

**RIVER FOREST 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 River Forest 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 District employees who have responsibility for or contact with Movable Soccer Goals.

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

“District” means River Forest 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 for the purposes of a soccer goal; (2) to be used without any 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 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 District where Movable Soccer Goals are used.

“Safety Guidelines” mean the Guidelines for Safely Securing Movable Soccer Goals attached to this Policy as Attachment 1.

“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; WARNING LABELS

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

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 RIVER FOREST PARK DISTRICT. SERIOUS INJURY INCLUDING DEATH CAN OCCUR IF IT TIPS OVER.

IV. ROUTINE INSPECTIONS BY DISTRICT

The District shall complete a seasonal audit before the start of each soccer season on all Movable Soccer Goals that the District has installed or placed onto its Property to verify that they are properly secured and document such inspection in writing. Also, during the course of the soccer seasons the District will complete weekly inspections of all of its soccer goals.

V. NOTICE TO PLAYERS

As a condition of the use of Property and prior to the commencement of the soccer season each year, the Park District will inform each Organization to advise their players 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 2.

VI. USE OF 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***. A copy of this policy will also be listed on our website.

VII. REMOVAL

At the conclusion of each soccer season, the District will remove all Movable Soccer Goals that it has installed or otherwise placed on its Property and store such goals at a secure location locking unused portable goals in a secure storage room after each use; or fully disassembling the goals for season storage.

VIII. ACQUISITION OF TIP-RESISTANT MOVABLE SOCCER GOALS

After the effective date of this Policy, the 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 F2673-08 for tip-resistant Movable Soccer Goals or is otherwise equipped with another design-feature approved by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the District may continue to use its existing goals in a manner consistent with this Policy.

IX. 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 District, or any of its officers, employees, 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.* Nor shall this Policy alter, diminish, restrict, cancel, or waive any defense or immunity of the District or any of its officers, employees, 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.*

X. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

All 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: River Forest Park District's Safety Coordinator at 401 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest, IL 60305 via phone 708-366-6660.

XI. AMENDMENTS

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

XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy becomes effective November 15, 2011

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ATTACHMENT 2

RIVER FOREST PARK DISTRICT

November 15, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: All parents and guardians of soccer players:

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,

River Forest Park District

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