

4/15/2014

Safe Ball Play/Tarmac Play Guidelines


Recess is an important component of the Health and Physical Education curriculum as well as to maintain health and wellness for our students. Maintaining safety during this time for staff and students is imperative particularly when play needs to be regulated to restricted tarmac areas due to closure of fields, unsafe conditions in certain areas, large concentration of students in particular areas and/or weather conditions. Staff and students play a key role in conducting themselves in ways that show respect for the safety and wellbeing of themselves and others.

Equipment:

1. Staff are encouraged to ensure that students are aware of appropriate play and use of equipment when outdoors. Students need to be made aware of their own and other's space during play and staff is encouraged to be aware of their own space in relation to those engaged in play.
2. Staff should be aware of the various play that is occurring in tarmac areas and make changes as appropriate to ensure safety for all.
3. Students are welcome to bring baseball gloves, tennis balls, skipping ropes, soccer balls, basketballs, etc. to play.
4. Please do not bring bats, hardballs, pogo sticks, or any electronic equipment.

Considerations to Ensure Safety:

1. Assess areas for patterns of student play (i.e. where play is occurring, type of play, pace and speed of play, equipment being used, age/grade/division of students using area, etc.).
2. Have designated areas for particular ball play (i.e. painted tarmac, painted walls, physical boundaries, etc.).
3. Adjust designated areas of ball play or types of ball play permitted when play is restricted to tarmac areas due to closure of fields, unsafe conditions in certain areas, large concentration of students in particular areas and/or weather conditions.

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4. Have clearly delineated areas for particular groups of students to play (i.e. based on grade/division/type of game play/etc.).
 5. Communicate to students reasonable distances that balls are to be thrown and kicked
 6. Ensure that equipment used is approved (e.g., Frisbee not suitable).
 7. Educate students on appropriate use of equipment to for outdoor play
 8. Have specified areas for staff supervision of outdoor play knowing that supervision entails teacher presence but not necessarily constantly viewing one specific activity.
 9. Establish routines, norms of acceptable behaviour and appropriate duties of students at the beginning of the year and consistently reinforce throughout the year.
 10. Students should be made aware of the rules of activities or games. Rules should be strictly enforced and modified to suit the age, physical, emotional, social, and intellectual abilities of the participants.
 11. Establish a visual or auditory signal for students engaged in play in order to ensure a quick stop if play or behaviour needs to be modified (i.e. teacher blown whistle, small megaphone siren, or a verbal auditory signal, etc.).
 12. Make students aware that use of equipment is prohibited without the appropriate type of supervision.
 13. Bouncing (not kicking) balls off the back of the gym wall is allowed!
 14. Skipping ropes and other stationary games need to be done on the blacktop.
 15. Field games like soccer, football, chase/tag, manhunt etc. are only allowed on the grass field area, on days when the field is open to use!
 16. Be aware of concussion information. A concussion can occur from a direct blow to the head but may also occur from a major physical trauma to other parts of the body that causes a whiplash effect on the head and neck.
 17. Ensure First Aid is provided when required.
 18. Ontario Physical Health Education Association (OPHEA Safety Guidelines)
<http://safety.ophea.net/>

Health & Safety

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