

Catholic Mutual . . . "CARES"

GUIDELINES FOR MOVABLE SOCCER GOAL SAFETY

1. Soccer Goal Injuries and Deaths

According to the 2010 National Soccer Participation Survey (Soccer Industry Council of America), over 13.5 million persons in the United States play soccer at least once a year. Sixty percent (over 8 million) of these persons are under the age of 18.

There are approximately 225,000 to 500,000 soccer goals in the United States. Many of these soccer goals are unsafe because they are unstable and are either unanchored or not properly anchored or counter-balanced. These movable soccer goals pose an unnecessary risk of tipover to children who climb on goals (or nets) or hang from the crossbar.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a warning based on injuries and deaths associated with movable soccer goals. Many of the serious incidents occurred when the soccer goals tipped over onto the victim. Almost all of the goals involved in these tipovers appeared to be "home-made" by high school shop classes, custodial members, or local welders, not professionally manufactured. These "home-made" goals are often very heavy and unstable.

The majority of movable soccer goals are constructed of metal, typically weighing 150-500 pounds. The serious injuries and deaths are a result of blunt force trauma to the head, neck, chest, and limbs of the victims. In most cases, this occurred when the goal tipped or was accidentally tipped onto the victim. In one case, an 8-year-old child was fatally injured when the movable soccer goal he was climbing tipped over and struck him on the head. In another case, a 20-year-old male died from a massive head trauma when he pulled a goal down on himself while attempting to do chin-ups. In a third case, while attempting to tighten a net to its goal post, the victim's father lifted the back base of the goal causing it to tip over, fatally striking his 3-year-old child on the head.

High winds can also cause movable soccer goals to fall over. For example, a 9-year-old was fatally injured when a goal was tipped over by a gust of wind. In another incident, a 19-year-old goalie suffered stress fractures to both legs when the soccer goal was blown on top of her.

- 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 each 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 and potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals.
- Movable soccer goals should only be used on LEVEL (flat) fields.

Additional Soccer Goal Safety Resources

National Federation of State High School Associations
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Telephone (317) 972-6900
www.nfhs.org

National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
Telephone (317) 917-6222
www.ncaa.org

The Coalition to Promote Soccer Goal Safety
c/o Soccer Industry Council of America
200 Castlewood Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408
or call any of these Coalition members:
800-527-7510
800-334-4625
800-243-0533
800-531-4252

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov

Rev. 1/12

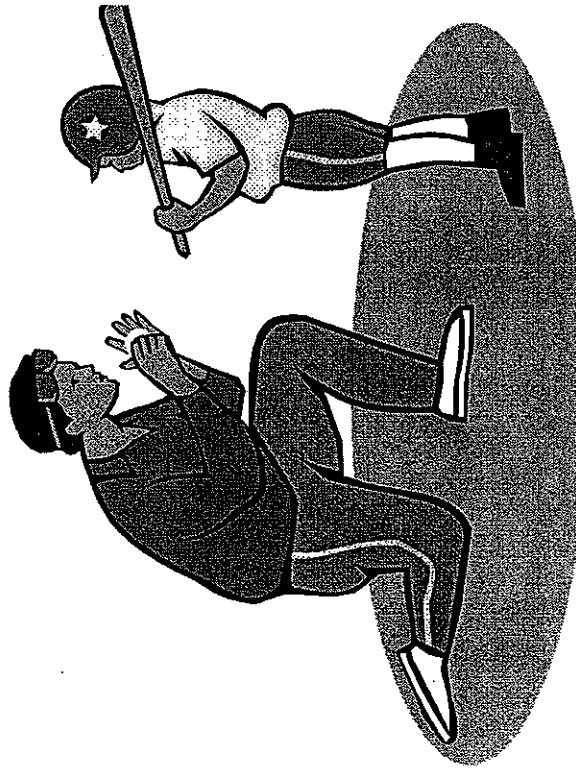
Liability Control Athletics

Common theories of Liability against schools...

- **Unsafe facilities**
 - * *Soccer field surface is uneven.*
- **Unsafe equipment**
 - * *Football helmet wasn't reconditioned properly.*
- **Negligent instruction**
 - * *Athletes were not taught to tackle correctly.*
- **Negligent supervision**
 - * *The coach left the gym and practice continues.*
- **Negligent coaching**
 - * *Athletes of different ages and abilities are matched up.*



Liability Control Athletics



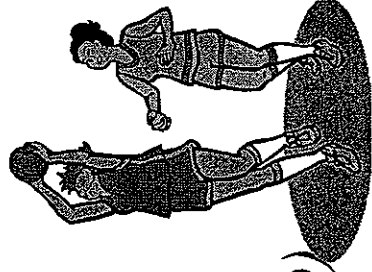
- III. Proper Instruction/Coaching**
- Minimum number of practices must be met prior to the first game.
 - Can't go over the maximum number of practices or games.
 - Student athletes can't be placed in high risk situations.
 - Conditioning is the responsibility of the coach.
 - Age, size and experience of athletes should be matched as closely as possible.
 - Proper sport-specific training is the responsibility of the coach.

Liability Control Athletics

V. Emergency Medical Treatment

- For football games, the home school should provide for the local rescue squad to be at the field.
- For all other events, the home team should provide an individual certified in emergency first aid and CPR.
- An emergency plan should be in place to deal with an injured player.

- * *Monitor the uninjured athletes.*
- * *Contact parents of the injured athlete.*
- * *First aid kits must be accessible.*
- * *An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) should be accessible.*



CATHOLIC UMBRELLA POOL II
11 to 15 Passenger Van, Bus and Shuttle Use Policy

Effective July 1, 2003, Catholic Umbrella Pool II adopted the following policies governing the use of 11 to 15 passenger vans (whether owned, leased, or borrowed).

1. The use of non-owned (borrowed) or short-term leased 11 to 15 passenger vans to transport children or adults is prohibited beginning July 1, 2003.
2. **The use of 11 to 15 passenger vans to transport children or adults is totally prohibited beginning July 1, 2004.** Beginning July 1, 2004, 11 to 15 passenger vans may be used for cargo hauling **only if** all but the two front seats are removed.
3. Although **not recommended**, to allow for a transition to other types of vehicles, organizations may continue to use owned or long-term leased 11 to 15 passenger vans to transport children or adults until July 1, 2004 (unless prohibited by state law). However, 11 to 15 passenger vans cannot be purchased or leased after July 1, 2003 for the intent of transporting children or adults.
4. 11-15 passenger vans can be replaced with either a school bus or a Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB). A MFSAB is a vehicle which complies with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) applicable to school buses for crash survivability and mirrors.
5. If a MFSAB is used for the transportation of children, these vehicles **must** meet FMVSS 111; FMVSS 220; FMVSS 221; and FMVSS 222 (see below). If purchasing a MFSAB to transport children, it is important to confirm with the seller that the vehicle meets all four FMVSS. There are vehicles that visually appear to be conforming, but are not.
6. When acquiring a bus or shuttle to transport adults, the four FMVSS should also be followed. However, CUP II may approve adult transportation for a nonconforming bus or shuttle that meets at least two of the FMVSS's in limited circumstances. Requests for exceptions should be submitted to Catholic Mutual.
7. Although MFSAB's are preferred, mini-vans may continue to be used to transport children or adults. A mini-van is defined as a passenger vehicle **designed** to transport no more than 8 total occupants.

Below are the four FMVSS referred to in the above policy. Additional information on how to determine if a bus or shuttle meets FMVSS standards can be obtained from Catholic Mutual's Risk Management Department at (800) 228-6108.

FMVSS 111 – Fulfills the safety requirement for the rear-view and cross-view visibility.

FMVSS 220 – Establishes requirements for the school bus body structure in rollover accidents.

FMVSS 221 – Regulates the strength of body panel joints in school buses.

FMVSS 222 – Establishes occupant protection requirements for school bus passenger seating and barriers.

Important Note: *Vans, Buses and Shuttle Buses capable of transporting 16 plus passengers must also comply with the above FMVSS. As outlined in number six of the above policy, exceptions can be made if the vehicle is used solely for the transport of adults.*

Bleachers and Grandstands

Particular attention must be given to the type, construction, maintenance and condition of the bleachers and the grandstands. It should be noted as to whether they are permanent, temporary, or portable. The main points to be concerned with:

1. The condition of posts, stringers, bracing, and seats.
2. Seats free of projecting nails, splinters, or other damage.
3. The condition of lighting and wiring.
4. The foundation and its overall stability.
5. No storage of flammables or combustibles underneath the stands.
6. No concession operations found under the stands.
7. More than 4" gaps between footboards and seats or between the guardrails.

Interior Condition

Just as many of the exterior exposures are those which would be common to most buildings; the interior problems or exposures include many which are present in other types of buildings:

1. Alarm systems functional and operational.
2. Fire extinguishers - proper type, regular inspections, correctly mounted, easily identified, clearly accessible.
3. Exits and aisle ways - free and clear of any obstructions, properly marked, and correctly illuminated.
4. Panic hardware found on exit doors.
5. Heating plant, air conditioner, boilers, and other pressure vessels - current inspection certificates, preventive maintenance program.
6. The electrical system and its overall condition.
7. Housekeeping and maintenance.
8. Storage facilities.
9. Floors - non-skid wax is utilized.
10. Fire drills - the dates and times of evacuation drills properly recorded.
11. First aid supplies and emergency equipment readily available.

Interior exposures more common to high schools, vocational facilities, etc.

1. Gymnasiums, auditoriums, stages, etc. properly sprinklered.
2. Projection booth (construction - ventilation - wiring) in good condition.
3. Cafeteria/food service operations adequately protected.
4. Sciences, chemistry, and laboratory facilities in good order.
5. Research activities properly conducted.
6. Drugs, chemicals, flammables/combustibles, etc. - kept under lock and key.
7. Shop machinery wired to master panel with "lock out".
8. Bunsen burner fuel lines protected from damage.
9. Emergency gas shut offs clearly visible and identified.

(Rev 1/06)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
15. Are stage curtains made of non-flammable material?	___	___
16. Are "NO SMOKING" signs posted in restricted areas?	___	___
17. Are fire extinguishers mounted in such a manner that the top of the extinguisher is not more than 5' above the floor?	___	___
18. Are the electrical panels free from obstruction and are all switches clearly marked and identified?	___	___
19. Is the use of extension cords discouraged?	___	___
20. Are interior wiring systems properly grounded and have three-hole plugs?	___	___
21. Is electrical equipment provided with three-prong grounding plugs?	___	___
22. Are elevated work areas and catwalks more than 30" above the ground equipped with guardrails 42" to 45" above the working surface and do they have head clearance of 6'6", as well as toeboards?	___	___
23. Do ladders provide safe access to elevated work areas and are they properly secured?	___	___
24. Is all stage rigging, ropes, blocks, and tackles in good repair?	___	___
25. Are catwalks and elevated work areas a minimum of 2' in width?	___	___
26. Is proper padding provided on walls directly behind basketball hoops?	___	___
27. Are fire extinguishers, exit/emergency lights, etc. protected by safety cages to reduce damage from being struck by flying objects?	___	___

(Rev 1/06)

As schools address and correct the potential hazards associated with their gymnasium bleachers there is a tendency to forget about the risks their outdoor sports fields bleachers may have. To assure all bleachers are safe for public use, answer the questions below. If you have answered "yes" to any of the questions, bleacher renovation or replacement may be necessary.

- Do the existing bleachers have open spaces over 30 inches above grade or floor below, or more than three rows of seats?
- Is the open space between footboards and seats more than 4 inches?
- Is there a guardrail missing around the perimeter of the bleachers?
- If there is a guardrail, are the gaps between the rails more than 4 inches?
- Are the existing guardrails easy to climb (horizontal rather than vertical rails)? If "yes" is there an approved safety net attached? Properly installed standard 2-inch nominal chain-link fencing, 11 gauge or heavier is acceptable to prevent climbing.

Before deciding to renovate or replace existing bleachers please check with your state and local legislator to determine if bleacher safety guidelines or legislation have been enacted.

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CHAIR & TABLE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Quarterly Inspections

You should conduct a visual inspection of each chair and table at least quarterly to ensure stability. Please initial and date upon completion of visual inspection.

	Every 3 months	Action Taken
Visually inspect each chair & table		

Please initial and date upon completion of each item checked and indicate action taken.

	Annual	Action Taken
Check chair seats for cracks or broken edges.		
Check legs for any bent or misshapen areas. Ensure sits evenly on ground and is not wobbly.		
Check for worn parts and replace if needed.		
Check for loose or missing bolts or screws.		
Ensure leg lock devices are in place and function properly.		

(REV 8/04)

Specific Medical Information: The parish will take reasonable care to see that the following information will be held in confidence.

Allergic reactions (medications, foods, plants, insects, etc.): _____

Immunizations: Date of last tetanus/diphtheria immunization: _____

Does child have a medically prescribed diet? _____

Any physical limitations? _____

Has child recently been exposed to contagious disease or conditions, such as mumps, measles, chickenpox, etc.? If so, date and disease or condition: _____

You should be aware of these special medical conditions of my child: _____

SAMPLE

31. During this meeting with the parents, is the equipment that the individuals will be wearing discussed and is it pointed out as to why they will be wearing certain items of equipment? (Explain to the parents what they should expect from their children, i.e., soreness - eating habits (especially during the first weeks of practice), proper handling of bruises, aches and pains, blisters, etc. [Example: A boy sprains his ankle, not seriously. He tells his folks - they start by applying a heat pad or soaking the foot in hot water. Of course, the ankle swells even more, and the boy is out of practice for three or more days because of incorrect handling of basic First Aid.])

32. Are all athletic programs and sporting events constantly evaluated to determine if further safety measures should be implemented?
