



Safety Alert

PORTABLE SOCCER GOALPOSTS

Aim:

To prevent deaths and serious injuries arising from portable soccer goalposts (PSGs) tipping over and landing on a person.

What is a portable soccer goalpost (PSG):

Any freestanding soccer goal designed to be moved from field to field or to different areas on a field, before, during or after practice or a game. These goals may be either –

- (a) full size goals used for outdoors for senior soccer games or training; or
- (b) smaller size goals used outdoors for junior soccer games or training, or at indoor facilities.

What is the Hazard?

- PSGs are used through many Queensland schools.
- By nature of their design and intended use, PSGs can be moved from place to place (e.g. on or off the field, from place to place on the field).
- A hazard exists when the goal is tipped over.
- Owing to their shape and structure, portable goalposts are commonly tipped over when any of the following occur: a weight is suspended from the crossbar, the upright posts are pushed forward, the rear bar is lifted or people climb on the goal netting or framework.

What are the risks?

- If a PSG is tipped over, it can result in crushing injuries to body parts that are contacted.
- The size, weight and speed of the falling goalposts can lead to serious injury.
- A number of children have been fatally injured whilst involved in or viewing junior sport as a result of falling portable goalposts.

Suggested Controls

- Securely anchor/counterweight PSGs at all times in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Avoid "home-made" versions of these items as they may not be structurally sound or have sufficient anchor points.
- Net pegs should only be used to secure the net, not to anchor the goal structure.
- Never allow anyone to climb or hang from the netting or goal framework.
- Instruct all appropriate personnel on the safe handling of, and potential dangers associated with, PSGs.
- Structural integrity and proper connecting hardware should be checked before every use and ongoing maintenance ensured.
- Any padding on the goal structure should be checked and maintained.
- PSGs should be safely stored to prevent unauthorised use/access and potential injuries.
- Safety warnings should be either in the form of a label or painted on the goal frame e.g. WARNING – ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL – NEVER CLIMB ON GOAL OR HANG ON CROSSBAR. Unanchored goals can tip over causing serious injury or death.

A Handbook entitled "Portable soccer goalposts – Manufacture, use and storage" was developed by the Department of Fair Trading, NSW and is available via Standards Australia (reference: HB227-2003) for purchase at an approximate cost of \$7.50.