

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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Soccer Safety •

New Standards to Prevent Goal Tip-Over

WASHINGTON, D.C. The U.S. Consumer

Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the soccer goal industry helped develop a new safety standard that will reduce the risk of soccer goal tip-over. Since 1979, CPSC has learned of 23 deaths and 38 serious injuries from soccer goals tipping over and crushing children who climb on them or hang from the crossbar.

CPSC Chairman Ann Brown said, "We want kids to have fun, be active, and play soccer with goals that are safely anchored into the ground. The new standard makes soccer goals stable and, therefore, less likely to tip over on children."

The "Provisional Safety Standard and Performance Specification for Soccer Goals" (ASTM-PS-75-99) was approved March 2, 1999. The standard requires that movable soccer goals, except very lightweight goals, not tip over when the goal is weighted in a downward or horizontal direction. The standard also specifies warning labels that must be attached to the goal, such as: "Warning: Always anchor goal. Unsecured goal can fall over causing serious injury or death."

Most of the deaths and injuries occurred with unanchored homemade goals including those assembled by high school shop classes and community businesses. People were killed when they climbed on the soccer goal or while attempting to do chin-



ups, pulling the goal down. All goals, whether homemade or manufactured, should be properly secured to the ground to avoid injuries or deaths associated with tip-over.

There are several different ways to properly anchor soccer goals. The number and type of anchors used will depend on factors such as soil type and goal weight. Anchor types include:

- Auger-style anchors that are screwed into the ground.

- Semi-permanent anchors, which require a permanently secured base that is buried underground 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 counterweights for indoor facilities.

CPSC developed safety guidelines for soccer organizations, schools, and recreation departments to use to help prevent tip-over of soccer goals. For a free copy of the CPSC "Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety," send a postcard to CPSC, Washington, DC 20207.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury,

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call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or visit CPSC's website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html>. ♦

— CPSC Press Release, May 1999

Editor's note: Yves Fortin, Acting Chief, Consumer Products Division of the Product Safety Bureau of Health Canada, concurred with the CPSC's press release: "We are in full agreement with the content of the ASTM standards for soccer goal safety."