

## Soccer Goal Safety

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates some 120 injuries every year from soccer goals falling over, resulting in emergency room treatment.

The Coalition to Promote Soccer Goal Safety and CPSC provide these safety guidelines:

- Securely anchor or counter-weight movable goals at all times. This may include auger-style anchors that are screwed into the ground; semi-permanent anchors, which require a permanently secured base that is buried under ground combined with the use of tethers or bolts to secure the goal; peg, stake, or j-hook style anchors that are driven into the ground; sandbags or counter-weights for indoor facilities.
- Never allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework.
- Anchor or chain goals to nearby fence posts, dugouts, or similar structures when not in use.
- Check all connecting hardware before every use. Replace damaged or missing fasteners immediately.
- Ensure safety labels are clearly visible.
- Fully disassemble goals for seasonal storage.
- Always use extreme caution when moving goals.
- Instruct players on the potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals.
- Use movable soccer goals only on level (flat) fields.
- Don't allow youth players to move soccer goals. Only maintenance staff or adult coaches should move goals.

ASTM Standard F2056-00, "Standard Safety and Performance Specification for Soccer Goals," requires that movable soccer goals, except very lightweight goals, do not tip over when the goal is weighted in a downward or horizontal direction. It also specifies that warning labels must be attached to the goal, such as "Warning: Always anchor goal. An unsecured goal can fall, causing serious injury or death." Free soccer goal warning labels are available from:

**Coalition to Promote Soccer Goal Safety at the Soccer Industry Council of America**  
200 Castlewood Drive • North Palm Beach, FL 33408 800-527-7510

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If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at [safety1st@markelcorp.com](mailto:safety1st@markelcorp.com).