

Snow Tubing

ELEMENTARY - CURRICULAR 2023

- Consult [Risk Management](#).
- The safety standards for this activity must be presented to the activity provider prior to the activity taking place. The activity provider must meet the minimum requirements listed in the safety standards. For more information on planning trips using outside providers, consult [Outside Activity Providers](#).
- A teacher must be the supervisor in charge of the snow tubing trip/activity.
- A volunteer supervisor is an individual who is 18 years of age or older who is approved by the principal and has received instructions on their duties as a supervisor on the snow tubing trip/activity.

Equipment

- Determine that all equipment is safe for use (for example, no sharp corners, cracks, or splinters). Students must be encouraged to report equipment problems to the teacher.
- Snow tubes must be provided by the facility.
- Students' personal snow tubes cannot be used.
- A properly fitted (as per manufacturer's guidelines) and properly worn snow sport helmet certified by a recognized safety standards association (for example, ASTM F2040, CEN 1077, Snell RS-98, CSA Z263.1) must be worn when snow tubing at facilities both within and outside of Ontario.

Refer to the [First Aid](#) section for first aid equipment requirements.

Clothing/Footwear/Jewellery

- Appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor activity must be worn (for example, use layering principles, hats, mitts or gloves). (“Comfort Tips” guidelines within the [Safety and Risk Awareness section of the Ontario Snow Resorts Association](#) website can assist in determining appropriate clothing for a comfortable outdoor snow sport activity.) Long scarves are not permitted.
- Long hair must be secured. Devices (for example, hair pins, elastics and barrettes) used to tie back long hair must not present a safety concern.
- Students must not participate when the length of fingernails poses a safety risk to themselves or others.

Facilities

- Determine that all facilities are safe for use. Students must be encouraged to report facility problems to the teacher.
- Only commercial sites may be used.
- A designated area must be provided for snow tubing, away from other activities such as skiing and snowboarding.
- Individual lanes or chutes must be provided for individual tubes or groups of snow tubes to descend. No more than one tube or group of tubes may descend in an individual lane or chute at one time.
- A controlled run-off at the bottom must allow for proper slowdown of tubes.
- Distance between descending tubes must not present a safety concern.
- Snow tube runs must be free of obstacles.

Environmental Considerations

- When environmental conditions may pose a risk to student safety (for example, thunderstorms [lightning] or student(s) with asthma, triggered by air quality), teachers must take into consideration their school board/school’s protocols and procedures related to:

- environmental conditions (consult [Weather](#)); and
 - snow conditions (for example, snow/ice storms) and visibility.
- Students must receive instruction on safety procedures related to environmental conditions and be made aware of ways to protect themselves (for example, frostbite, hypothermia).
 - The school board's weather procedures are the minimum standards at all times. In situations where a higher standard of care is presented (for example, outside activity providers, facility/program coordinators), the higher standard of care must be followed.

Special Rules/Instructions

- Be aware of students whose medical condition (for example, asthma, anaphylaxis, casts, previous concussion, orthopaedic device) may affect participation. Consult [Medical Conditions](#).
- Students must not participate in the activity until they receive information on concussion prevention specific to the activity, inherent risks of the activity (for example, outline possible risks and ways to minimize the risks), and procedures and rules for safe play. Students must receive instruction on the importance of reporting symptoms related to a suspected concussion.
- Refer to school board policies and procedures (i.e., transportation, excursion/field trip) for communication with parents/guardians, the location of an off-site activity, means of transportation, supervision ratios, and parent/guardian permission.
- Activities must be modified according to the age, ability level, language, and experience of students, number of participants, and the facility available.
- Previous training, fitness level, and the length of time and intensity of physical activity must be taken into consideration.
- Activities must be based on skills that are taught.
- While moving, students must not be required to close their eyes or be blind-folded.
- Emphasize controlled movement when requiring students to walk or run backwards. Backward-running races are not permitted.

- Emergency procedures must be established and communicated to students.
- Prior to snow tubing, trip supervisor/teacher must outline to students ways to minimize risk and participate safely. For example:
 - Site rules must be reviewed with students (for example, no running up the sliding area, no jumping in front of descending tubes).
 - Students must receive instruction on the use of snow tubes and lifts prior to use.
 - An instructional component, that includes the proper wearing of helmets and use of equipment, is mandatory for all students.
 - Students must be aware of the boundaries for activity.
 - A safe procedure for moving out of the run-off area must be reviewed with students.
- The maximum number of students per snow tube is the decision of site staff and/or designated by manufacturing specifications.
- Snow tubes must not be removed from the designated area.
- When a student displays hesitation (verbally or non-verbally) with participating, the teacher must determine the reason(s) for doubt. If the teacher believes that a potential hesitancy during the skill could put the student at risk, the student must be directed toward a more basic skill, or be permitted to select a role within the activity at their comfort level, including the choice to not participate.
- Prior to participation, the teacher must reference and apply their school board's policy on equity and inclusion as it affects student participation and makes appropriate accommodations/modifications to provide a safe learning environment. Consult the Intent subsection within the [About section](#).
- Adequate liquid replacement (personal water bottles, water fountains) must be accessible for students before, during, and after physical activity to prevent dehydration.

Supervision

- All activities must be supervised.

- In-the-area supervision by teaching staff.
- A process must be in place by which supervisors can contact students (for example, check-in time).
- Site staff in place to supervise:
 - the gate at the top
 - the bottom of the tow lift to hook up tubes
 - the top of the tow lift to unhook tubes
- Responsibilities of the all supervisors must be clearly outlined, including circulating to all lanes that students are using for snow tubing and in the chalet facility.
- All supervisors must:
 - be familiar with applicable elements of this activity page; and
 - be aware of risks of the activity and the ways to minimize them and participate safely.
- The level of supervision must be commensurate with the inherent risk of the activity. The level of risk is related to the number of participants, the skill level of the participants, the type of equipment used, and environmental conditions.
- A volunteer could assist in the supervision of physical education activities. Examples of volunteers are educational assistants, retired teachers, co-op students, parents/guardians, early childhood educators, and teacher candidates. Refer to your school board's policy regarding volunteers. These volunteers must be accompanied by a supervisor.

Supervision Ratios

- Grades 1-3: 1 supervisor per 4 students
- Grades 4-6: 1 supervisor per 10 students
- Grades 7-8: 1 supervisor per 12 students

First Aid

- A fully stocked first aid kit must be readily accessible. (Consult [Sample First Aid Kit](#))
- Follow the school's first aid emergency response (consult [First Aid Plan and First Aid Emergency Response](#)) and the school board's concussion protocol (consult [Concussions](#)).
- An emergency action plan and response to deal with evacuations and lock downs must be followed and communicated to students.

Definitions

- **In-charge Person:**

- Some activities refer to an "In-Charge" person. While the teacher is in-charge and responsible for the overall safety and well-being of students under their care, sometimes there are other personnel who must be identified as "In-Charge" related to specific situations (for example, a pool lifeguard). In activities where an "In-Charge" person is designated, that person, in consultation with the teacher, must make final decisions regarding safety of the students

- **Supervision:**

- The vigilant overseeing of an activity for regulation or direction. Activities, facilities, and equipment have inherent risks, but the more effectively they are supervised, the safer they become.
- The Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education designate three categories of supervision, Constant visual supervision, On-site supervision, and In-the-area supervision. The categories take into consideration the risk level of the activity, the participants' skill level and the participants' maturity. The three levels of supervision described are not hierarchical but represent the type of supervision that an activity requires and the type of supervision that is inherently possible.

- **Supervisor:**

- A supervisor is defined as a teacher, vice-principal or principal with a current certification from the Ontario College of Teachers and under contract by the school/school board. The supervisor

is legally responsible for the students.

- **Types of Supervision:**

- **Constant Visual Supervision:**

- Constant visual supervision means that the teacher is physically present, watching the activity in question. Only one activity requiring “Constant visual” supervision may take place while other activities are going on.
- Curricular example: During a track and field session, some students are involved in high jump, some are practising relay passing on the track while a third group is distance running around the school. For high jump, the teacher is at the high jump area and is observing the activity.
- Intramural example: During a school outdoor special events day, some students are involved in parachute games, some in relay games, and others in a team scavenger hunt around the school. For parachute, the intramural supervisor is at the event and is observing activity.

- **In-the-area Supervision:**

- In-the-area supervision means that the teacher could be in the gymnasium while another activity is taking place in an area adjacent to the gymnasium. In-the-area supervision requires the teacher to be readily accessible.
- In-the-area supervision occurs:
 - in activities in which students may be out of sight for periods of time and the location of the teacher is not nearby (for example, alpine skiing, cross-country running). At least one of the following criteria must be in place:
 - The teacher is circulating
 - The location of teacher has been communicated to students and volunteers

