

July 2014

Based on the discussions held at the National Council of Leaders meeting held in Dallas, February 2013, the ACA National Board (BOD) requested the National Standards Commission (NSC) to review standards related to camper safety. In response to these requests, and being responsive to the emerging environment, the NSC recommends the following revisions and one addition to the ACA accreditation standards. ACA legal counsel has approved the revisions/addition.

Overview of Process:

- Review of standards by National Standards Commission and ACA staff
- Review of recommendations and accepted practices by authoritative sources and other youth serving organizations
- Legal Review
- Opportunity for input from the “field”
- Request of review by insurance providers

The following two standards were approved by the ACA National Board as presented at their April 2014 meeting.

PD.25 ARCHERY SAFETY

All components mandatory and effective 2015

Text in italics is new text; no deletions. Currently no parts are mandatory

PD.25 Archery Safety

Does the camp require the following for all archery activities:

PD.25.1 Archery range design that includes:

- A. Arrow stop(s) and a supplementary backstop or specific safety zone behind the targets;
- B. Clearly delineated rear and side safety buffers, known to the entire camp population; and
- C. Clearly defined shooting line(s)?

PD.25.2 Clear safety signals and range commands to control the activity at the firing line and during the retrieval of arrows?

PD.25.3 When not in use, are bows and arrows locked to prevent unauthorized use.

PD.26 RIFLE, PELLET GUN, AND AIR GUN SAFETY

All components mandatory and effective 2015

NOTE: There is no change to wording of the standard; the change is to make all parts mandatory. Currently, only PD.26.1 is mandatory.

PD.26 Rifle, Pellet Gun, and Air Gun Safety

Does the camp require the following for all firearm activities:

PD.26.1 When not in use, all rifles, pellet guns, and air guns are stored in a locked cabinet or closet, within a locked room or inaccessible area for redundant safety; and all ammunition stored in either a third location or container, requiring a separate key or access system?

PD.26.2 Shooting range design that includes:

- A. A bullet trap, or a supplementary backstop and specific safety zone behind the targets;
- B. Clearly delineated rear and side safety buffers, known to the entire camp population; and
- C. Clearly defined firing line?

PD.26.3 Clear safety signals and range commands to control both the activity at the firing line and during the retrieval of targets?

The standard below was sent back to the NSC for additional review and research.

HR.XX (Number to be Determined) 1:1 CAMPER/STAFF SITUATIONS

Proposed wording:

HR.XX 1:1 CAMPER/COUNSELOR RATIOS

XX.1 Does the camp provide training to all staff to minimize the potential of any staff member being in a 1:1 camper/staff situation where they can't be observed by others?

AND/OR

XX.2 Does the camp advise rental groups to provide training to all staff to minimize the potential of any rental group personnel being in a 1:1 camper/personnel situation where they can't be observed by others?

Next Steps:

- The NSC will continue the environmental scan to determine what other youth serving organizations "say" about this topic
- Difficult situations such as health care and working with special populations will be explored
- Working with the Professional Development Team, educational resources will be developed.
- An open discussion regarding this topic is proposed for the 2015 ACA National Conference