

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

SOCCER GOAL SAFETY POLICY

I. INTRODUCTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ACT

This Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy ("Policy") is adopted pursuant to the Illinois Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act, 430 ILCS 145/1 *et seq.* ("Act"). The Act requires the Chicago Park District to create a policy to outline how it will address the safety issues associated with Movable Soccer Goals.

II. DEFINITIONS

The following words shall have the respective meanings when used in this Policy:

"Act" means the Illinois Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act, 430 ILCS 145/1 *et seq.*

"Authorized Personnel" means Permitted Users and all District employees who have responsibility for or contact with Movable Soccer Goals.

"Board" means the Board of Commissioners of the District.

"District" means the Chicago Park District.

"Movable Soccer Goal(s)" means a freestanding structure consisting of at least 2 upright posts, a crossbar, and support bars that is designed: (1) to be used for the purposes of a soccer goal; (2) to be used without any form of support or restraint other than pegs, stakes, augers, counter-weights, or other types of temporary anchoring devices; and (3) to be able to be moved to different locations.

"Organization" includes any unit of local government other than the District, and any school district, sporting club, soccer organization, religious organization, business, Or other similar organization.

"Permitted User(s)" include an Organization and all of its employees, agents, coaches and volunteers that use Property or Soccer-Related Activities.

"Policy" means this Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy.

"Property" means real property owned or leased by the District where Movable Soccer Goals are used.

"Safety Guidelines" mean the Guidelines for Safely Securing Movable Soccer Goals attached to this Policy as Attachment 1.

"Soccer-Related Activity" means use of Movable Soccer Goals on Property, including without limitation, soccer games, scrimmages, practices and other similar activities.

VII. REMOVALS

At the conclusion of each soccer season, the District will either remove all Movable Soccer Goals that it has installed or placed on its Property for storage in a secure location, or otherwise secure such goals on its Property by placing the goal frames face to face (front posts and crossbars facing toward each other) and securing them at each goalpost with a lock and chain; or locking and chaining the goals to a suitable fixed structure such as a permanent fence; or locking unused portable goals in a secure storage room after each use; or fully disassembling the goals for season storage.

VTII. ACQUISITION OF TIP-RESISTANT MOVABLE SOCCER GOALS

After the effective date of this Policy, the District will not purchase any Movable Soccer Goal unless it is tip resistant. A Movable Soccer Goal whose inside measurements are 6.5 to 8 feet high and 18 to 24 feet wide is not tip-resistant unless it conforms to Standard F2673-08, as prescribed by the American Society for Testing and Materials, for tip-resistant Movable Soccer Goals or is otherwise equipped with another design-feature approved by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the District may continue to use its existing goals in a manner consistent with this Policy.

IX. APPLICABILITY

If any provision of this Policy conflicts with any provision of the Act, the provisions of the Act shall prevail.

This Policy shall not create any new liability or increase any existing liability for the District, or any of its officers, employees, or agents, established under any other law, including but not limited to, the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, 7451LCS 10/1-101 *et seq.* (Tort Immunity Act). Nor shall this Policy alter, diminish, restrict, cancel, or waive any defense or immunity of the District or any of its officers, employees, or agents, which exist under any other law, including but not limited to the Tort Immunity Act.

X. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

The contents of this Policy shall be made available to all District employees who have responsibility for, or contact with, Movable Soccer Goals. A copy of the Policy is to be made available to all other employees of the District and any member of the public on the District's website at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

XI. AMENDMENTS

This Policy may be amended by the District at anytime.

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE

Policy effective June 22, 2012

ATTACHMENT 1: GUIDELINES FOR SAFELY SECURING MOVABLE SOCCER GOALS

NOTE: The Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission state that there are several different ways to properly secure a soccer goal and that the number and type of anchors to be used depend on a number of factors, such as soil type, soil moisture content, and total goal weight. The following guidelines are taken from the CPSC recommendations for Anchoring/Securing/ Counterweighting goals.

It is **IMPERATIVE** that ALL movable soccer goals are always anchored properly (e.g., see Figure 2 below) and that they are secured to the ground (preferably at the rear of the goal), making sure the anchors are flush with the ground and clearly visible. Nets shall be secured to posts, crossbars, and backdrops with tape or Velcro straps at intervals of no less than one every four feet.

Anchor Types

1. Auger style

This style anchor is “helical” shaped and is screwed into the ground. A flange is positioned over the ground shoes (bar) and rear ground shoe (bar) to secure them to the ground. A minimum of two auger-style anchors (one on each side of the goal) are recommended. More may be required, depending on the manufacturer’s specifications, the weight of the goal, and soil conditions.

2. Semi-permanent

This anchor type is usually comprised of two or more functional components. The main support requires a permanently secured base that is buried underground. One type (3.2a) of semi-permanent anchor connects the underground base to the soccer goal by means of 2 tethers. Another design (3.2b) utilizes a buried anchor tube with a threaded opening at ground level. The goal is positioned over the buried tube and the bolt is passed through the goal ground shoes (bar) and rear ground shoe (bar) and screwed into the threaded hole of the buried tube.

3. Peg or Stake style (varying lengths) Anchor

Typically two to four pegs or stakes are used per goal (more for heavier goals). The normal length of a peg or stake is approximately 10 inches (250mm). Care should be taken when installing pegs or stakes. Pegs or stakes should be driven into the ground with a sledge-hammer as far as possible and at an angle if possible, through available holes in the ground shoes (bar) and rear ground shoe (bar) to secure them to the ground. If the peg or stake is not flush with the ground, it should be clearly visible to persons playing near the soccer goal. Stakes with larger diameters or textured surfaces have greater holding capacity.

4. J-Hook Shaped Stake style

This style is used when holes are not pre-drilled into the ground shoes (bars) or rear ground shoe (bar) of the goal. Similar to the peg or stake style, this anchor is hammered, at an angle if possible, directly into the earth. The curved (top) position of this anchor fits over the goal member to secure it to the ground (Figure 3.4). Typically, two to four stakes of this type are recommended (per goal), depending on stake structure, manufacturers specifications, weight of goal, and soil conditions. Stakes with larger diameters or textured surfaces have greater holding capacity.

5. Sandbags/Counterweights

Sandbags or other counterweights could be an effective alternative on hard surfaces, such as artificial turf, where the surface cannot be penetrated by a conventional anchor (i.e., an indoor practice facility) (Figure 3.5). The number of bags or weights needed will vary and must be adequate for the size and total weight of the goal being supported.

6. Net Pegs

These tapered, metal stakes should be used to secure only the NET to the ground (Figure 3.6). Net pegs should NOT be used to anchor the movable soccer goal.

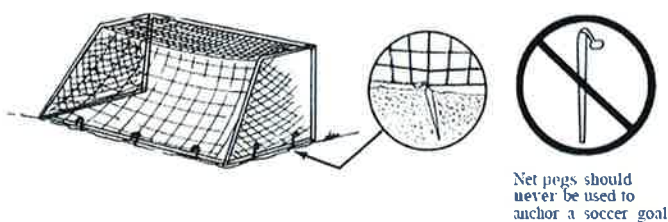


Figure 3.6: Net Pegs

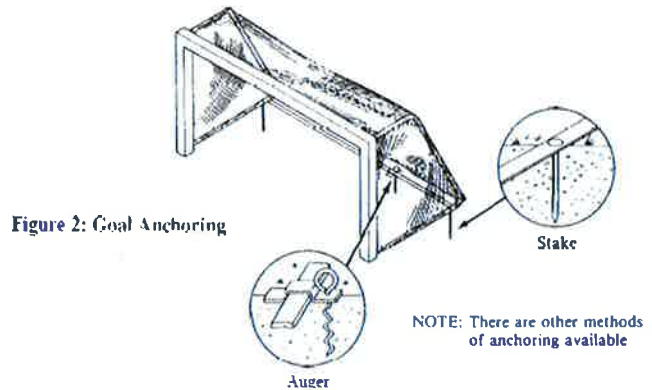


Figure 3.2a: Semipermanent Anchor

Figure 3.2b: Semipermanent Anchor

Figure 3.4: J-Hook Anchor

Figure 3.5: Sandbag Method of Anchoring

(Rear) Ground Bar Shoe

GUIDELINES FOR GOAL STORAGE OR SECURING WHEN GOAL IS NOT IN USE

The majority of the incidents investigated by CPSC did not occur during a soccer match. Most of the incidents occurred when the goals were unattended. Therefore, it is imperative that all goals are stored properly when not being used. When goals are not being used always:

- a) Remove the net,
- b) Take appropriate steps to secure goals such as:
 - 1) Place the goal frames face to face and secure them at each goalpost with a lock and chain (see Figure 4.1),
 - 2) Lock and chain to a suitable fixed structure such as a permanent fence (see Figure 4.2),
 - 3) Lock unused goals in a secure storage room after each use,
 - 4) If applicable, fully disassemble the goals for seasonal storage, or
 - 5) If applicable, fold the face of the goal down and lock it to its base.

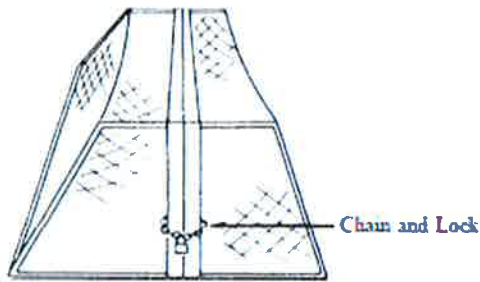


Figure 4.1: Join Goal Faces and Lock Together Using Chain and Lock

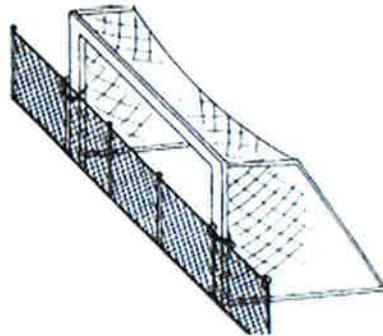


Figure 4.2: Attach Goal Face to Permanent Fence with a Chain Lock

ATTACHMENT 2: SAFETY NOTICE ON MOVABLE SOCCER GOALS

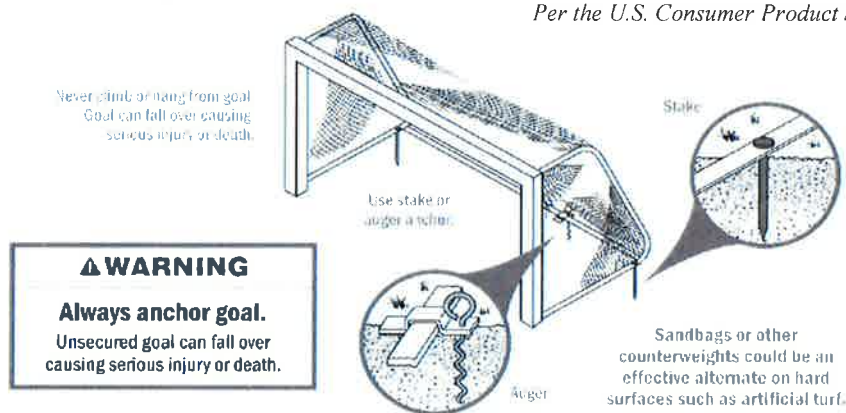
Moveable soccer goals can fall over and kill or injure children who climb on them or hang from the crossbar. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has reports of at least 42 deaths since 1979 resulting from soccer goals falling over. Both homemade and professionally manufactured soccer goals are involved in these incidents.

Before every soccer activity INSPECT & ENSURE that the fields, goals and portable equipment that you are using are safe and that the goals are anchored and STORED according to these guidelines. All unused goals must be anchored and/or chained to a substantial or permanent structure or to another goal. Please think "Safety First" and have a safe and enjoyable training session with your players.

To help prevent deaths and injuries associated with soccer goals, follow these safety suggestions:

- Securely anchor or counter-weight movable soccer goals at all times (see illustration).
- NEVER allow anyone to climb on, or hang from, the soccer net or goal framework. This message should be repeatedly told to kids, coaches and parents.
- Always instruct soccer players on the safe handling of and potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals.
- Check all connecting hardware before every use. Replace damaged or missing fasteners immediately. Do not use a goal with broken parts
- Wheeled goals must be properly anchored or secured at all times and additionally the wheels must be locked and the vertical slide must be in a down position at all times, (other than when the goals are actually being moved.)
- ONLY AUTHORIZED AND TRAINED PERSONNEL SHOULD MOVE SOCCER GOALS.
- Children should NEVER be allowed to move soccer goals. Adults must always exercise extreme caution when moving goals, allowing adequate manpower.
- When a goal is moved, it must be re-anchored. If it cannot be anchored, do not move it.
- Use movable soccer goals only on level (flat) fields. Do not set-up, use or store any goal on a slope or hill.
- Ensure warning labels are clearly visible on all movable soccer goals.
- Remove nets when goals are not in use.
- Anchor or chain one goal to another, to itself in a folded down position, or to nearby fence posts, dugouts or similar sturdy fixtures when not in use.
- For storage, chain one goal to another, to itself in a folded down position, or to nearby fence posts, dugouts, or other similar sturdy fixture. Ideally, store movable soccer goals where children WILL NOT have access to them.
- Fully disassemble goals for seasonal storage.

Per the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Safety Alert



ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER RULE 021-A. GOAL SAFETY POLICY

Any coach who participates in practice or a game where the goals are not securely anchored shall be fined not less than \$200 and suspended for a minimum of not less than one (1) calendar year from the date of the practice or game involved. In the event the goal is not securely anchored the entity (team, club, league, state) that has primary responsibility for the field or event upon which the unsecured goal is situated shall be fined \$1000. Coach means the head coach, any assistant coach, trainer or any other team official present at the time of the violation. The entity against which a fine is imposed shall be in bad standing until the fine imposed is paid.

Each team shall maintain in written form a record for each team practice, in which the coach, assistant coach, trainer or other responsible person shall certify that he or she has performed a physical inspection of the goals used in the practice to verify the goals were securely anchored.

Each league shall require each club or individual team unaffiliated with a club to certify in writing that it has in place a program to ensure that goals it uses are adequately secured, that its goals have been and will be inspected by a member of the club or team prior to each game or practice. Each club and team shall further certify it has communicated to the parent or guardian of each player the dangers of unsecured goals and their responsibility to assure that goals are secure. Each league shall certify to the IYSA that its clubs and teams have complied with these requirements prior to their annual registration.

Goal safety must be placed at the top of our priorities. High winds and wet fields may increase the risk for goals toppling over. Although everyone thinks that the best practice sessions require the standard goals, there are great alternatives given the environmental conditions.

Here are a few suggestions which have proven to work without compromising the quality of a training session.

- Use cones to mark goal posts - large cones work best but any size will do the job
- Soccer specific, regulation size corner flags can be used for players aged 12U and older
- Lightweight, easily assembled, portable goals are a great option for practice sessions and are available in many different sizes

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF
THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT'S SOCCER GOAL SAFETY POLICY AND ATTACHMENTS**

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CAPTIONED POLICY AND RELATED ATTACHMENTS AND I AGREE TO INFORM MY LEAGUE, PLAYERS, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS THIS POLICY AND ITS' ATTACHMENTS. I ACKNOWLEDGE MY RESPONSIBILITY TO ABIDE BY THIS POLICY FOR THE SAFETY OF LEAGUE PARTICIPANTS AND OTHER PATRONS OF THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT. I DECLARE THAT I HAVE EXERCISED MY OWN JUDGMENT IN SIGNING THIS FORM AND MY DECISION TO SIGN IS VOLUNTARY AND NOT BASED ON OR INFLUENCED BY ANY REPRESENTATION OF THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT OR ITS' EMPLOYEES.

I have read and fully understand this entire form. If I sign via fax or on-line, my fax or on-line signature shall substitute for and have the same legal effect as an original signature.

NAME (PRINTED)

SIGNATURE

DATE

PERMIT #
