

# PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SAFETY CHECKLISTS

## ATHLETICS—SPRINTS, RELAYS, AND HURDLES

Athletics (or track and field) is a collection of sporting events that involve running, throwing, and jumping. The sprints events involve all racing distances shorter than 800m and include relays and hurdles.

Risk Factor Rating

2

### General Learning Outcome

The student will demonstrate safe and responsible behaviours to manage risks and prevent injuries in physical activity participation and for daily living.

### Risk Management Strategies

Safety information and recommendations contained in this safety checklist are believed to reflect best practice to reduce risk. The suggested risk management strategies are considered minimum standards for physical activity in an organized or formal setting. They may not apply to all situations (e.g., home-based, recreational, or modified activities), and more stringent safety standards may be applied by instructors/coaches/program leaders of OUT-of-class physical activities in organized programs.

### Instruction

**Note:** The amount and level of instruction/directions required by the student may vary based on circumstances such as the student's personal experience, skill level, and physical condition. The use of media resources, such as books and instructional videos, may replace direct instruction if deemed appropriate and safe.

Instruction is received from a certified National Coaching Certification Program/Athletics Canada coach, or an experienced coach capable of demonstrating competencies of a certified coach as is appropriate, depending on various factors such as level of risk, intensity, accessibility, experience, and skill

All sessions are conducted in a safe environment, indoors and outdoors, with students aware of risks involved in sprint training

Safety rules and procedures are learned prior to participation (including road safety)

Skills/movements are learned in proper progression

Students learn the proper mechanics of sprinting

Length of the event must be appropriate for the age and fitness level of the student

Each session is conducted with a proper warm-up, cool-down, and appropriate fitness work

Drinking water is available and consumed as needed

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### Supervision

**Note:** The level of supervision is provided as is appropriate, depending on various factors such as level of risk, intensity, accessibility, experience, and skill.

Recommended level of supervision: **constant visual supervision** during initial instruction and then **on-site supervision**

For sprints and relays, the recommended level of supervision is **on-site supervision**

As some training sessions will be conducted by students on their own, they are encouraged to train in pairs

The person responsible for providing first aid should be present and accessible during the entire session

Safety rules and procedures are enforced

Emergency action plan is in place to deal with accidents/injuries

### Facility/Environment

Local weather conditions, forecast, humidity, and temperature/windchill are checked prior to outdoor session

Prior to the run, a safety check of the track has been performed

Track is free of hazards/debris and traffic

Track surface is level and provides suitable footing

Boundaries are clearly marked

Adequate space must be available at the end of the activity space for students to decelerate following a run

### Clothing/Footwear

Appropriate and properly fitted footwear is worn

Laces are tied and open-toed shoes are avoided

Spiked shoes must have appropriate spikes for the running surface

Jewelry is removed or secured when safety is a concern

Appropriate clothing is worn, permitting unrestricted movement

Suitable clothing and protection is used for weather, sun, and insects

Clothing must meet the requirement of the club or competition

### Equipment

Equipment to be used is suitable and in good condition

Portable media players (such as an MP3 player) are avoided while running as they reduce the runner's awareness to any potential dangers in his/her surroundings

First aid kit and phone are available

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### Other Considerations

The student has completed a regular medical checkup and a medical history prior to starting the program

The student has submitted the signed Parent Declaration and Consent & Student Declaration Form (student under 18) or Student Declaration Form (student 18 and over) prior to beginning the program

Registration in an accident insurance plan is encouraged

Students who suffer an injury are referred to appropriate medical personnel for treatment and rehabilitation, and should not return to training until cleared by a qualified medical professional

The activity is suitable to the student's age, ability, mental condition, and physical condition

The student demonstrates self-control at all times and avoids any behaviour deemed inappropriate

The student's choice of this activity as part of the OUT-of-class component of the physical education/health education course has been presented to the parent/guardian (student under 18 years of age) and to the teacher

