



# Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

April 29, 2016

Dear MSYSA League Officials:

**RE: Goal Safety and Proper Goal Anchoring**

MSYSA would like to remind all member organizations of proper goal anchoring and goal safety techniques. **Please distribute this information to your affiliated clubs and/or teams.**

According to MSYSA's insurance provider Pullen Insurance Services, leagues and clubs should implement a goal safety program. The program should include the following elements:

- Communication to players and parents regarding portable goal dangers including:
  1. Unsecured goal posts
  2. Horseplay on or around goals
  3. Moving of portable goals by players
- Need for coaches and/or other club officials to inspect portable goals for anchoring PRIOR to any activity taking place on the field. Goals need to be anchored in accordance with the Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines for Movable Goals.
- Portable Goals that have been moved (by either the club or field owner) need to be immediately re-anchored after field maintenance has been accomplished.
- Periodic field inspections by club officials to check that portable goals are properly anchored.

Most importantly, MSYSA insists that **no players move soccer goals in any circumstance**. Already this season, a Michigan soccer player was injured due to an unanchored goal. Since 1979 there have been 39 soccer goal related deaths. When goals are not in use, the netting should be removed and the goals should be secured either to one another or to a fixed structure. Most soccer goal related injuries occur when the goals are not in use. It only takes 200lbs of force to fall the largest goals.

Included with this communication are the Consumer Product Safety Commission's guidelines for Movable Goals. Additionally, there are many more helpful resources for goal safety posted to the Risk Management page of the MSYSA website.

Should you have any questions regarding goal safety or risk management guidelines, please contact the MSYSA State Office.

Sincerely,

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MSYSA Board of Directors