



Portable Athletic Goals Anchoring, Securing, and Storage Guidelines



Office of Safety and Security Fact Sheet

Portable goals on FCPS fields may be owned by FCPS or local youth athletic leagues. Youth athletic leagues utilizing FCPS facilities and fields must follow all FCPS regulations as outlined in The Safety Manual (7350.P).

Portable soccer goals can be unsafe because they are unstable when they are either unanchored or not properly anchored or secured. These movable soccer goals pose a risk of tip over to children who climb on goals (or nets) or hang from the crossbar. Portable soccer goals must have warning stickers giving instructions to never climb on goals. All portable goals shall be either anchored or secured to prevent overturning when in use (see photos on page two (2) of this fact sheet). These stickers are available through the Office of Safety and Security at 571-423-2010.

After all local youth athletic leagues play, portable goals (soccer, field hockey, or lacrosse) used on FCPS athletic fields must be either properly stored off the athletic field using chains to mitigate any turnover risk or physically removed from FCPS property. Athletic leagues must obtain the permission of the local program manger to securely store these goals on FCPS property. Problems with youth athletic league complying with soccer goal securing guidelines should be reported to the Office of Safety and Security.

During the soccer competition season, FCPS portable soccer goals used on competition athletic fields (High School) can remain in place by being secured in the ground by utilizing auger/stake anchors or can be stored off the athletic field using chains to mitigate any turnover risk. Portable soccer goals must be properly stored off the athletic field using chains to mitigate any turnover risk after the season.

FCPS portable soccer goals used on non-competition athletic fields (Middle School and Elementary School) must be properly stored off the athletic field using chains to mitigate any turnover risk after use.

It is the responsibility of the local Director of Student Activities (at the High School level) or the local Physical Education teacher (at the Middle School and Elementary School level) to assure that FCPS soccer goals are secured while in use, secured in place, and/or stored off the athletic field using chains. It shall be the responsibility of the above FCPS staff members to maintain the proper securing equipment (augers, stakes) and chains/locks for storing.

If you need additional information, please call the FCPS Office of Safety and Security at 571-423-2010.

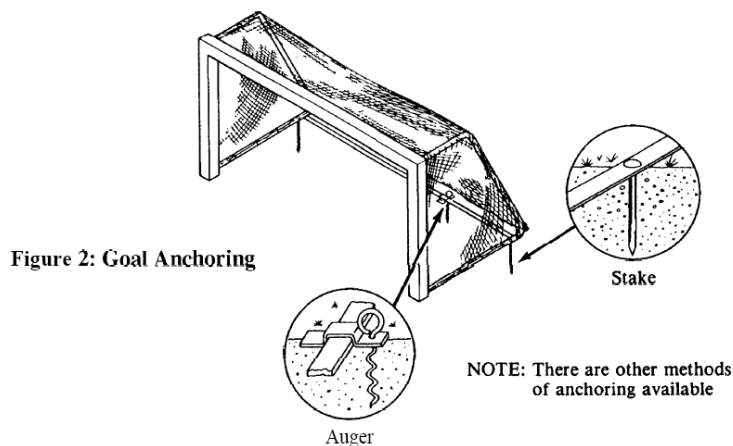


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It is **IMPERATIVE** that ALL movable soccer goals are always anchored properly (see Figure 2). There are several different ways to secure your soccer goal. The number and type of anchors to be used will depend on a number of factors, such as soil type, soil moisture content, and total goal weight.



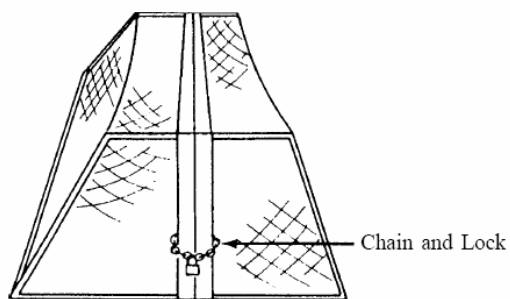
Auger style anchor

A minimum of two auger-style anchors (one on each side of the goal) are recommended. More may be required, depending on the manufacturer's specifications, the weight of the goal, and soil conditions.

Peg or Stake style anchor (varying lengths)

Typically two to four pegs or stakes are used per goal (more for heavier goals). The normal length of a peg or stake is approximately 10 inches. Stakes with larger diameters or textured surfaces have greater holding capacity

All movable goals should be securely stored to prevent a tip-over hazard. Goals can be chained to each other (figure below) or chained to other objects (fences or other structures) (photo below) as allowed by the local program manger.



Soccer Goals Chained Together



Soccer Goals Chained to Fences