



Goal Safety Policy

Purpose

The following policy is in place to help SWVFA minimize the dangers and risks of hanging on crossbars, climbing on goals, and goals tipping over. By ensuring that both movable and permanent goals are safe, correct and used respectfully, the likelihood of injury to our participants is greatly reduced.

Policy Statements

There have been many instances where participants have been seriously injured and have died after moveable soccer goals were used inappropriately and/or installed incorrectly.

There have been a range of serious injuries and more than 40 deaths associated with moveable soccer goals worldwide, with at least seven deaths in Australia and one incident resulting in the person becoming paraplegic.

For the safety and welfare of all participants it is vital that we comply with the Australian Standard and safety notices by conducting regular safety checks on goalposts and monitoring their safe anchoring, use, and storage.

Noting that unsecured goals can also be tipped over causing bodily harm or death when not in use, it is crucial to also ensure safe storage when this equipment is not in use.

Australian Standard AS 4866.1 – 2007: <https://www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/moveable-soccer-goals>

Procedures

- 1) When the SWVFA is purchasing portable goals, we will check with the supplier that the goals comply with the Australian Standards and ensure that the goals to be provided will display the mandatory Australian Standard warning notice.
- 2) The SWVFA will inspect both the fixed and portable goalposts used in our activities on a six (6) monthly basis or more regular basis to ensure that they comply with the relevant safety guidelines and do not require repair or removal.
- 3) The SWVFA will utilize suitable personnel to move any goals, and provide necessary equipment to safely hang nets, whether a stepladder, other stable object or extendable pole.
- 4) The SWVFA will, where possible, monitor that the goals and nets are not used to swing on or climb up, and that testing of the structure to establish the stability is performed prior to usage.



- 5) The SWVFA will ensure that no metal or steel goal hooks are attached to or affixed on any goalposts and that goal nets are secured by way of plastic net clips, Velcro, tape, or an alternative safe net attachment process.
- 6) All portable goals weighing 28kg and over must display a warning notice alerting of the dangers of hanging on crossbars, climbing on goals, and goals tipping over.
- 7) All moveable soccer goals weighing 28kg or over are required to be anchored securely to the ground. It takes 200 kilograms to properly anchor a full-size portable soccer goalpost which equates to 10 (300mm) stakes and 12 bags of sand, or 10 bags of cement mix.
- 8) All moveable soccer goals weighing 28kg and over are required to display a Yellow Warning Sticker alerting of the dangers of climbing on goals, playing on goals, and goals tipping over.
- 9) The warning label must be marked clearly and legibly with upper case letters at least 25mm high and lower-case letters at least 12.5mm high. The warning labels must be placed in three positions on the goal: the underside of the crossbar and the outside of both goal upright posts. The warning label must read:

⚠ WARNING ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL NEVER CLIMB ON GOAL OR HANG ON CROSSBAR *Unanchored goals can tip over causing serious injury or death.*

- 10) Portable goals, where possible, should be stored face-to-face and secured to one another. To minimize the potential risks of harm and danger, goals should be stored via this method after all games, and training, and especially during the off-season. Securing the goals face to face can be done either once at the top cross bar, or at both ends of the goals, therefore restricting the ability of the goals tipping over.
- 11) Our SWVFA endorses the “Anchor, Check, Respect” game plan for moveable soccer goal safety campaign. It is a national safety initiative by Product Safety Australia and Football Federation Australia, designed to help prevent serious injuries and death, in order to make our sport a safe activity for all participants.

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