

---

## **SOCCER GOAL SAFETY**

**TO: All OASL Members**

A 1994 study found over 16 million people in the U.S. playing the game of soccer, and 74% (over 12 million) were under the age of 18. Today, there are over 56,000 registered youth soccer players (rec, travel, premier) just in northern Ohio.

It is estimated that in 1994 there were close to a half-million soccer goals in the U.S. Many years have past, and the popularity of soccer has risen dramatically, so imagine how many soccer goals there are today!

Unfortunately, there have been injuries caused by soccer goals, and some young children have even been killed by a soccer goal which has fallen on top of them. Every year, there are reports of injuries and deaths that are directly related to soccer goals that are not properly anchored/secured.

- Between 1979 – 2003, there were 76 soccer related incidents that were reported and recorded nationally.
- Of these incidents, 27 resulted in the death of the person involved.
- Of the 76 reported soccer goal incidents, approximately 75% involved children **CLIMBING** on the goal/net, or attempting to **MOVE** the goal structure.
- Only 7 incidents reported involved a goal tipping over because of **WIND**.
- 83% of these reported incidents involved **MALES**.
- Almost 75% involved children age 12 or under, with the majority age 10 and under.



We **MUST** ensure that our young players and their siblings are **NOT** climbing on goals, nor playing near unsecured goals. Please be observant of your children – whether players or siblings – to insure that they are not playing near the goals, unless they are secured and are being supervised by a coach.

In past seasons, we have observed instances where children are climbing on goals – and are being observed by their parents – and we have had to intervene. Please do not permit this to happen. **NO CLIMBING ON GOALS – PERIOD!**

In 2005, the United States Youth Soccer Association along with the 55 state soccer associations, adopted a new goal safety policy that is based on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) "Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety." In addition to providing guidelines for properly anchoring goals to be used during games, the CPSC also provides specific instructions regarding securing goals when not in use.

The OASL supports these efforts to keep our children safe, and asks that all clubs, coaches and administrators implement appropriate measure to insure that the goals used by our young players are safe, and are properly secured for use during games. This includes securing the goals after scheduled games, when not in use, per the CPSC guidelines.

All soccer clubs and soccer leagues are being required to adopt goal safety policies and to adhere to the CPSC goal safety guidelines. For additional information, you may refer to additional articles and links on the league website at <http://www.oasl.us>

**Safety for our players is, ... and should always be a top priority!**

Thank you,  
Sue Jacob  
President, Ohio Amateur Soccer League