



SOCCER NET SAFETY

Recently, there have been a number of injuries and deaths in the news in Canada surrounding unsecured soccer nets. Weight carrying as much as 500 pounds have fallen on young people. The deaths and injuries have resulted in a provincial campaign to alert people of this problem including through the media. Please endeavour to inspect all schools of this potential hazard and make certain that we would not be responsible for any future accidents. We should also alert any other agencies in our communities who run soccer programs.

There are several ways to reduce the risk:

- secure all nets permanently into the ground (consider permanent underground anchors)
- counterbalance by lengthening the overall depth and using lighter material in the front and heavier material in the back
- anchor nets with augers and stakes, not just net pegs
- properly positioned sand bags
- store safely such as chaining two together, disassembling or chaining to a fence
- also check field hockey nets and handball nets as well as anchors on indoor nets such as volleyball and floor hockey nets
- perform minimum weekly inspections of all playground equipment and logging the process.

Let's keep our soccer field areas safe at all times!

