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Assignment 2: Risk Management Game Plan

Michigan State University

Monthly Risk Management Plan

August

As fall semester is set to begin, it is necessary to share important information to all coaches regarding safety, transportation and overnight trips. These issues will be addressed in a mandatory coaches orientation meeting at the beginning of the year. At this time, Risk Management handbooks will also be distributed to all coaches and staff. In an attempt to be transparent with parents, the department will host a parent information night every August to better communicate the policies and procedures the college is taking to protect their sons and daughters during their time as a student-athlete. There should also be a safety committee comprised of a variety of stakeholders to the procedures and policies. With fall sports soon to start, it is necessary to inspect the volleyball and soccer facilities. Playing surfaces should be inspected for potential safety hazards before each game as well as spectator areas and common areas. The Athletic Director should review both the women's volleyball and men's soccer schedules and travel itineraries for road contests. Throughout the year, record, document and file away all inspections and repairs once completed.

September

Interact with coaches during practices and games on a consistent basis. Practice the GOOO (Get Out Of Office) principle throughout the year (Borkowski, 2015). Constantly inspect bleachers and other venues that are being used during the fall season for wear and tear, scheduling repairs when necessary. Review lightning policies and other inclement weather procedures with soccer coaches. Ensure fall athletes are eligible to play upon reviewing summer grades.

October

Analyze safety procedures and reflect on things that may need improvement. Implement any changes if necessary. Begin prepping for winter sports. Continue to inspect soccer field throughout the season. Bring in a third party to complete a facility audit for all facilities.

November

Begin winter sport risk management procedures. Inspect facilities of wrestling and women's gymnastics programs. Make sure wrestling mats are sanitized after use to prevent infections. Inspect gymnastics equipment and padding on a regular basis before practices and competition. Ensure gymnastics program has able and capable spotters for athletes. Review season schedules and travel plans for each winter program. Constantly inspect spectator areas for potential safety hazards including lighting, electrical wires, emergency exits and bleacher maintenance.

December

Communicate with fall sport coaches regarding any issues that may have arisen during the season. Make note of changes that need to be made by next season and changes that need immediate attention. Review supervision of indoor facility during winter break ensuring there is adequate supervision and trainers on duty for all practices and competitions that may occur during this period. Inspect indoor areas including wrestling area, women's

gymnastics area and all common areas and signage in the building. Evaluate which teams may need housing for freshman over winter break, as the dorms are likely to be closed.

January

Ask for feedback on your risk management program from coaches, faculty and other staff members. Oftentimes a different perspective can help see things you have become blind to. Ensure spring sport athletes are eligible to play after fall grades are published.

February

Begin preseason procedures for spring sports. Begin reviewing schedules and travel plans for baseball, softball and both men's and women's track and field programs. Refresh safety procedures regarding lightning and other hazardous weather conditions with all spring sport coaches. Schedule a meeting with the safety committee to talk about any pressing agenda items.

March

Inspect baseball and softball fields looking for unsafe holes or erosion caused by winter conditions. Revisit spring break coverage of trainers and supervisors as well as team travel arrangements if traveling for competition. Make sure coaches are aware that dorms are locked over spring break and freshman may need other arrangements for housing during this time period. Communicate with outdoor field maintenance staff any field needs to prep fields for competition.

April

Recap the season with winter coaches after their seasons are completed. Go over any changes or improvements that need to be made for next year in terms of risk management. Catch up on any tasks that have been pushed aside throughout the year.

May

Begin planning for next year. Review any project proposals and safety changes with the safety committee. Take inventory and status of current equipment and replace through the budget if necessary. Keep all records of purchases and repairs on file. Add any new risk managements concerns that need financial assistance into the budget for next year. Have housing plans for freshman in spring sports that extend past the academic school year.

June

Meet with spring coaches to discuss their season once it ends. Review risk management plan as a whole once all programs have wrapped up. Make any changes that are needed. Review accident reports that have been filed throughout the year. Meet with the safety committee to talk about any agenda items that are pertinent to next year.

July

Do research on best practices and update any risk management policies that have fallen out of date. Review any changes and edit the risk management handbook that is on file. Encourage coaches to attend clinics and camps that will help become a better risk manager. Begin prepping for a new school year.

References

Borkowski, R.P. (2015, January 29). *One month at a time*. Retrieved from http://athleticmanagement.com/2009/08/16/one_month_at_a_time/index.php