

POGC Playground Policy

Revisions Approved by Membership 9/20/2022

The Property Owners of Gulf Cove Inc. (POGC) membership has expanded our park playground area to create a safe, friendly play environment for children related to POGC members and children in the member's care. The following policy is to establish a safe playground environment at the POGC park.

1. Playground is open to POGC members and children as noted above. Use at your own risk.
2. Playground is available for children 2 to 12 years old.
3. All children under 10 must be supervised by an adult POGC member. Supervision of your children is absolutely necessary and can prevent the risk of injuries. Adults are expected to keep an eye on children who are playing at all times. Safety of the children using the POGC playground is the direct responsibility of the adult POGC member supervising their activities. Supervision of the children may not be delegated to a person who is not a member of POGC. A POGC member is defined as a Gulf Cove property owner or renter who has turned in a completed membership form and paid their annual dues.
4. Adults should check for any potential hazards such as broken or rusty equipment, wet or slippery surfaces, hot metal surfaces, or any fallen branches that could be tripping hazards. Any broken or rusty equipment shall be reported to the POGC Board, and children instructed not to use broken apparatus. The POGC Board is responsible to ensure that qualified personnel examine and do routine maintenance.
5. Pushing, fighting, bullying, playing rough, will not be tolerated.
6. Older children need to be mindful of younger children who are also playing, being careful not to accidentally push or knock them over. Parents of toddlers should be staying close to toddlers in case they need help.
7. Children need to be dressed appropriately, that is proper footwear, no clothing with drawstrings or cords that could easily get caught on equipment.
8. It is the responsibility of the supervising adult to read and abide by manufacturer warnings and age-appropriate labels displayed on the playground equipment.
9. The POGC Board is responsible for posting a sign with basic playground rules.

Although unaccompanied children under 10 should not be at the POGC playground, it is recognized this is going to happen from time to time. POGC members should only approach unaccompanied children if they are vandalizing playground equipment, if their actions are a danger to themselves, or if they are using the playground equipment in a manner that would cause damage. Any approach to resolve these types of situations should be handled in a friendly, fair and nonthreatening manner.

PLAYGROUND RULES FOR SAFETY

Slide Rules (Ages 2-12)

1. Be sure children wait in line for their turn, giving enough room for the child ahead.
2. Hold the handrails with both hands and always use the ladder to enter the slide. Do not allow climbing up the slide.
3. Sit at the top and slide down feet first.
4. Be careful not to slide down into another child.

Swing Rules (Ages 2-12)

1. No lying, kneeling or standing on swings.
2. Hold the chains with both hands.
3. Don't twist the chains, jump off the swings or swing sideways.
4. Be careful not to walk in front of or behind a moving swing.

Infant Swing – Toddlers only

1. Requires parental assistance-

Whale Spring Rider (Ages 2-5)

1. Toddler play area.
2. Use both hands.
3. Place feet on the foot pads.
4. No standing or kneeling on the seat.

Horizontal Ladder (Ages 5-12)

1. Everyone start at the same end and move in one direction.
2. Stay well behind person in front; avoid swinging feet.
3. Do not stand or sit on top of ladder.
4. Do not use when wet.

Important Playground Safety Facts:

- More than 200,000 kids end up in the ER every year from playground wounds and injuries.
- Falls while playing account for 75% of total injuries.
- 45% of playground injuries are a result of **LACK OF SUPERVISION.**
- Head and face injuries account for 60% of injuries to 0 to 4 year-olds.
- Swings cause the highest injuries to 0 to 4 year-olds.
- 45% of playground injuries are severe and include dislocations, fractures, concussions and internal injuries.

Adults should know and understand playground safety rules. Being vigilant will help to keep your children safe and having fun. (Facts provided were taken from Momjunction.com, playground safety.)

POGC Playground Policy & Safety Rules can be found on our website: gulfcove.org and our Facebook page: Property Owners of Gulf Cove Private Page.