

HOA PLAYGROUND SAFETY

A practical visual walk-through for HOA boards and community managers

COMMUNITY / SITE: _____

DATE: _____

REVIEWED BY: _____

WEATHER: _____

Important: This is a nontechnical visual check, not a certified playground inspection or a statement that a site complies with standards. Do not climb, probe, operate damaged equipment or measure entrapment openings without proper training. If you see a suspected imminent hazard, restrict access as appropriate and notify the responsible operator immediately.

01 | ACCESS & SURROUNDINGS

Visual item to review	OK	Review	N/A
Access routes and entrances appear reasonably clear of debris and obstructions.	☐	☐	☐
No obvious trip hazards, exposed footings, holes or unstable edging in walking areas.	☐	☐	☐
No broken glass, sharps, animal waste or other visible contamination.	☐	☐	☐
Site signage, emergency contact information and any posted restrictions are legible.	☐	☐	☐
Gates, fences and nearby traffic access do not present an obvious new hazard.	☐	☐	☐

02 | SURFACING & FALL AREAS

Visual item to review	OK	Review	N/A
Loose-fill or unitary surfacing looks intact; identify thin, displaced, cracked or worn areas.	☐	☐	☐
Surfacing at swing paths, slide exits and other high-use locations deserves a closer look.	☐	☐	☐
No visible concrete, exposed roots, rocks or other hard obstacles in use areas.	☐	☐	☐
Surface drainage is not creating obvious standing water, washout or erosion.	☐	☐	☐
Fall/use zones do not contain stored equipment, furniture or new obstacles.	☐	☐	☐

Board note: Observing a surface is not equivalent to ASTM F1292 impact testing or verifying required depth, dimensions or accessibility.

VISUAL CHECKLIST | CONTINUED

Record findings; prioritize corrective action and professional review.

03 | EQUIPMENT CONDITION

Visual item to review	OK	Review	N/A
No visible broken, missing, loosened or detached equipment components.	☐	☐	☐
No accessible sharp edges, broken plastic, splinters or damaged protective caps.	☐	☐	☐
No obviously projecting, exposed or damaged fasteners and hardware.	☐	☐	☐
No visible rust-through, severe corrosion, rot, cracking or structural deformation.	☐	☐	☐
Guardrails, barriers, stairs, platforms and handholds do not appear missing or damaged.	☐	☐	☐
No obvious pinch points or newly created gaps from missing panels or components.	☐	☐	☐
Swings, chains, seats and connectors show no visible breakage or significant wear.	☐	☐	☐
Slides have no visible cracked sections, loose exits, protrusions or blocked landings.	☐	☐	☐

04 | OPERATIONS & DOCUMENTATION

Visual item to review	OK	Review	N/A
Maintenance records, prior findings and open work orders are available for review.	☐	☐	☐
Previously identified hazards have a documented owner, priority and follow-up date.	☐	☐	☐
New equipment, repairs and alterations have appropriate inspection or sign-off records.	☐	☐	☐
An inspection schedule and incident-reporting procedure are assigned and documented.	☐	☐	☐

OBSERVATIONS & NEXT ACTIONS

Location / equipment	Observed concern	Owner & target date

Escalation: Where an unsafe condition is suspected, restrict access consistent with site procedures, document the observation and seek an appropriately qualified assessment. Reopen only when authorized by the responsible owner/operator.

Reference: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Public Playground Safety Checklist and Public Playground Safety Handbook (cpsc.gov). Follow manufacturers' instructions and applicable standards and local rules. This document is informational, not legal, engineering or medical advice.

Need independent, professional documentation?
PlayGauge provides comprehensive CPSI inspections, routine condition reviews and annual programs. Visit playgaugetx.com/hoa-playground-inspections/ or email info@playgaugetx.com.