

Safety and Risk Management Newsletter



June 2017

Appropriate Play

During summer the number of staff at our YMCA increases as well as the number of staff accidents that occur. The leading accident involving staff is injuries while playing. The injuries occur to staff and to the children in their care. In order to reduce injuries occurring proactively coach our staff on proper play during activities.

Step 1- Not playing at full speed

Last summer an injury resulted to a child during a kickball game. A staff member was running full speed to first base and could not stop quickly on wet grass and accidentally collided with a child. In this event the child was injured, but our staff could also been injured. The program is for the kids, if staff are playing to win, it becomes about the staff not the kids.

Step 2- Know the equipment

Equipment, such as playgrounds, is designed for kids. Staff have been injured while climbing on the equipment or chasing kids during games of tag. Staff should focus on what is around them and be aware of the hazards.



Step 3- Enforce safe play

All supervisors from unit heads to Executive Directors should step in and stop staff risking injury to themselves while playing with the kids. It takes all of us to keep the kids and staff safe.

Jump Pillows and Bounce Houses

The bounce house and jump pillows at our YMCA are an exciting offering to the families and kids in our programs. In order for them to be used safely staff monitoring them should pay attention to safety and proper use protocols.

Jump Pillows

In 2016, 43 accident reports were completed at our Association involving injuries on jump pillows. In order to reduce that number we want to focus on the following items.

- Staff should be in a position to see all activity and stop unsafe behaviors.
- Staff should keep a close eye on larger kids going full speed near smaller children and intervene quickly.
- Be extra vigilant during drop-off and pick-up when age groups are mixed.
- Train our staff on the safety rules posted.
- Inspect the pillows, sand and fences each week and promptly correct any hazards.



Bounce Houses

Our Association owns a variety of bounce houses and each have their own safety recommendations. Prior to use spend time learning the safety recommendations of the manufacturer. These will include the following:

- Maximum number of children on the equipment.
- Maximum wind speed and when to stop use.
- Indoor and outdoor set-up recommendations.
- Electrical needs for the equipment.

We must have enough staff present to monitor the equipment. Staff need to be able to see the entrances, middle areas and exits.

Before using the bounce houses outside of our YMCA, connect with the risk management department. We own the equipment, we could be held liable for injuries or accidents that occur during use. We want to make sure the bounce house are properly set-up and supervised.