



Risk management overview

What is risk?

Risk is a situation involving exposure to danger, harm or loss. Risk is the possibility of something negative happening and it can also be defined as the likelihood of a hazard causing harm.

Since risk is the potential for harm, risk mitigation or risk management is the steps, plan or strategy used to reduce the potential for harm.

In a recreation setting, what could be a pose the threat of risk?

- icy walkways
- wet gym floors
- broken or damaged equipment
- poor supervision

Risk Management Plan

Three steps to develop a plan:

1. identify your risks
2. measure your risks
3. control your risks

1. Identify your risks

Make a list of what you see as possible risks:

- Revisit past events and experiences.
- Collect feedback.
- Consider close calls, complaints and suggestions.
- Consult experts (e.g. insurance brokers, lawyers, consultants, etc.).

What should you look at?

- Use of your property.
- Your group's activities, including paid employees and volunteers.
- Your policies, processes and procedures.
- Human risk (i.e. dishonesty, defamation, abuse).
- Hazards (i.e. injuries, damage, slip & falls, theft).

2. Measure your risks

Estimate the likelihood and severity of risks. Ask questions such as:

- What can go wrong?
- How often?
- What is the level of risk?

3. Control your risks

Consider your options – eliminate, assume or transfer the risk(s). Choose the best option for your group and apply your choice.

What are your options? Remember:

It is not possible to eliminate all risk. Your responsibility is to demonstrate that you have recognized the risks you could face and have taken reasonable precautions to prevent risk. Make use of tools, including insurance and a risk management plan.

Additional ways to reduce risk:

- Attend meetings, read the minutes and ensure they are accurate.
- Record objections and debate difficult issues.
- Have policies reviewed by a professional.
- Consult an insurance agent.
- Review and understand the finances.

