

SOUTH DAKOTA  DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE		POLICY NUMBER	PAGE NUMBER
		500-15	1 OF 3
		DISTRIBUTION:	Public
		SUBJECT:	Offender Recreation
RELATED STANDARDS:	ACA 5-ACI: 2E-01, 4A-24, 7C-01, 7C-04, 7C-05, 7C-06	EFFECTIVE DATE:	January 15, 2026
		SUPERSESION:	01/15/2025
DESCRIPTION: Offender Management	REVIEW MONTH: December	 <b>NICK LAMB</b> SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS	

## I. POLICY

It is the policy of the South Dakota Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide all offenders a comprehensive recreational program that includes constructive leisure time activities, outdoor exercise, artistic expression, hobby work, and recreation activities appropriate to the needs of the offenders and facility security designations. It is the intent of the DOC to encourage all offenders, including those with disabilities, to participate in activities that develop physical and mental well-being and constructive use of leisure time.

## II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and responsibilities for a recreational program and in-cell hobby work.

## III. DEFINITIONS

None.

## IV. PROCEDURES

### 1. Recreation:

- A. *Both outdoor and covered/enclosed exercise areas for general population offenders are provided in sufficient number to ensure that each offender is offered at least one (1) hour of access daily [ACA 5-ACI-2E-01], with the following exceptions:*
1. The offender's involvement in recreation would pose an immediate threat to the safety and security of the facility.
  2. A medical order exists stating an offender should not participate in recreation activities or should limit activity. The offender may sign a medical refusal if they choose to participate in recreation activities or exercise in manner that conflicts with the medical order.
  3. *Offenders placed in special management housing* or restrictive housing, or other restricted status, *receive a minimum of one (1) hour of exercise per day outside their cells at least five (5) days per week, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise [ACA 5-ACI-4A-24].*
  4. When conditions make it unsafe for offenders to be offered recreation activities.
    - a. Whenever exercise outside of the cell is cancelled, it is documented on the daily communication log.

SECTION	SUBJECT	DOC POLICY	Page 2 of 3
Offender Management	Offender Recreation	500-15	Effective: 01/15/2026

B. ***Written policy, procedure, and practice provide for a comprehensive recreational program that includes leisure-time activities and outdoor exercise [ACA 5-ACI-7C-01].***

1. Recreation and leisure time activities, space, and equipment will be made available to all general population DOC offenders.
  - a. All programs and activities will be structured to provide offenders an opportunity to participate in a variety of leisure time activities. All structured activities will be supervised by recreation employees.
  - b. ***Activities*** may be ***initiated by offenders*** who may request new recreational activities by submitting a project application (see attachment in DOC policy 500-07 – *Offender Religious and Cultural Activities*) to the associate warden, operations major or designee. Approved activities ***are carried out under staff supervision [ACA 5-ACI-7C-06].***
2. Programs and/or activities may be canceled or changed to meet facility needs. The warden or designee and shift supervisor will be immediately notified.
3. Contact sports, such as boxing, are prohibited at all facilities.
4. The formation of teams for intramural sports will be reviewed for security threat group (STG) affiliation and racial balance by the assigned staff or shift supervisor to avoid security threats.

C. Equipment.

1. ***Facilities and equipment suitable for the planned leisure activities are available in proportion to the offender population and are maintained in good condition [ACA 5-ACI-7C-04].*** These will be available consistent with the facility security level and offender supervision needs.
2. Space, equipment, and programs will be made available to the offender population on a year-round basis.
3. The assigned staff will inspect and evaluate recreational resources (e.g., equipment, programs, and space) on a regular basis. Any equipment found to be faulty, damaged, or broken will be taken out of service until repaired or replaced.
4. To ensure offenders have equal access to recreational opportunities, facilities will provide appropriate or adequate footwear. Facilities may prohibit offenders from wearing authorized offender footwear or footwear purchased from the DOC authorized vendor on indoor and/or outdoor athletic courts, to include handball and basketball courts. Offenders may elect to wear authorized state-issue footwear to walk, weight lift, or participate in other recreational activities that do not damage recreational surfaces. Staff supervising recreation will implement procedures for checkout and accountability of recreation equipment. All equipment shall be accounted for at the conclusion of each recreation period.

D. In addition to the procedures set forth within this policy, each institution may establish posted operational rules, relating to offender recreation, indoor/outdoor activity, and leisure-time activities.

1. Recreation staff are responsible for the procurement, inventory, replacement, and repair of recreational/leisure-time equipment and supplies.
2. Each facility will establish provisions and procedures for adequate staff supervision of offenders participating in recreation, exercise, and leisure-time activities to preserve and ensure the safety and security of the institution, staff, and offenders.

## 2. Hobby / Craft Work In Cell:

- A. In-cell/room hobby work is an offender privilege and is intended to be a leisure activity.
- B. Offenders will have their in-cell/room hobby work privileges limited or restricted according to their classification or status. This will include limits for offenders assigned to restrictive housing or placed in a residential treatment program.
- C. Hobby supplies are considered authorized personal property and will transfer with the offender. Excess property that may pose risk to safety and/or sanitation will be sent out at the offender's expense or disposed of. A record will be maintained of the disposition in the offender management system (OMS).
- D. Items not purchased as hobby work supplies are NOT authorized to be utilized in hobby work projects.

SECTION	SUBJECT	DOC POLICY	Page 3 of 3
Offender Management	Offender Recreation	500-15	Effective: 01/15/2026

- E. Supplies will only be utilized by the offender who purchased them within their own cell or room. Supplies will not be loaned, bartered, given away or used by another offender.
  - 1. Supplies are to be used only for their intended purpose. Any misuse may result in the item(s) being declared contraband and removed from the offender, and possible disciplinary action may ensue.
- F. The authorized area for in-cell/room hobby work is in the offender's assigned cell or room, or additional areas approved by the warden or designee. Offenders will not take in-cell/room hobby work outside of authorized areas.
- G. In-cell/room hobby work cannot be mailed to or given to another offender or offender's victim.

### 3. Family Reunification Events:

- A. *Written policy, procedure, and practice provide for interaction with the community through various activities [ACA 5-ACI-7C-05].* For more information on a calendar of family reunification events, please refer to DOC policy 500-01 – *Offender Reentry Services & Transitional Planning.*

## V. RESPONSIBILITY

The director of Clinical and Correctional Services and the director of Prisons are responsible for the annual review and revision of this policy.

## VI. AUTHORITY

None

## VII. HISTORY

January 2026  
 January 2025  
 January 2024  
 August 2021  
 April 2020

## ATTACHMENTS

None.