



# TEWKSBURY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## Soccer Goal Management and Anchoring Policy

It shall be the policy of Tewksbury Youth Soccer to ensure that all Soccer Goals in use (whether for training, match play, demonstration or other purposes) at facilities under its care and operational control shall:

1. Be inspected by the coach, instructor, trainer, or other responsible adult party prior to the Soccer Goal's use in player training, matches, demonstrations or any other related activity where any individual's safety and well-being could be compromised by a potential Soccer Goal tip over incident. The responsible adult party shall ensure:

- The Soccer Goal is stable and in a condition suitable for use
- The Soccer Goal is firmly anchored to the playing surface by one or more of the anchoring methods detailed herein.
- The Soccer Goal is used for its intended purpose and nothing more.
- No activity may commence until the Soccer Goal is firmly anchored.
- If during the course of the activity, the Soccer Goal has been moved or has become unstable, the activity shall be immediately halted until the Soccer Goal has been adequately re-anchored.

2. Be periodically inspected in order to identify any damage, worn or broken parts, structural deficiencies or instances of improper set-up. Discovery of any of the aforementioned conditions shall cause the immediate removal from active service, repair, replacement and/or repositioning of the affected Soccer Goal.

3. At all times, be firmly anchored to the playing surface in a manner that prevents the Soccer Goal from tipping over and creating an injury hazard. Anchoring methods may take one or more of the following forms (substantially compliant with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for Moveable Soccer Goals dated January 31, 1995), provided that any applied anchoring methods shall be in accordance with the Soccer Goal manufacturer's written recommendations for the specific Soccer Goal and surface conditions:

- Subterranean Anchor System: Whereby a fastener system is permanently installed into/below the playing surface and the Soccer Goal is permanently or semi-permanently lashed thereto.



- Auger-Style Anchors: This style anchor is “helical” shaped and is screwed into the ground. A flange is positioned over the ground shoes (bar) and rear ground shoe (bar) to secure them to the ground. The number of anchors required to adequately secure the Soccer Goal, depends on the manufacturers specifications, the weight of the goal, and soil conditions.
- Peg or Stake Anchors: The normal length of a peg or stake is approximately 10 inches (250mm). Pegs or stakes should be driven into the ground with a sledge-hammer as far as possible and at an angle if possible, through available holes in the ground shoes (bar) and rear ground shoe (bar) to secure them to the ground. If the peg or stake is not flush with the ground, it should be clearly visible to persons playing near the soccer goal. Stakes with larger diameters or textured surfaces have greater holding capacity.
- J-Hook Shaped Stake Anchors: This style is used when holes are not pre-drilled into the ground shoes (bars) or rear ground shoe (bar) of the goal. Similar to the peg or stake style, this anchor is hammered, at an angle if possible, directly into the earth. The curved (top) portion of this anchor fits over the goal member to secure it to the ground.
- Counterweights: These are purpose-built weighting devices that are positioned on the Soccer Goal backstay as a means of providing counterweight resistance to any potential force exerted on that Soccer Goal that could cause it to tip over. The number of devices (bags or weights) required will vary and must be adequate for the size and total weight of the Soccer Goal. Tewksbury Youth Soccer shall keep on-hand the OEM manufacturer documentation regarding counterweighting recommendations.

4. Be conspicuous, whether in form, color and/or contrast to natural surrounding so as to be readily determined whether the anchoring system has been properly deployed.

5. Be of such construction and quality as to maintain its continuing effectiveness under normal wear and tear and the stresses of usage, including but not limited to: exposure to extremes in weather conditions, irrigation water, fertilizers, insecticides, field paints and other agents.

Any maintenance concerns with Soccer Goals should be communicated to the TYSL Facilities Director as soon as practical upon discovery.