation schedules and a plan for constructive leisure-time activities are prepared by the recreation staff. The recreation plan and schedule includes a wide variety of activities to improve juvenile exposure to different opportunities, as well as reflect the expressed interests of juveniles.
- VI. All residents have access to a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational activities as weather and conditions permit. Each facility has fixed and movable recreation equipment and adequate indoor and outdoor recreation and activity space.

ATTACHMENT(S):

None.

APPROVED SIGNATURE:


David L. Kelly, Commissioner

9/03/2026
Date