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TO: District Superintendents
SISC II Member Districts

FROM: Catherine Wilson Jones
Director, Risk Management Services

SUBJECT: Movable Soccer Goal Safety

Recently, a twelve-year-old San Jose student was fatally injured when an unsecured movable soccer goal tipped over and landed on his head. This unfortunate incident has once again reminded us that movable soccer goals can present serious danger to students if they are left unsecured.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), falling soccer goals killed 21 people from 1979 to 1994. In addition, an estimated 120 injuries occur from falling goals every year. Many of the serious injuries are due to the soccer goal tipping over onto the victim. Regardless of whether the soccer goal is homemade or professionally manufactured, they can weigh up to 500 lb and by their very design are inherently unstable.

In 1995, the CPSC issued a ten-page directive titled *Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety*. The guidelines include recommendations for the design and construction, anchoring/securing, and goal storage. The guidelines also warns that children should never be allowed to move goals or play on them. The document is available at the following web site <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/326.html> or you may contact your SISC Safety and Loss Control representative for a copy.

Properly securing the goals is the key to safety. Below are a few of the tips from the guidelines that, if followed, will help prevent injuries due to falling soccer goals.

- Securely anchor or counterweight movable soccer goals at ALL times.
- Anchor or chain one goal to another; to itself in a folded down position; or to nearby fence posts, dugouts, or any other similar sturdy fixture when not in use.
- Remove nets when goals are not in use.
- NEVER allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework.
- Ensure safety/warning labels are clearly visible (placed under the crossbar and on the sides of the down-posts at eye level).
- Always exercise extreme caution when moving goals and allow adequate manpower to move goals of varied sizes and weights. Movable soccer goals should only be moved by authorized and trained personnel.

CWJ:sh