



**CHAMPAIGN
PARK DISTRICT**
SOCCER GOAL SAFETY AND EDUCATION POLICY

I. Introduction and Identification of Act

This Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy (“Policy”) is adopted pursuant to the Illinois Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act, also known as Zach’s Law, 430 ILCS 145/1, *et seq.* (the “Act”). The Act requires the Champaign Park District to create a Policy to outline how it will specifically address the safety issues associated with movable soccer goals.

II. Definitions

The following words shall have the following meanings when used in this Policy.

“Act” means the Illinois Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act, also known as Zach’s Law, 430 ILCS 145/1 *et seq.*

“Authorized Personnel” means Permitted Users and all Park District employees who have responsibility for or contact with Movable Soccer Goals.

“Board” means the Board of Commissioners of the Park District.

“Park District” means Champaign Park District.

“Movable Soccer Goal(s)” means a freestanding structure consisting of at least 2 upright posts, a crossbar, and support bars that is designed: (1) to be used by adults and children for the purposes of a soccer goal; (2) to be used without any other form of support or restraint other than pegs, stakes, augers, counter-weights, or other types of temporary anchoring devices; and (3) to be able to be moved to different locations.

“Organization” means any unit of local government other than the Park District, and any school district, sporting club, soccer organization, religious organization, business, or other similar organization.

“Permitted User(s)” means an Organization and all of its employees, agents, coaches and volunteers that use Property for Soccer-Related Activities.

“Policy” means this Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy.

“Property” means real property owned or leased by the Park District where Movable Soccer Goals are used.

“Safety Guidelines” mean the Guidelines for Safely Securing Movable Soccer Goals pursuant to the standards and guidelines identified on the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) website as follows:

1. ASTM F2950-14, (2021) Safety and Performance Specification for Soccer Goals;
2. ASTM F1938-98, Standard Guide for Safer Use of Movable Soccer Goals; and

3. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goals.

“Soccer-Related Activity” means use of Movable Soccer Goals on Property, including without limitation, soccer games, scrimmages, practices and the like.

III. MOVING AND SECURING MOVABLE SOCCER GOALS

Prior to the commencement of the soccer season each year, the Park District shall place and secure Movable Soccer Goals on its Property in accordance with the Safety Guidelines. Only the Park District shall be permitted to move any Movable Soccer Goal the Park District owns, installs, or places on its Property.

Thereafter, if a Movable Soccer Goal becomes unanchored or improperly secured, only Authorized Personnel shall be permitted to re-secure it in accordance with the Safety Guidelines.

IV. Warning Labels

A warning label such as the following, shall be posted on all Movable Soccer Goals:

Only authorized personnel may move and anchor this goal. IF THIS GOAL IS NOT ANCHORED DOWN, DO NOT USE IT AND CONTACT THE CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT AT 217-819-3812. Serious injury including death may occur if not properly installed.

V. Routine Inspections by Park District

The Park District shall routinely inspect all Movable Soccer Goals that the Park District has installed or placed onto its Property to verify that they are properly secured and document such inspection in writing.

VI. Permitted User Inspections, Placement in Non-Use Position and Notice to Players, Parents, and Guardians

As a condition of the use of Property, before and after any Soccer-Related Activity, Permitted Users shall make a physical inspection of each Movable Soccer Goal to assure that the goal is secure in accordance with the Safety Guidelines. If any Movable Soccer Goal is not properly secured, the Permitted User shall secure the goal in accordance with the Safety Guidelines. If the Permitted User does not have the necessary equipment to secure the goal in accordance with the Safety Guidelines, the Permitted User shall place the goal in a non-use position by laying it forward onto its front bars and crossbar and shall immediately notify the Park District of the location of the goal.

As a condition of the use of Property and prior to the commencement of the soccer season each year, each Organization shall advise their players, coaches, and the players’ parents and guardians, that Movable Soccer Goals may not be moved and that any use of a Movable Soccer Goal that is inconsistent with Soccer-Related Activity is strictly prohibited, including without limitation, playing, climbing, or hanging on any part of the Movable Soccer Goal. According to the

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, these activities can result in serious injury, including death. A sample notice is attached hereto as Attachment A.

VII. Use of Park District Property by Permitted Users

A copy of this Policy shall be provided to all Organizations using the Property for Soccer-Related Activity. Prior to using Property for Soccer-Related Activity, each Organization shall provide each of its Permitted Users with a copy of this Policy and require that each of its Permitted Users comply with this Policy.

VIII. Removal and Securing

At the conclusion of each soccer season, the Park District shall either remove all Movable Soccer Goals that it has installed or otherwise placed on its Property and store such goals at a secure location or otherwise secure such goals on its Property by any of the following methods: (1) placing the goal frames face to face (front posts and crossbars facing toward each other) and securing them at each goalpost with a lock and chain; or (2) locking and chaining the goals to a suitable fixed structure such as a permanent fence; or (3) locking unused portable goals in a secure storage room after each use; or (4) fully disassembling the goals for season storage.

IX. Acquisition of Tip-Resistant Movable Soccer Goals

After the effective date of this Policy, the Park District will not purchase any Movable Soccer Goal unless it is tip resistant. A Movable Soccer Goal whose inside measurements are 6.5 to 8 feet high and 18 to 24 feet wide is not tip-resistant unless it conforms to the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard F2950-14 (2021) Standard Safety and Performance Specifications for Soccer Goals or is otherwise equipped with another design-feature approved by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the Park District may continue to use its existing goals in a manner consistent with this Policy.

X. Applicability

If any provision of this Policy conflicts with any provision of the Act, the provisions of the Act shall prevail.

This Policy shall not create any new liability or increase any existing liability of the Park District, or any of its commissioners, officers, employees, representatives, volunteers, or agents, which exists under any other law, including but not limited to the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, 745 ILCS 10/1-101 *et seq.* In addition, this Policy shall not alter, diminish, restrict, cancel, or waive any defense or immunity of the Park District or any of its commissioners, officers, employees, representatives, volunteers, or agents, which exists under any other law, including but not limited to the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, 745 ILCS 10/1-101 *et seq.*

XI. Availability of Policy

All Park District employees who have responsibility for or contact with Movable Soccer Goals shall be advised of this Policy.

A copy of the Policy is available to all other employees and any member of the public by requesting a copy from: Champaign Park District Administration at 217-398-2550.

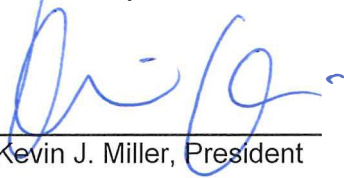
XII. Amendments

This Policy may be amended by the Park District at any time.

XIII. Effective Date

Approved by Board of Commissioners
Revised by Board of Commissioners

May 1, 2016.
July 28, 2021.



Kevin J. Miller, President



Joseph C. DeLuca, Executive Director

**SOCCER GOAL SAFETY POLICY
PARENTAL NOTICE**

Effective _____

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

One of our primary objectives is that children have safe recreation areas. To that end, soccer goals should remain securely anchored to the ground and nets firmly attached to the goals.

In an effort to keep the goals and nets secure and children safe, you are required to advise your children/soccer players and any other person accompanying you for whom you are responsible that the following is strictly prohibited:

Moving any soccer goals and any use of a soccer goal that is inconsistent with soccer-related activity, including without limitation, playing, climbing, or hanging on any part of the soccer goal. This especially applies to children climbing on or hanging from nets or goal frames. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, these activities can result in serious injury, including death.

If you observe any child inappropriately using a soccer goal or net, immediately and politely ask the child to stop. If the activity continues, please notify a coach or referee as soon as possible. Players violating this rule may be forced to sit out, at the coach's discretion.

Finally, if you see any soccer goal that is not anchored down or any net that is not firmly secured to the goal, please notify a coach or referee immediately.

Sincerely,

Champaign Park District