



## Arkansas Department of Health

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4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Mike Beebe

Paul K. Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, Director and State Health Officer

### ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INJURY PREVENTION AND CONTROL BRANCH

**DATE:** June 7, 2012

**TO:** Health Services Subcommittee of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee, Health Services Permanent Subcommittee of the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee Joint Meeting

**RE:** ISP2011-184 – “Requesting to Study the Safety of Soccer Goals Used in Children’s Sports, Including Hearing Testimony from Experts and Stakeholders on Improving Soccer Goal Safety in the State.”

Update regarding implementation of Act 772 of 2011, otherwise known as Jonathan’s Law

1. The Department of Health provided a status report regarding the implementation of Act 772 of 2011 in writing on August 15, 2011. (Attachment One)
2. The Injury Prevention and Control Branch Chief of the Arkansas Department of Health has corresponded with the Soccer Industry Council of America to ensure that the Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety, promulgated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (USCPC) in January 1995 referred to in Act 772 is the most current document available. (Attachment Two)
3. The Injury Prevention and Control Branch has on file the current guidelines of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to be used for reference and guidance when preparing presentations, answering questions from the public and developing programmatic priorities.
4. The Statewide Injury Prevention Program (SIPP), which is an Arkansas Children’s Hospital Injury Prevention Center Subgrant Partner with the Injury Prevention and Control Branch that is funded through the Trauma System, includes Recreation Safety as a component of their technical assistance and training working with Trauma Regional Advisory Council Injury Prevention Subcommittees to ensure safety guidelines are available. (Attachments Three and Four)

5. **The Injury Community Planning Group (ICPG), a statewide component of the Centers for Disease Control Violence and Injury Prevention (VIPP) grant which is managed within the Arkansas Department of Health Injury Prevention Program Section, has reviewed statewide injury data and selected four core objectives to address through either policy or evidence-based strategies over the next four years. Sports/Recreational Injury reduction was one of the objectives selected which includes supporting educational efforts for coaches, parents, athletes, and clinicians about sports injury prevention and concussion management. Members of the athletic community have been active participants and given expert input regarding this issue. A full presentation is scheduled for later in June for the consideration of the ICPG. (Attachment Five)**

**Contact:       Teresa Belew, Section Chief  
Core Violence and Injury Prevention (VIPP)  
Arkansas Department of Health  
Injury Prevention and Control  
teresa.belew@arkansas.gov  
501-683-0707**

**INITIAL STEPS TAKEN BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REGARDING  
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 772 OF 2011, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS JONATHAN'S LAW**

**AUGUST 15, 2011**

During the 2011 Legislative Session, Act 772, otherwise known as Jonathan's Law, was passed. The law requires that soccer goals in public recreation areas be anchored according to the "Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety", promulgated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (USCPSC), or by guidelines adopted by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

A two-pronged approach is planned with respect to this bill. First, personnel in the ADH's Injury Prevention and Control Branch will study the USCPSC "Guidelines" and solicit input from experts in the field to determine whether these guidelines are adequate or whether new ones should be developed. Initial steps have included seeking input from the Adolescent and Sports Medicine Center at Arkansas Children's Hospital and from the Soccer Industry Council of America in North Palm Beach, Florida. Responses from these groups have not been received to date. Other outreach is planned as well. Working with members of the Joint House and Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare will also play an important role in determining appropriate guidelines.

Second, public service announcements regarding whatever guidelines are adopted would be an invaluable way to communicate both the importance of this subject as well as the technical aspects concerning the proper anchoring of the soccer goals and where this information can be found. Ann Wright, Director of Health Communications at ADH, has been contacted and stated that her group is fully supportive of assisting in this important endeavor.



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August 15, 2011

Soccer Industry Council of America  
200 Castlewood Dr.  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408-5666

Subject: Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety

Dear Sir/Madame:

The Arkansas Legislature passed Act 772 of 2011 entitled "Jonathan's Law," which establishes safety standards for anchoring soccer goals on playgrounds and other recreation areas. This law requires soccer goals in public recreation areas to be anchored according to the Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety, promulgated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (USCPSC) in 1995, or by the guidelines adopted by the Arkansas Department of Health.

As the Injury Prevention and Control Branch Chief with the Arkansas Department of Health, I am responsible for developing such guidelines and request assistance from you on this very important project. My questions are:

1. Have the January 1995 guidelines from the USCPSC been revised or addendum(s) developed?
2. Are there public service announcements available on this issue that could be made Arkansas specific?
3. Are there other guidelines or actions that you, as a subject matter expert, would recommend?

I look forward to your response. Please feel free to call or email me with information. My phone number is (501) 683-4029 and e-mail is [bill.temple@arkansas.gov](mailto:bill.temple@arkansas.gov). Thank you so much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

William C. Temple  
Branch Chief  
Injury Prevention and Control

WT/jcb

June 7, 2012 – Soccer Goal Update/Additional Comment

Background:

In the packet for updating the Interim Study on Soccer Goal Safety, there is a letter from Bill Temple to the Soccer Industry Council of America. Three questions are posed:

1. Have the January 1995 guidelines from the USCPSC been revised or addendum(s) developed?
2. Are there public service announcements available on this issue that could be made Arkansas specific?
3. Are there other guidelines or actions that you, as a subject matter expert, would recommend?

Here are the answers to those 3 questions

1. The January 1995 guidelines from the USCPSC are the most recent.
2. None that they had available but there are bright colored stickers and some posters that may be useful and we can obtain those from Kwik Goal, Ltd. (We have samples of those in file...however; they don't do the poster anymore).
3. We were referred to ASTM\* and have purchased two of their standards publications which will be compared to the UCSPSC guidelines as we develop ADH guidelines. This is a strictly copyrighted, subscription service and we are not allowed to copy or distribute. (see attached information)

\*ASTM International, formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of international voluntary consensus standards. Today, some 12,000 ASTM standards are used around the world to improve product quality, enhance safety, facilitate market access and trade, and build consumer confidence.

Back to [Consumer Product Evaluation Standards](#)

**ASTM F1938 - 98(2009)** 

**ASTM F1938 - 98(2009) Guide for Safer Use of Movable Soccer Goals**

Active Standard ASTM F1938 Developed by Subcommittee: [F15.43](#) | [Book of Standards Volume: 15.11](#)

Buy Standard (PDF)	<a href="#">more info</a>	10 pages	\$ 40.00
Buy Standard (Print)	<a href="#">more info</a>	10 pages	\$ 40.00

**ASTM F1938**

**Abstract**

This guide presents directions for the installation, use, and storage of full-size or nearly full-size movable soccer goals. It is expected that these guidelines can help prevent deaths and serious injuries resulting from soccer goal tipover. These guidelines are intended for use by parks and recreation personnel, school officials, sports equipment purchasers, parents, coaches, and any other members of the general public concerned with soccer goal safety. These guidelines are intended to address the risk of movable soccer goal tipover. In designing soccer goal, the following may be considered: use of a counterbalancing strategy by lengthening the over all depth of the goal to effectively place more mass further from the goal's front posts, selection of light materials for the goal's front posts and crossbar and provides much heavier materials for the rear ground bar and frame members, use of a heavy rear framework and folds flat when not in use, making the goal much less likely to tip over. Securing soccer goals may be done in several ways. The number and type of anchors to be used will depend on a number of factors, such as types of playing surface, soil type, soil moisture content, and total goal weight. These anchor types shall include: Auger-Style Stake which is helical in shape and is screwed into the ground, Peg- or Stake-Style Stake which varies in lengths and diameters, J-Hook-Shaped-Stake Style which varies in lengths and diameters and its curved-top portion is designed to fit over goal members to secure it to the ground, and All-Stakes styles in which a minimum of two stakes must be used for each goal. Sandbags or other counterweights could be an effective alternative to anchors on hard surfaces, such as artificial turf, where the surface cannot be penetrated by a conventional anchor, that is, an indoor practice facility. Also a semipermanent anchor type may be used which is usually comprised of two or more functional components. The main support requires a permanently secured base that is buried underground. One type of semipermanent anchor connects the underground base to the soccer goal by means of two tethers. Another design utilizes a buried anchor tube with a threaded opening at ground level. Net pegs may be tapered, metal or plastic stakes, or both, and should only be used to secure the net to the ground.

*This abstract is a brief summary of the referenced standard. It is informational only and not an official part of the standard; the full text of the standard itself must be referred to for its use and application. ASTM does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents of this abstract are accurate, complete or up to date.*

## 1. Scope

1.1 This guide presents directions for the installation, use, and storage of full-size or nearly full-size movable soccer goals. It is expected that these guidelines can help prevent deaths and serious injuries resulting from soccer goal tipover.

1.2 These guidelines are intended for use by parks and recreation personnel, school officials, sports equipment purchasers, parents, coaches, and any other members of the general public concerned with soccer goal safety.

1.3 These guidelines are intended to address the risk of movable soccer goal tipover.

1.4 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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## Index Terms

safety labels; soccer goals; Movable soccer goals; Soccer; Sports equipment ;

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## ICS Code

ICS Number Code 97.220.10 (Sports facilities)

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**ASTM F1938 (Consumer Product Evaluation Standards)**

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**ASTM F2056 - 09** 

**ASTM F2056 - 09 Standard Safety and Performance Specification for Soccer Goals**

Active Standard ASTM F2056 Developed by Subcommittee: [F15.43](#) | [Book of Standards Volume: 15.11](#)

Buy Standard (PDF)	<a href="#">more info</a>	5 pages	\$ 40.00
Buy Standard (Print)	<a href="#">more info</a>	5 pages	\$ 40.00

**ASTM F2056**

**1. Scope**

1.1 This standard specifies safety and performance requirements aimed at providing for safer use of soccer goals and reducing injuries and fatalities.

1.2 This standard applies to soccer goals for training and competition in outdoor sports facilities and indoor arenas.

1.3 This standard addresses the risk of accidental tipover or pullover of soccer goals.

1.4 This standard is based upon safety and design requirements listed in EN 748.

1.5 This standard applies only to goals whose inside measurements are 6½ to 8 ft high and 18 to 24 ft wide.

1.6 This standard replaces PS 75-99.

**2. Referenced Documents** (*purchase separately*) 

**ASTM Standards**

[F1148](#) Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Home Playground Equipment

**ANSI Standard**

ANSIZ535.4 Guidelines for the Design and Safety Signs and Labels for Application to Products

**EN Standard**

EN748 Playing Field Equipment--Football Goals--Requirements and Test

Methods Including Safety

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**Index Terms**

soccer goals; Soccer; Sports equipment--specifications;

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**ICS Code**

ICS Number Code 97.220.10 (Sports facilities)

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# Statewide Injury Prevention Program

The Statewide Injury Prevention Program (SIPP) has assembled this Resource Binder to assist you in implementing evidence-based injury prevention programs. Inside you will find fact sheets on a variety of injury issues that affect Arkansas, short presentations on injury you can use to educate yourselves and your community, and a list of resources that will help you select and implement an injury prevention program in your community.

In the first four pockets of this resource guide, you will find fact sheets for a broad range of injury issues we address at SIPP. Most are presented in English and Spanish, and reproducible copies of each are available on the disc provided in the binder.

## Home safety

- Home safety for older adults
- Falls prevention
- Home safety checklist
- Burn prevention
- Infant crying
- Safe sleep for infants

## Motor vehicle safety

- Older adult driving
- Distracted driving
- Child passenger safety
- Booster seats
- Teen driving

## Intentional injury and violence

- Suicide
- Interpersonal violence
- Child maltreatment
- Youth violence

## Recreational safety

- Concussions
- Playground safety
- Pedestrian safety
- Motorcycle safety
- Hyperthermia prevention
- Boating safety
- Bicycle safety (adults)
- All-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety
- Bicycle safety (children)
- Helmets (children)
- Pedestrian safety
- Water safety
- Personal watercraft safety



# PLAYGROUND SAFETY

## Play it Safe

Playgrounds are great places for children to test and grow their physical abilities. But whether they're playing on a backyard swing set or at a public park, there are some dangers at every playground. To keep your kids safe while they play, follow this **S.A.F.E.** checklist:

### S.A.F.E. Checklist

#### Supervision is present.

Adults should watch kids at playgrounds at all times. They should be on the look out for any dangers and be ready to step in if a child needs help.

#### Play on Age-appropriate equipment.

Children under the age of 5 should play in a separate area from older children to keep play fun and safe for everyone. Smaller children also need to play on equipment that is right for their size. Playing on equipment made for larger children may result in injuries.

#### Falls to the ground are cushioned.

A fall to concrete, asphalt or even dirt and grass could result in a serious injury. Look for playgrounds that have sand, wood chips or rubber matting under swings, seesaws and jungle gyms. All of these surfaces will cushion your child if he or she falls.

#### Equipment is safe.

Check out the equipment before every play session. Make sure everything is anchored safely to the ground and that all the equipment is in good working order. Look for open S hooks or other pieces that could catch on your child's clothing. Also check for rusted or exposed bolts and sharp edges or points. If at home, cover these areas with protective rubber. If at a public playground, report the problem to the appropriate authorities.



### Safety Rules

Teach your child never to walk in front or behind the swings while others are swinging.

Always use the ladder to climb up a slide. Never climb up the sliding surface.

Tell your children not to push or shove on the slide ladder. Make sure children go down one at a time.

Children under the age of 4 should not use jungle gyms or any other climbing equipment that is taller than they are.



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### Statewide Injury Prevention Program

(501) 364-3400 or (866) 611-3445 • [www.archildrens.org/injury\\_prevention](http://www.archildrens.org/injury_prevention)

Sources: American Academy of Pediatrics, National Program for Playground Safety



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Paul K. Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, Director and State Health Officer

February 27, 2012

Mr. David Sullivan  
Project Officer  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
4770 Buford Highway, MS F-62  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Re: CDC-RFA-CE11-110102CONT12  
Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program  
Award Number: 5 U17/CE002000-02

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Per your previous instruction, enclosed are four draft "Focus Area SMART Objectives."

The Injury Community Planning Group (ICPG), utilizing data from the Arkansas Department of Health's Injury Epidemiologist, met on February 23, 2012 to discuss potential "Focus Area SMART Objectives." Recommendations were made by the ICPG's Policy Subcommittee, the only operational subcommittee to date, regarding the objectives to be selected. The following focus area categories were selected: 1. motor vehicle occupant injury and death; 2. unintentional poisoning; 3. intentional injury prevention; and, 4. sports/recreational injury. The first three objectives will remain stable throughout the grant period and the fourth will be flexible in order to meet potential changing demands within Arkansas.

We look forward to working with you as we move toward a completed set of objectives.

Sincerely,

William C. Temple  
Branch Chief  
Injury Prevention and Control

WCT/wct

Enclosures