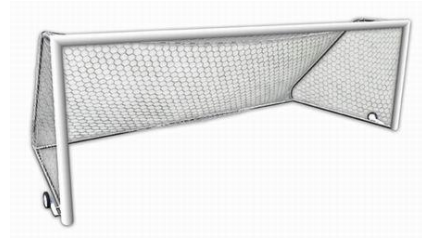


Arlington Soccer Association Goal Safety and Education Policy

October 2013



The Arlington Soccer Association (ASA) provides the following policy to inform and instruct anyone involved with soccer goals of the potential dangers posed by soccer goals and ways to ensure safe operations around goals. The use of the term “goals” in this document refers to metal framed soccer goals, typically with dimensions ranging from 6 x 18 yards to 8 x 24 yards. Such goals may be anchored in place in the ground or they may be moveable. This policy excludes small “pop up” goals like PUGG goals (usually 4 to 6 feet wide flexible frame goals).

ASA does also use a small number of plastic framed portable goals that are 4 feet high and 6 feet wide. These goals are deemed safer than larger, metal framed goals, but much of the information that follows still should apply to these goals.

Notice to Parents, Players, Coaches and Spectators

One of our primary objectives is that children have safe recreation areas. To that end, soccer goals should remain securely anchored to the ground and nets firmly attached to the goals.

In an effort to keep the goals and nets secure and children safe, you are required to advise your children/soccer players and any other person accompanying you for whom you are responsible that the following is strictly prohibited: moving any soccer goals and any use of a soccer goal that is inconsistent with soccer-related activity, including without limitation, playing, climbing, or hanging on any part of the soccer goal. This especially applies to children climbing on or hanging from nets or goal frames.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, these activities can result in serious injury, including death. If you observe any child inappropriately using a soccer goal or net, immediately and politely ask the child to stop. If the activity continues, please notify a coach or referee as soon as possible. Players violating this rule may be forced to sit out, at the coach's discretion. Finally, if you see any soccer goal that is not anchored down or otherwise secure, please contact the ASA as soon as possible and let them know.

Movement of Soccer Goals

Goal Movement Policy: ASA players should not move soccer goals. All goals used by ASA should be anchored or secured in some fashion so that they are less susceptible to tipping over. If goals are not properly anchored please contact ASA immediately and under no circumstances should that goal be used until secured.

Goal Storage

ASA works with Arlington County's Parks and Recreation Department to follow the goal storage guidelines below. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports most accidents occurred when the goal was unattended. When goals are not being used, ASA, in concert with the Parks Department, takes appropriate steps to secure goals such as:

1. Placing the goal frames face to face and securing them at each goalpost with a lock and chain
2. Locking and chaining to a suitable fixed structure such as a permanent fence
3. Locking unused portable goals in a secure storage room after each use
4. Fully disassembling the goals for seasonal storage
5. Removing the nets

Conclusion & Safety Tips

From the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):

- Securely anchor or counterweight movable soccer goals at ALL times.
- Anchor or chain one goal to another, to itself in a folded down position, or to nearby fence posts, dugouts, or any other similar sturdy fixture when not in use. If this is not practical, store movable soccer goals in a place where children cannot have access to them.
- Remove nets when goals are not in use.
- Check for structural integrity and proper connecting hardware before every use. Replace damaged or missing parts or fasteners immediately.
- NEVER allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework.
- Ensure safety/warning labels are clearly visible (placed under the crossbar and on the sides of the down-posts at eye level).
- Fully disassemble goals for seasonal storage.
- Always exercise extreme caution when moving goals and allow adequate manpower to move goals of varied sizes and weights. Movable soccer goals should only be moved by authorized and trained personnel.

- Always instruct players on the safe handling of and potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals. Younger players should leave goals alone. Older players (ages 16 and up) should only move goals with appropriate adult supervision and involvement.
- Movable soccer goals should only be used on LEVEL (flat) fields.

From the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA): Goal Safety Guidelines and Goal Safety Brochure -- <http://www.vysa.com/programs/RiskMgmt/373907.html>