I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to provide directives for the safety and security of inmates participating in recreation.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Corrections/Court Services Division to provide passive and active recreational activities for all inmates on an equal basis. Recreational activities are provided to reduce tension and boredom, promote healthy activity and encourage constructive use of leisure time. All inmates shall have equal access to recreation, except those on restriction. Inmates shall be offered outside recreation daily. However, the maximum amount of recreation time shall be afforded to all inmates as set forth by agency policy and procedures. All recreation times will be recorded on the duty post activity log and a recreation log. Only one housing unit section shall be permitted access to shared recreation areas at one time. Inmates on Administrative Segregation will be permitted to participate in recreation at a separate scheduled time from general population as set forth by the Post Deputy. Inmates designated as “Keep Separates” shall not be permitted to participate in recreational activities at the same time. Inmates shall abide by all rules and regulations pertaining to the recreation areas.

Inmates will be allowed usage of the outdoor recreation areas, provided the following guidelines are met: The housing unit deputy with approval of the Squad Supervisor will allow recreation, no inclement or adverse weather conditions exist and/or a single inmate or housing unit as a group has not had their recreation suspended due to disruptive behavior or other violations. Outdoor recreation shall be offered seven (7) days a week, with a minimum of one (1) hour per week. Staff shortages shall not hinder inmate access to physical exercise. If recreation is cancelled, the reason for cancellation must be entered on the duty post activity log, and recreation log. A squad supervisor shall sign the recreation log verifying the cancellation, and notify the Programs Deputy. Participation in outdoor recreation shall be voluntary. Recreation groups will not consist of more than the following inmates at any one time:

- General Housing 100: 12
- General Housing 200: 12
- Special Housing: 16
- Female Housing (Medium): 12
- Female Housing (Maximum): 04
- Housing 1 All Pods: 12
The indoor gym may be used for physical recreation, in the event that outside recreation is canceled for extended periods of time, at the discretion of the Assistant Division Commander of Confinement. The total number of inmates allowed in the indoor gym for recreational purposes shall not exceed twenty-four (24) inmates.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Active Recreation: Any activity requiring physical or athletic activity that is mostly performed in the outdoor recreation areas. Examples of active recreational activities include basketball and calisthenics.

Passive Recreational Activities: Individual or group leisure activities not involving strenuous physical or athletic activity. Examples of passive recreational activities include radios, card games, television viewing, playing board games or participating in a unit activity lead by the post deputy.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Recreation Rules and Regulations

1. Violation of the rules or demonstrating other inappropriate behavior will result in the suspension of recreation or may subject the inmate to in-house charges.

   a. Wristbands must be worn at all times.

   b. Full inmate uniform must be worn at all times.

   c. No items are allowed into the recreation areas except those provided by the facility.

   d. Eating will not be permitted in the recreation areas.

   e. Horseplay will not be permitted in the recreation areas.

   f. All injuries must be reported to the post deputy immediately.

   g. Abuse of recreation equipment will not be tolerated and will be cause for immediate cancellation of the recreation period.
h. Any disruptive behavior displayed by an inmate or group of inmates will result in the removal from or cancellation of the recreation period.

i. No personal items are permitted to be brought from the housing areas to the recreation areas.

j. No type of head covering will be permitted in the recreation areas.

B. Recreation

1. While conducting recreation, the following steps will be required of the deputy assigned to monitor recreation:

a. Perform a visual and physical inspection of the recreation areas prior to and immediately following each recreational activity for damage and/or contraband.

b. Documentation will be made in the duty post activity log when a housing unit is offered recreation. Documentation on the recreation log will include names of all inmates participating and times.

c. Remain alert to all activities occurring in the recreation areas while occupied by inmates.

d. Report any suspicious activities immediately.

e. Verbally control the inmates through the intercom system and by physical presence if necessary.

f. Report all problems to a supervisor so that corrective action may be taken.

g. Monitor the time and notify the inmates via the intercom system when it is five (5) minutes from the end of that group’s allotted time. When this five (5) minute warning is given, all inmates in the recreation areas will cease their activity and prepare to return to their housing unit when instructed.

h. Monitor the inmate population so that no unauthorized communication occurs.

i. Document in the duty post activity log when the recreation time is complete.

C. Passive Recreation
1. Passive recreational activities are provided daily in the dayroom areas during designated unlock times, depending on classification level, housing assignment, and administrative or disciplinary segregation.

2. Board games, magazines, newspapers, etc., will remain in the dayroom area when in use. When not in use these items must be kept at the duty post. At no time will inmates be permitted to use these items in their individual cells.

6VAC15-40-150: Inmate Exercise

Written policy, procedure, and practice shall provide that all inmates have access to physical exercise. Facilities with specified exercise areas shall provide inmate exercise a minimum of one hour per week. Facilities without specified exercise areas shall provide equipment or an area within the dayroom for inmates to exercise large muscle groups on a daily basis. Shortage of staff shall not hinder inmate access to physical exercise. Exceptions for inclement weather or risk to security shall be documented.

Compliance Documentation:

- Review written policy and procedures
- Review logbooks, recreation sheets, etc.
- Review documentation of exceptions (disciplinary segregation inmates are exempt)
- Interview staff/inmates

(A minimum of one hour per week)

Regular physical exercise assists in reducing tensions and boredom and encourages constructive use of leisure time activities. Physical exercise contributes to the basic health of the inmate population.

6VAC15-40-155: Access to Recreational Activities

Written policy, procedure and practice shall provide inmates access to recreational activities.

Compliance Documentation:

- Review written policy and procedure/inmate handbook/schedules
- Observation
- Interview staff/inmates

Varied opportunities should be made available to all inmates for participation in recreational activities. Recreation can reduce tensions and boredom, encourage the creative use of leisure time
and ensure basic health. Recreational activities may include access to TVs, radios, board games, etc.

6VAC15-40-850: Security of Outside Recreation

The facilities outside recreation area shall be secure so that inmates shall not have physical access to the general public without authorization.

Compliance Documentation:

- Observation

This General Order becomes effective September 23, 2016, and rescinds all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.