

**Colorado Youth Soccer
Risk Management
Goal Post Danger Reminder
Spring 2010**

Each season CYS reminds members that risks involving moving, climbing or not anchoring goal posts are very real. The soccer goal is so much part of the scenery of a soccer field that we often don't recognize the danger. Simply, falling or climbing on goals can seriously injure and kill.

Colorado saw two reported goal post accidents in 2009. Both involved goals falling on top of people. The first incident involved a 16 year old female who was severely injured when a soccer goal fell on her as she stretched on the ground during a track meet. Three other girls were swinging on the goal at the time causing it to fall over. The injured suffered a spine injury and paralysis. The other reported injury involved wind blowing a poorly-secured goal onto an 18 year-old goalkeeper's head during college practice. These are the only known and reported incidents for Colorado. Neither incident involved Youth Soccer or CYS Member Clubs.



Nationwide, since 1979, there have been 35 deaths and 55 serious injuries caused by soccer goals. Most injuries are sustained when climbing or swinging on the goal. Some goals tipped over, others collapsed and in some cases, the victim just fell off. Almost all were preventable.

Fatalities from soccer goal accidents are associated almost exclusively with traumatic contact with the goal post; the goal falling over and striking the victim. On average, victims are between 8 and 10 years of age. The youngest was 3 and the oldest was 19. The 3 year old was fatally injured when her father lost control of a movable goal and it fell over on his daughter. The 19 year old was fatally injured while doing pull-ups on an unsecured goal which fell over on him.

Between 1998 through 2003, there were 416 goal related injuries reported to the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System. Potentially, there are hundreds of other unreported incidents; see www.anchoredforsafety.org for more information and summaries of each incident.

Goals that are properly anchored pose little hazard but they still demand respect. Colorado Youth Soccer reminds parents and players that goals aren't playground equipment. Goals should NEVER be climbed on. Be responsible! If you see someone playing on a goal, ask them to stop and inform the proper official. If your child is playing on a goal, educate them. Be safe and prevent a trip to the hospital or worse.