GROUP PLAY PARKS SAFETY POLICY

Rural Stirling Housing Association, Stirling Road, Doune, FK16 6AA **Registered as a Scottish Charity No. SC037849** **Venachar Limited, Incorporated under the Companies Act (Company Number SC447415), Registered Office: Stirling Road, Doune, FK16 6AA**	
Policy Name	Group Play Parks Safety Policy
Policy Category	Landlord Health and Safety
Date Policy Reviewed	06 July 2026
Review Period	5 years
Next Review Due	August 2031
Equality Impact Assessment	YES

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The aim of this policy is to ensure that the Rural Stirling Group (RSG) maintains play parks in a safe and secure condition and without significant risk to users.

1.2 The policy is intended to facilitate the effective management of play parks, ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to comply with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Children Act (1989) Scotland, and all other relevant pieces of legislation.

2.0 Scope

2.1 This policy applies to all play parks under the Group's control.

3.0 Equality & Diversity Statement

3.1 We will ensure that this policy is applied fairly and consistently. In implementing this policy, we will not directly or indirectly discriminate against any person or group of people because of their race, religion or belief, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, or any other grounds. Our commitment to equality and fairness will apply irrespective of factors such as age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

This policy and any other Rural Stirling Group (RSG) publication is available in other formats e.g., other languages, Braille, large print, audio.

4.0 SHR Regulatory Standards

4.1 The SHR's regulatory framework sets out Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management to be achieved by all Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). The Board accepts that it is responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with these standards. The standards of direct relevance to this policy are noted below:

Standard 1: The Governing Body leads and directs the RSL to achieve good outcomes for its tenants and other service users.

Standard 4: The governing body bases its decisions on good quality information and advice and identifies and mitigates risks to the organisation's purpose.

5.0 Relevant Legislation

- BS EN 1176
- BS EN 1177:2018
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- Equality Act 2010,

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
- The Children Act (Scotland) 1995
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Health and Safety Executive guidance on playground management
- RoSPA Play Safety guidance

6.0 Risk Assessments

6.1 A risk assessment programme will be carried out, and reviewed regularly, to identify and assess potential hazards within play parks and children's recreational areas. The assessment will also be reviewed when new equipment is installed or if there are any changes to the layout of the park.

6.2 An assessment will also be carried out to assess the suitability for use by disabled persons.

6.3 Risk assessments will be carried out by a competent person who has the suitable knowledge and who has attended a RoSPA training course (or equivalent) on the principles of Risk Assessment concerning children's play parks.

6.4 If any defects are identified, we will use a competent external contractor to carry out the repairs immediately.

7.0 New Equipment

7.1 All new playground equipment will adhere to the current British Standard, BS EN 1176.

8.0 Roles and Responsibilities

8.1 *Board*
The Board is responsible for ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place for the safe management of play parks and for receiving assurance on compliance with this policy.

8.2 *Management*
The Director of Housing and Property Services and the Property Services Officer will ensure that inspections, maintenance and repairs are carried out in accordance with this policy, and that adequate records are maintained.

8.3 *Employees*
Employees involved in play park management will carry out inspections, report defects promptly, maintain records and undertake any required training. This would normally be shared between the Assistant Property Services Officer and

Housing Services Officer who cover the area containing the play park.

8.4 *Contractors*
Contractors must be competent, comply with relevant health and safety requirements and report any safety concerns identified during their work.

9.0 Inspections

Post Installation

9.1 A post installation inspection will be carried out by an independent inspector (such as a member of RoSPA) to identify any defects with the installation of equipment or surfacing. Upon successful inspection, the facility will be formally 'approved' in writing as suitable for use and compliant with all relevant requirements.

Routine Inspections

9.2 Routine inspections will be carried out and recorded at least monthly by a competent person. Inspections will include:

- visually checking the equipment for any obvious faults or hazards that can be a danger to children, parents or carers;
- ensuring the safety surface and surrounding areas are free from debris which could cause injury or be a hazard to health or the environment, for example, litter, glass or animal fouling.

9.3 Competent persons carrying out routine inspections will have attended a 1 day "Routine Inspections and Maintenance" course applicable to play parks.

Maintenance Inspections

9.4 Maintenance inspections will be carried out every 3 months. These will include:

- all aspects of routine inspection;
- checking that fixings are secure;
- repairing safety surfaces and other elements that form the rest of the site.

Annual Inspections

9.5 An overall inspection of all aspects of the site will be carried out annually by a competent person.

Retaining Records

9.6 All inspections will be accurately recorded and retained in line with the Group's data retention policy.

Remedial Action

9.7 Where any inspection identifies failures or other aspects which could result in the facility presenting a risk to users, the facility will be put out of action without delay, appropriately secured and sign-posted and remedial action arranged. Any remedial action will be formally recorded, and the facility re-inspected prior to being re-opened.

10.0 Protective Surfacing

10.1 Protective surfacing in play parks (such as grass and wood chips) will be used to reduce the severity of injury from falls.

10.2 Routine inspections will identify any hazards associated with the surfacing and repairs will be carried out by a competent person immediately.

10.0 Fencing and Gates

10.1 All play parks under our control will be enclosed by a fence at least 1 meter high. All gates will be a minimum width of 1 metre to allow access for wheelchairs and push chairs. Self-closing mechanisms will be used to maintain the gate in a closed position.

11.2 We will ensure that there is adequate access for the emergency services.

12.0 Security

12.1 We recognise the importance of security measures in play parks. Adequate lighting will be considered where appropriate following risk assessment.
If the play park is subject to high levels of vandalism, we may install CCTV.

13.0 Use of Chemicals

13.1 We will aim to use non-chemical methods (such as hand weeding) where appropriate for the treatment of weeds and algae. When the use of chemicals cannot be avoided, users will be clearly notified that chemicals have been used in the area.

14.0 Dogs in Play Parks

14.1 We recognise that dogs may be present in parks. However, “no dogs allowed signs” will be clearly displayed on the entrance to the enclosed play area containing the play equipment.

14.2 “No dog fouling” signs will be clearly displayed around the park.

15.0 Related Documents

15.1 This policy links to other additional policy documents contained within the Landlords Health and Safety Manual.

16.0 Review

16.1 We will review and update this policy every 5 years. More regular reviews will be considered where, for example, there is a need to respond to new legislation/policy or regulatory guidance.