

# SOCCER GOAL SAFETY

## OVERVIEW



PROVIDED AS A SERVICE TO THE  
GREATER SOCCER COMMUNITY BY



SAFETY STARTS  
AT THE TOP!

[KWIKGOAL.COM/SAFETYFIRST](http://KWIKGOAL.COM/SAFETYFIRST)



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**IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE CONTINUING GOAL SAFETY EDUCATION** to the soccer community at large, Kwik Goal has produced the following Soccer Goal Safety Reminder. This guide is based, in large part, on the CPSC document "Guidelines For Movable Soccer Goal Safety".

We encourage the many volunteer coaches, administrators, and parents to use this pamphlet as a reminder to practice pre-match goal safety inspections. We also encourage all organizations that own or use soccer goals to implement a post-match safety plan (page 7) to ensure goals are secure after organized play has concluded. Most importantly, take a few minutes to discuss this issue with your players. All age groups need to understand the dangers of climbing on any soccer goal.

Please visit [www.kwikgoal.com/safetyfirst](http://www.kwikgoal.com/safetyfirst) for more information on soccer goal safety and for soccer goal safety stickers.

Duplication of this document is encouraged.



*This document is intended to provide basic soccer goal safety information and is not all inclusive. While following the concepts in this booklet will ensure that your soccer goal is safer, it may not prevent all accidents.*



**KWIKGOAL SAFETY FIRST PROGRAM**

**WARNING**  
This goal should be securely anchored at all times • This goal is not to be stored or used on a slope or hill area • Check that all fastenings are fully tightened before using this product • Check fastenings periodically after using goal • Goal shall be secured against tilting at all times • Do not climb on net or framework

Warning labels provide important safety information regarding proper anchoring, usage, and storage of goals and should be displayed at all times.

## Making the game safer is everyone's responsibility.

Take time to understand the importance of goal safety.

Many goals currently in use could pose a potentially serious threat. Unstable and unanchored goals can tip over on those who climb or hang from crossbars, resulting in serious—even fatal—injury. To reduce the risk of accidents, greater awareness of goal safety is required, as suggested in guidelines established by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

As a coach, administrator, or parent, you can play a key role in promoting and enforcing this awareness. Confirm that your organization's goals meet proper safety standards. Abide by all warning labels. Follow the usage, maintenance, moving, and storage instructions supplied with your goals. And teach your players to do the same.

Share the responsibility of making goal safety a priority. Because safety starts at the top—with you.

For more information and a free handbook on goal safety, please visit us online: [www.kwikgoal.com/safetyfirst](http://www.kwikgoal.com/safetyfirst)

Examples of some typical anchoring systems include weighted anchor bags, steel anchor weights, and portable anchor pegs. Installed and maintained properly, they will provide a safe and secure goal.



**KWIKGOAL**

SAFETY STARTS AT THE TOP

## REFERENCES

For further information on soccer goal safety and soccer goal performance standards, please reference the following resources:

**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION:** [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

Document numbers:

326 - Guidelines For Movable Soccer Goal safety

5118 - Movable Soccer Goals Can Fall Over On Children

**ASTM:** [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

F1938-98 Guide For Safe Use of Movable Soccer Goals

**ASTM:** [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

F2056-00 Safety and Performance Specification for Soccer Goals

**THE FA:** [www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com)

Goals for Football Technical Details

**THE FA:** [www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com)

Goals for Football Guidance Notes

## MYTH vs FACT

**MYTH:** The majority of soccer goal related injuries occur during matches or training.

**FACT:** Most soccer goal related injuries occur when organized soccer playing is over, either during the transport of goals, when goals are being used for unapproved purposes, or during pick-up soccer.

**MYTH:** Heavier soccer goals need not be anchored because of their inherent difficulty in moving.

**FACT:** Any unanchored goal can be tipped with catastrophic results.

**MYTH:** Home-made goals that match manufacturer's designs or styles will act as a suitable replacement for professionally manufactured goals.

**FACT:** The CPSC reports a large majority of goals involved in fatal or serious tip-over accidents involve "home-made" goals made by shop classes, custodial staff, or local welders not fully aware of proper anchoring techniques and safe counter balancing goal designs.

**MYTH:** Soccer goals will not tip unless moved or climbed upon.

**FACT:** Unanchored portable, lightweight goals are capable of tipping during high wind conditions, especially with nets affixed to the frame. All goals should be anchored when they are in an upright position.

**MYTH:** Once a goal is anchored, it is considered secure.

**FACT:** Unless a goal is anchored in a permanent/semi-permanent manner (ground sleeves or anchors in cement), it should be secured after soccer play is finished by locking goals face to face, locking goals to a permanent structure, or folding goals onto the ground.

**MYTH:** Padded goals will reduce injury when a goal tips over.

**FACT:** Padding will not protect a person from injury when a goal tips over.

## NATURAL TURF GOAL ANCHORING SYSTEMS

When soccer goals are used on natural turf (grass), the anchoring system options are various. From anchors that are cemented into the ground, to anchors that are driven into the ground with a hammer, the consumer has the capability to obtain and utilize the anchoring system that best fits their needs.

### SEMI-PERMANENT GROUND ANCHORS

Soccer goal anchors are considered semi-permanent when the base of the anchor is cemented into the ground. The goal is then placed in position according to the system, then either a bolt or a leash system is used to secure the goal to the anchor.

Another type of semi-permanent anchor is a ground sleeve that is cemented into the ground. An extended goal post will then slide into the sleeve, anchoring the goal itself into the ground.

### PORTABLE GROUND ANCHORS (BELOW GROUND)

When deciding on a portable ground anchor, it is important to know the characteristics of the soil where the soccer goals are located. The quality of support offered by an anchor peg or auger anchor will be determined by the soil.

#### HARD TO NORMAL SURFACE:

Ground anchor pegs are one of the better options for goals being anchored to a surface that is hard or considered normal. In many areas, a 12" peg is sufficient, because the ground can become solid after 1 foot. If the soil below the surface is a little softer, then a 16" peg can be used.

#### SOFT SURFACE:

The 16" ground anchor peg or a portable auger anchor can be used on softer surfaces. The cork-screw design of an auger anchor will be able to grip the soft soil effectively, while the 16" ground anchor peg will provide an extra few inches of anchoring capability.

### PORTABLE GROUND ANCHORS (ABOVE GROUND)

The two main options for anchoring soccer goals with above ground anchors are anchor bags or anchor weights. The minimum weight for anchoring soccer goals will vary, so checking with the manufacturer of the goal being secured for proper weight recommendations is essential. The weight amounts will also vary depending on the placement location of the anchors on the goal frame.

When using anchor bags or anchor weights, please note that the anchors should be placed behind both the posts and/or by the back corners of the goal frame.

All soccer goal anchors should be inspected for damage and installation integrity on a regular basis. Any damaged anchor should be replaced immediately.

## POST-MATCH SUGGESTIONS



If goals are to remain in the up-right position, make sure they are secured with ground anchors.



If anchored with portable style anchors, goals should be stored by being chained together face-to-face, or placed in a face-down position.



Remove the net when the goal is not in use.



Make sure that all connecting hardware (nuts, bolts, etc.) are in place and secure.



Check the structural integrity of the goal.



Never allow anyone to climb on the goals.



If goals are to be moved, exercise extreme caution and allow adequate manpower to move the goals.



Are warning labels visible and in good condition?



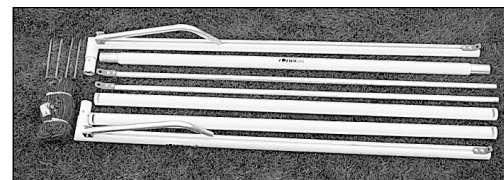
#### ▲WARNING

**ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL.**  
Unsecured goal can fall over  
causing serious injury or death.

## POST-SEASON SUGGESTIONS



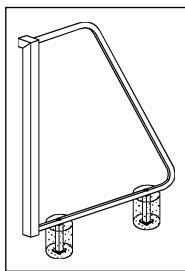
When the soccer season is complete, consider fully disassembling goals and storing them in the proper facilities.



## PRE-MATCH SUGGESTIONS



Is the goal firmly secured to the ground with anchors?



Is all connecting hardware (nuts, bolts, etc.) in place and secure?



Has the structural integrity of the goal been compromised (cracks in welds or posts, etc.)?



Is the goal on a level (flat) surface?



Check the net attachment system. If the attachments are anything other than Velcro or Net Clips, are there sharp edges?



## ARTIFICIAL SURFACE GOAL ANCHORING

With the influx of artificial surfaces being used, many questions have been raised about anchoring soccer goals to these fields. While there are not many options at the present time, the few that exist are effective.

### INSTALLING ANCHORS BEFORE THE TURF

Several of the soccer goal anchor styles require a ground sleeve or a large portion of the anchor to be set in cement below the surface. During the process of an artificial surface installation, the general consensus is that any anchor to be cemented into the ground needs to be done before the final surface is in place. By installing the anchor before the turf, the turf manufacturer/installer is able to properly design the turf so that any posts or hardware can go through a small space in the turf and into its anchor. Therefore, the turf will not be compromised by being cut. We recommend that you discuss anchor installation with the turf installer during the planning stages of the project.

### ANCHOR OPTIONS AFTER THE TURF IS INSTALLED

Once the artificial surface is in place, it is very difficult to put anything below the surface. Therefore, goal anchor options are reduced. At the present time, anchor bags or steel anchor weights, which will anchor the goals on top of the surface, are the best goal anchoring options.



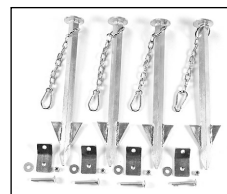
10B2601 Steel Anchor Weight



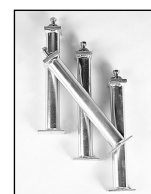
10B1601 Anchor Bag



10B2001 Chain Anchor System



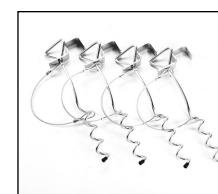
10B1901 Permanent Ground Anchor Pegs



10B101 Ground Anchors



10B114 Ground Anchor Pegs



10B1101 Portable Auger Anchors

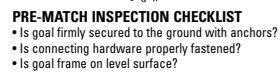




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# ! WARNING

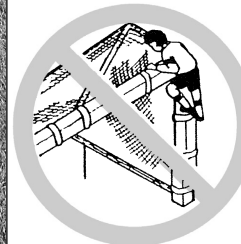
Place on the rear of both left and right posts near the bottom.

[illegible]

- Secure goals.
- Store goals chained together face-to-face, or in a face-down position.
- Remove net when not in use.
- Never allow anyone to climb on goals.
- Are warning labels visible and in good condition?

*For more safety information, safety stickers or a complete safety kit visit:*  
**[www.kwikgoal.com/safetyfirst](http://www.kwikgoal.com/safetyfirst)**

## ⚠ WARNING



**Goal can fall over causing serious injury or death.**

Place on rear of the right post in the middle and on rear of the crossbar.