



## GOAL POST SAFETY POLICY

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### Introduction

This policy is in place to help Bendigo City FC minimise the risks and the dangers of climbing on goals, hanging on crossbars and goals tipping over.

### Rationale

Death and serious injury can happen if moveable soccer goals are installed incorrectly or when they are used inappropriately. Specifically, blunt force injuries and trauma to the head, neck, chest and limbs can occur from moveable soccer goals due to:

- Instability
- Goals becoming unanchored
- Goals with inadequate anchoring
- Inappropriate or ineffective installation
- Inappropriate use, such as swinging on goalposts or cross bars

Australian children and teenagers have been seriously injured and have died after moveable soccer goals were installed incorrectly and/or used inappropriately. There have been more than 40 deaths and a range of serious injuries associated with moveable soccer goals worldwide, and at least seven deaths and one incident resulting in the person becoming paraplegic in Australia.

This policy applies to players, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, game day marshals and volunteers.

### Policy

All portable goals weighing 28kg and over must display a warning notice alerting of the dangers of climbing on goals, hanging on crossbars and goals tipping over.

All moveable soccer goals weighing 28kg are required to be affixed with a Yellow Warning Sticker alerting of the dangers of playing and climbing on goals and goals tipping over. The warning label must be marked clearly and legibly with upper case letters at least 25mm high and lower-case letters at least 12.5mm high. The warning labels must be placed in three positions on the goal: the underside of the crossbar and the outside of both goal upright posts. The warning label must read:

**WARNING – ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL – NEVER CLIMB OR HANG ON CROSS BAR.  
Unanchored goals can tip over causing serious injury or death**

All moveable soccer goals weighing 28kg or more are required to be anchored securely to the ground. It takes 200 kilograms to properly anchor a full-size portable soccer goalpost which equals 10 (300mm) stakes and 12 bags of sand, or 10 bags of cement mix.

Moveable goals should be stored face-to-face and secured to one another. To minimise the risks of potential dangers and harm, goals should be stored using this method after all games and especially when not in use during the off-season. Securing the goals face to face can be done either at both ends of the goals or once at the top cross bar. Securing the goals as described, restricts the ability of the goals tipping over.

### Player responsibility

Players are not to climb on or swing from portable goal posts or netting. In addition to the safety risks, this shows a lack of respect for equipment and may cause damage to the goal posts or net. If a Bendigo City FC

player, including SAP program attendee, is observed climbing on or swinging from portable goals a warning will be issued. Repeated warnings may lead to disciplinary action at the discretion of the Technical Director.

### Shared responsibility

Other users of Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve (Epsom FC, BASL) have a shared responsibility to anchor and store portable goals safely.

### Related legislation and documents

- ACCC [Anchor, Check, Respect: The game plan for moveable soccer goal safety](#)
- [Anchor, Check Respect](#) video.

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### Date and approval

Approved by the Bendigo City Football Club committee

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