



## **Russell Soccer Club Facility and Equipment Safety Policy**

To enhance safe participation, the Russell Soccer Club (RSC) has adopted Canada Soccer Association's policies and guidelines for:

- Portable Goal Safety
- Blood
- Jewelry
- Headscarf and Turban
- Players Wearing Casts Policy
- Player Insulin Pump Policy

### **1. PORTABLE GOAL SAFETY**

Serious injuries and fatalities can occur because of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. If not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may topple over. To ensure portable goal safety, the following requirements must be followed:

- A. Goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground.
- B. Portable goalposts must be secured using chain anchors or appropriate anchor weights to prevent them from toppling forward.
- C. Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb, swing on, or play with the structures of the goalposts.
- D. All nets must only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks.
- E. Goalposts which are "homemade" or which have been altered from their original size or construction cannot be used.

Procedures to prevent toppling: Follow manufacturer's guidelines in assembling goalposts. Before use, coaches must test the goals following the procedures below:

- I. Ensure each goal is anchored securely in place.
- II. Exert a significant downward force on the cross bar.
- III. Exert a significant backward force on both upright posts.
- IV. Exert a significant forward force on both upright posts.

## 2. BLOOD

An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the game or training session until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to competition.

## 3. JEWELRY

Players are not permitted to wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players. **No jewelry is allowed on the field:** that includes rings, watches, bracelets (except medical alert bracelets - which must be either made of Velcro or similar soft material, or covered with a sweatband), earrings, necklaces, other visible body piercing, etc.

**The practice of taping jewelry is not acceptable.**

## 4. HEADSCARF AND TURBAN

As outlined in Law 4 of the FIFA Laws of the Game, where head covers (excluding goalkeepers' caps) are worn, they must:

- Be black or the same main colour as the shirt (provided that the players of the same team wear the same colour).
- Be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment; not be attached to the shirt.
- Not be dangerous to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g., opening/closing mechanism around neck); and
- Not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements).

*Other headscarves are also permitted provided the above criteria are met.*

## 5. PLAYERS WEARING CASTS POLICY

This policy is designed to reduce inconsistencies in rulings over players wearing casts. All referees are expected to follow these policies in all matches sanctioned by Canada Soccer.

Law 4 states that a player may not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous [to anyone]. It further states that non-dangerous protective equipment is permitted if it has the sole purpose of protecting the individual physically, providing it poses no danger to the individual or any other player.

Modern protective equipment made of soft, lightweight, padded materials are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

Hard casts are considered to pose a danger to both the wearer and other players and are not permitted to be worn. The practice of padding a hard cast does not reduce the element of danger.

Players wearing a soft cast will be permitted to play if the cast does not present a danger to the individual or any other player.

The referee or Supervisor of Officials (if one has been appointed to the match/tournament) will make the final decision as to the acceptability of any cast.

Any player who uses a cast with the intent to intimidate or injure an opponent shall be sent off.

## **6. PLAYER INSULIN PUMP POLICY**

This policy is designed to reduce inconsistencies in rulings over players with diabetes who wear an insulin pump. All referees are expected to follow these policies in all matches sanctioned by Canada Soccer.

An insulin pump is designed to ensure that the player maintains a proper blood glucose level during the game. An extended period without infusion of insulin may result in hyperglycemia (excess sugar in the blood).

Law 4 states that a player may not use equipment that is dangerous to him/herself or another player. This is further expanded upon in the interpretations of the *Laws of the Game* whereby it is advised that a player may use equipment that has the sole purpose of protecting the individual physically providing that it poses no danger to the individual or any other player. A player wearing an insulin pump because of a medical condition is permitted to play provided he/she has received written medical clearance and is able to provide the referee with a note indicating such. The pump itself must not present a danger to the individual or any other player.