WSA - Outdoor Soccer Field Safety Policy

1. Purpose

This policy is designed to ensure the safety of players, coaches, spectators, and maintenance personnel when using outdoor soccer fields with permanent nets. It covers equipment maintenance, field inspections, and general safety guidelines to prevent injuries and accidents.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals using or maintaining outdoor soccer fields with permanent nets, including players, coaches, referees, field staff, and visitors.

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3. Field and Equipment Safety Guidelines

3.1 Goalpost and Net Safety

- Permanent goalposts must be securely anchored to the ground and inspected regularly for structural integrity.
- Nets must be properly attached to the goal frame and free from rips or loose areas that could entangle players.
- Ensure that no sharp edges, protruding bolts, or damaged metal parts are present on the goal frame.
- Hanging, climbing, or swinging on goalposts is strictly prohibited.
- Weather conditions (such as high winds or storms) should be monitored, and use of the field should be suspended if goalposts or other equipment become hazardous.

Portable Goalposts and Net Safety

- Anchoring: All portable goals, regardless of size, must be securely anchored to the ground using chain anchors or appropriate weights to prevent tipping.
- • Prohibited Activities: Climbing, swinging, or playing on portable goalposts is strictly prohibited for all participants.
- • Assembly and Storage: Goals must be assembled according to the manufacturer's instructions and dismantled for secure storage after use.
- • Goalpost Selection: Homemade or modified goalposts are strictly prohibited. New goals should not be purchased if they come with metal cup hooks that cannot

be replaced. It is recommended to prioritize goals with plastic hooks or tape for net attachment.

- Pre-Use Testing: Coaches will conduct pre-use inspections on all portable goals. o Inspections include:

  Verifying secure anchoring of each goal.

  Applying significant downward force to the crossbar.

  Applying significant forward and backward forces to both upright posts.

3.2 Field Surface and Surroundings

- The field should be inspected before each use to identify and address hazards such as:
  - Uneven ground, holes, or depressions that could cause tripping.
  - Rocks, debris, or other foreign objects that could lead to injury.
  - Excessively wet or muddy areas that could compromise footing.
- Drainage systems should be maintained to prevent water accumulation.
- Field boundary lines must be clearly marked and free of obstructions.
- Spectators should remain behind designated barriers or a safe distance from the playing area.

3.3 Weather and Environmental Considerations

- Play should be suspended immediately in the event of lightning, thunderstorms, or other severe weather conditions.
- Players and spectators should have access to shaded areas or shelters during extreme heat.
- Hydration stations should be available to prevent heat-related illnesses.

3.4 Equipment Storage and Maintenance

- Soccer goals should be routinely checked for rust, loose connections, or structural weaknesses.
- Any damaged or unsafe equipment should be reported immediately and removed from use until repaired or replaced.

- Field maintenance equipment (e.g., lawnmowers, line markers) should be stored securely when not in use.

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4. Emergency Procedures

4.1 Injury and First Aid

- A first aid kit must be readily available at each field.
- Any injuries should be reported to the designated safety officer or field supervisor.
- If a serious injury occurs, emergency medical services (EMS) should be contacted immediately.
- An emergency action plan (EAP) should be in place, detailing the nearest hospital, emergency contact numbers, and procedures for evacuating injured players.

4.2 Fire and Hazardous Situations

- Fire extinguishers should be accessible in case of emergencies.
- Any hazardous materials, such as pesticides or field maintenance chemicals, should be stored securely and away from public access.

4.3 Reporting Safety Concerns

- All safety hazards or concerns must be reported to field management or local authorities responsible for maintenance.
- Regular safety audits should be conducted to ensure compliance with safety standards.

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5. Enforcement and Responsibilities

- Coaches, referees, and field staff are responsible for enforcing this safety policy.
- Players and visitors must adhere to all safety guidelines and report hazards.

- Failure to comply with this policy may result in field closures or penalties.