

RISK COMMUNIQUÉ

Skate Park Safety

It is no surprise that skateboarding and in-line skating continues to grow quickly in popularity. With such activities, exposure increases for municipalities. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 54,500 people need treatment at a hospital emergency room each year for injuries from skateboarding.

The following guidelines can help your municipality manage a skate park and minimize the risk of injury to skateboarders while also protecting spectators. Specific rules are suggested after this section.

- The skate park should be enclosed with a fence and a locking gate.
- Hours of operation should be posted at each entrance.
- If possible, a responsible person, employee, or volunteer should be present and in charge during hours of operation.
- Rules and regulations should be prominently displayed.
- Separate hours should be established for skateboarding and in-line skating, if applicable.
- All skateboarders and in-line skaters should wear adequate protection when using the skate park.
- A minimum age requirement should be established.
- Food and drinks should not be allowed within the fenced skate park.
- A disciplinary policy should be developed for those who violate skate park rules.

The following are some specific examples of rules and regulations that should be considered for a skate park; these should be prominently posted.

Sign #1

For your safety:

NO {
Littering
Alcohol or Drug Use
Spitting, Smoking, or Loitering
Pets
Barefoot Skateboarding
Mixing of Skateboarding and In-line Skating
Glass Containers, Food, or Beverages
Radios, Coolers, or Backpacks
Children under 12 without an Adult
Skating Without the Attendant Present
Skating Without Helmets, Pads, etc.

This is a sample guideline furnished to you by Glatfelter Public Practice. Your organization should review it and make the necessary modifications to meet the needs of your organization. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing risk exposure to personnel. For additional information on this topic, you may contact your GPP Risk Control Representative. www.glatfelterpublicpractice.com

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Sign #2

1. SKATE AT YOUR OWN RISK.*
2. Wear adequate protection when using the skate park (at least a helmet, elbow and knee pads, wrist guards, and shoes or sneakers).
3. Provide your own skateboards/skates and safety equipment.
4. Skaters 17 and younger must have a signed parental waiver before entering the facility.
5. Only skaters inside the fenced area.
6. One user on a ramp at a time; wait your turn.
7. Skaters should be considerate of each other and regulate each other.
8. Extreme recklessness or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated; failure to follow rules and regulations may result in suspension from the skate park.
9. This skate park will be closed during inclement weather, for maintenance, or at any other time deemed necessary.

*Skateboarding and skating can be dangerous recreational activities. Even with the use of all recommended safety equipment, injuries can occur. Know your own abilities, skate safely, and try to avoid collisions.

Safety Management is Key

The most important aspect in operating a skate park is the safe management of the skaters. The above guidelines will help your municipality provide that safety.

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