

# policy

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #304**

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## **SOCCER GOAL SAFETY AND EDUCATION**

This Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy (“Policy”) is adopted pursuant to the Illinois Moveable Soccer Goal Safety Act, also known as Zach’s Law, 430 ILCS 145/1, *et seq.* (the “Act”). The Act requires the School District to create a policy to outline how it will specifically address the safety issues associated with movable soccer goals.

### **DEFINITIONS**

The following words shall have the following meanings when used in this policy.

“Act” means the Illinois Moveable 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 Education.

“Movable Soccer Goal(s)” means a freestanding structure consisting of at least two (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, state, or federal government other than the School District, and any park 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 set forth in Form 2431.02 F1.

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“Soccer-related Activity” means use of Movable Soccer Goals on Property, including without limitation, soccer games, scrimmages, practices and the like.

## **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, to the extent that they are used, 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 DIRECTOR OF FACILITY OPERATIONS AT CELL NUMBER 630-463-3025 or 630-330-3244. SERIOUS INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, CAN OCCUR IF IT TIPS OVER.***

The following activities are prohibited: playing or climbing on the frame or net, tipping structure over, hanging from any part of the frame, attempting to move the goal, attempting to remove the goal anchors, or using the device in any way other than its intended use.

## **ROUTINE INSPECTIONS BY DISTRICT**

The District shall inspect 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.

## **PERMITTED USER INSPECTIONS, PLACEMENT IN NON-USE POSITION AND NOTICE TO PLAYERS**

As a condition of the use of Property, before and after any Soccer-related Activity, Permitted Users shall make a physical inspection of each Movable Soccer Goal to assure that the goal is secure in accordance with the Safety Guidelines. If any Movable Soccer Goal is not properly secured, the Permitted User shall secure the goal in accordance with the Safety Guidelines. If the Permitted User does not have the necessary equipment to secure the goal in accordance with the Safety Guidelines, the Permitted User shall place the goal in a non-use position by laying it

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forward onto its front bars and crossbar and shall immediately notify the District of the location of the goal.

As a condition of the use of Property and prior to the commencement of the soccer season each year, each Organization shall 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 notice is set forth in Administrative Guideline 2431.01AG.

## **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 and shall require that each of its Permitted Users comply with all applicable provisions of the Policy.

## **REMOVAL**

At the conclusion of each soccer season, the District will either remove all Movable Soccer Goals that it has installed or otherwise placed on its Property and store such goals at a secure location or otherwise secure such goals on its Property by placing the goal frames face to face (front posts and crossbars facing toward each other) and securing them at each goalpost with a lock and chain; or locking and chaining the goals to a suitable fixed structure such as a permanent fence; or locking unused portable goals in a secure storage room after each use; or fully disassembling the goals for season storage.

## **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.

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## **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.*

## **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 on the District's website ([www.geneve304.org](http://www.geneve304.org)).

430 ILCS 145/1, *et seq.*

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