



RiskMATTERS

Field Trip High Risk and Excluded Activities

With the spring and summer season of field trips in full swing, it is time once again to review the list of proposed activities, checking for high risk and excluded activities.

Approval of school activities should always take into consideration the educational value and the injury risk factors associated with the activity.

Excluded Activities

These activities are excluded under a general liability policy wording. If these activities are contemplated, it will require a specific and explicit informed consent signed by the parents, that as well as accepting any risks of injury or death involved, that they are also aware that there is no insurance applicable to this activity. It may also be prudent to check any travel medical coverage that the students will be purchasing, to see if these activities are covered or excluded under the travel medical. We do NOT recommend participating in excluded activities.

- Aviation Activities – i.e. aircraft or helicopter rides from school property
- Hot air balloon rides;
- Parasailing and Paragliding;
- Sky-diving;
- Any other aviation or aircraft related activity.
- Excursions requiring the use of non-commercial aircraft – i.e. private planes;
- Automobile Activities – i.e. demolition derbies, auto races

High Risk Activities

A. These High Risk activities are **NOT** recommended:

- Excursions to natural disaster areas – i.e. earthquakes, floods, hurricane, tornado zones;
- Excursions to war zones – imminent or existing;
- Excursions to regions with political or civil instability;
- Dunk tanks;
- Mechanical bulls;
- Diving into or sliding on foam, mud, ice or snow;
- Demolition of derelict vehicles, equipment or buildings;
- Ice climbing / mountain climbing;
- Use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices;
- Use of air-filled "Fun Structures";
- Bungee jumping.

These High Risk activities require careful consideration and assessment of risk factors and are not for every grade level or student:

- Archery;
- Cliff rappelling / rappelling towers;
- Climbing walls;
- Downhill skiing;

- Firing ranges;
- Gymnastics;
- Ice skating;
- Ice hockey;
- In-line skating;
- Mountain biking;
- Paintball warfare games;
- Scuba diving;
- Skateboarding;
- Snowboarding / snow blading;
- Tackle football;
- Tobogganing;
- Whitewater rafting / kayaking;
- Winter camping

Risk Assessment Factors should include:

- Review of type of activity and level at which it is undertaken.
- Consideration of the location, i.e. mountainous terrain, outdoor water, urban vs. country setting.
- Qualification and certification of instructors, staff and volunteers.
- The age appropriateness of the activity.
- The characters of the students and the students together in a group.
- Fitness level and experience of the student.
- Availability and appropriateness of the safety equipment, i.e. helmets.
- Seasonal conditions.
- Number and experience of Supervisors.

Risk Management Tips

- Do not permit ineligible activities or any other activity with a high risk of injury.
- Use Informed Consent forms that must be signed by parents.
- Ensure activities are appropriate for age group and physical/mental abilities of the group.
- Ensure that all school activities are properly supervised by teachers and competent volunteers.
- Ensure students carry Student Accident Insurance and, if necessary, out-of-province medical insurance.
- Review the [Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Alberta Schools.](#)