

# Consumer Product SAFETY ALERT

FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

TWENTY-ONE DEATHS PROMPT WARNING:

## Movable Soccer Goals Can Fall Over On Children

### GOALS MUST BE ANCHORED

Movable soccer goals can fall over and kill children who climb on them or hang from the crossbar. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has reports of at least 21 deaths since 1979 resulting from soccer goals falling over. In addition, an estimated 120 injuries involving falling goals were treated each year in U.S. hospital emergency rooms during the period 1989 through 1993.

Almost all of the goals involved in these tipovers appeared to be "home-made" by high school shop classes, custodial members, or local welders, not professionally manufactured. These "home-made" goals are often very heavy and unstable.

Since 1990, the Commission has worked with the Coalition to Promote Soccer Goal Safety to address risks presented by these soccer goals and to make movable soccer goals more stable. The Commission and the Coalition strongly recommend that soccer coaches, school officials, and soccer field maintenance personnel prevent goals falling over by **anchoring goals** to the ground. They should chain goals to a fence or permanent structure when not in use and warn students not to climb on goals.

### FOLLOW THESE SAFETY SUGGESTIONS/GUIDELINES

- **Securely anchor** or counter-weight movable goals **at all times** (SEE ILLUSTRATION BELOW).
- **Never climb** on the net or goal framework.
- **Remove nets** when goals are not in use.
- **Anchor or chain goals** to nearby fence posts, dug-outs, or any other similar sturdy fixture when not in use.
- **Check all connecting hardware** before every use. **Replace damaged or missing fasteners immediately.**
- **Ensure safety labels** are clearly visible.
- **Fully disassemble goals** for seasonal storage.
- **Always use extreme caution** when moving goals.
- **Always instruct players** on the safe handling of and **potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals.**
- **Use movable soccer goals only on level (flat) fields.**

To get more information on soccer goal anchors or to get free soccer goal warning labels, contact the Coalition to Promote Soccer Goal Safety at the Soccer Industry Council of America, 200 Castlewood Dr., North Palm Beach, FL 33408, or call any of these Coalition members: 800-527-7510, 800-334-4625, 800-243-0533, or 800-531-4252. CPSC'S hotline is 800-638-2772.

**Never climb or hang from goal.  
Goal can fall over causing  
serious injury or death.**

<b>▲ WARNING</b>
<b>Always anchor goal</b> Unsecured goal can fall over causing serious injury or death.

