

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Severe/Inclement Weather

- 1.1 Outdoor activities shall not be held during inclement weather.
- 1.2 During severe weather or poor driving conditions, the teacher-in-charge, in consultation with the Principal, must ensure that weather and road conditions are conducive to travel before students leave for an off-site activity trip (curricular or extra-curricular). Consultations may include the RCMP, Environment Canada, the Alberta Motor Association, etc.
- 1.3 On return trips, the teacher-in-charge must verify weather and road conditions.
- 1.4 Students must be appropriately clothed for travel by road during the winter, as determined by the teacher-in-charge.

2. Water Activities

- 2.1 All participants involved in sailing or boating activities must:
 - 2.1.1 Have swimming skills commensurate with the activity, and
 - 2.1.2 Wear a Transport Canada approved lifejacket or Personal Flotation Device, unless otherwise specified in the procedures manuals.
- 2.2 For activities involving canoeing, sailing and power craft, the activity must meet or exceed the Physical Education Safety Guidelines.
- 2.3 When canoe trips take place on lakes or rivers, the teacher-in-charge must have visited the site prior to the trip, and be familiar with the proposed route and the seasonal conditions at the time of the trip.
- 2.4 Adequate instruction and demonstration must be given to all participants involved before allowing the participants to undertake any water-related activity.

3. Swimming Pools

- 3.1 Students may not use swimming pools on off-site activities unless there is a lifeguard on duty.
- 3.2 If the facility operator does not provide a lifeguard at a swimming pool, students may use the swimming pool if the school provides a lifeguard with current certification in National Lifeguard Service (NLS), Standard First Aid, and CPR Basic Rescuer, for every fifty (50) participants using the swimming pool.

4. Remote or Wilderness Areas

- 4.1 In a remote or wilderness area, the teacher-in-charge must:
 - 4.1.1 Acquire sufficient awareness of and information about the proposed site(s) of the activity to make a safety assessment for the activity as detailed in

Appendix D.

- 4.1.2 Use professional guides when appropriate or as directed by trip approving authority (Principal or Superintendent as applicable);
 - 4.1.3 Establish and communicate class safety and emergency procedures to all participants;
 - 4.1.4 Ensure that appropriate communication devices are taken on the trip to provide contact in the event of an emergency;
 - 4.1.5 Ensure constant communication within the group and access to external communication as needed;
 - 4.1.6 Be familiar with the nearest accessible medical station and telephone service;
 - 4.1.7 Notify local area authorities, such as RCMP, forestry or park officials about the proposed activity and location or route to be used;
 - 4.1.8 Establish procedures so that contact can be made with the Principal via RCMP, forestry or park officials, or other persons in the area; and
 - 4.1.9 Obtain fire permits, fishing and other licenses and area use permission where required.
- 4.2 In a remote or wilderness area, if a group splits into two (2) or more independent traveling groups, each group must have a teacher-in-charge. Independent traveling groups do not include groups of two (2) or more high school students conducting course related field studies in an area designated by the teacher-in-charge, provided prior specific instruction has been given to the students on the area of study, reassembly procedures and timelines, and emergency procedures applicable to the situation.
5. Mountain Biking
- 5.1 Mountain biking is permitted within urban and suburban areas on designated roadways, quiet residential streets near the school, bicycle pathways and trails at established parks.
 - 5.2 Backcountry mountain biking is not permitted unless professional guides are employed.
6. Skiing and Snowboarding
- 6.1 Downhill skiing and snowboarding are acceptable activities for students as long as all the following conditions have been met:
 - 6.1.1 Conditioning activities have occurred in physical education classes, or as part of a fitness program leading up to the skiing or snowboarding activity,
 - 6.1.2 Skiing or snowboarding are part of a well-balanced yearly program, and reflect the school's commitment to a quality physical education program, and,
 - 6.1.3 Upon arrival at the skiing facility and upon receipt of all appropriate equipment, beginner skier shall take at a minimum, one (1) mandatory

lesson at the beginning of each day on a ski hill. After the lesson, each student must pass the skills test on the Bunny Slope as administered by the skiing facility professional staff and under the supervision of a school representative. Students will not receive a lift pass for other slopes without demonstrating their ability to ski with control while being accompanied by a qualified instructor. The ski instructor is in the best position to assess what activities are appropriate for the students involved. Both the ski instructor and the teacher in charge have the authority to suspend ski activities and ensure that any individuals not complying with instructions are excluded from the ski activities.

- 6.2 Downhill skiing and snowboarding activities must be conducted in accordance with the applicable Physical Education Safety Guidelines, which includes the use of proper equipment such as helmets.
- 6.3 School sponsored downhill skiing and snowboarding activities shall be restricted to venues located within Division boundaries unless the following provisions are met for other locations:
 - 6.3.1 A skiing supervisor ratio of one to fifteen (1:15) students, including at least one (1) advanced level skiing supervisor competent to circulate on all the terrain accessible to the participants and the planned venue.
 - 6.3.2 The provision of a waiver form as established by the Division, signed by the participant and the participant's parent or guardian, in addition to the normal consent approval for the activity.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016/MAY 2017/NOV 2019

Reference: Section 1, 6, 11, 31, 32, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Alberta Schools
Safety Guidelines for Secondary Inter-School Athletics in Alberta
Physical Education Safety Guidelines