

# Facility & Equipment Safety Policy

Thorold Soccer Club

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and visitors can participate in a safe environment. This policy outlines expectations for the inspection, maintenance, and safe use of facilities and equipment used in club programming.

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## 2. Commitment to Safety

Thorold Soccer Club is committed to:

- Providing safe playing environments for all ages and abilities
  - Maintaining equipment in good working condition
  - Ensuring fields and facilities meet Ontario Soccer and local safety standards
  - Preventing injuries through proactive inspection and reporting
  - Responding promptly to safety concerns
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## 3. Facility Safety Standards

### 3.1 Field & Playing Surface Inspection

Prior to every session (games, practices, clinics), coaches or designated volunteers must inspect the field for:

- Holes, ruts, uneven ground, or loose turf
- Debris (glass, rocks, garbage, sticks, etc.)
- Wet or slippery areas
- Hazardous objects near sidelines (nets, bags, benches, etc.)
- Inadequate lighting (for evening programs)

If unsafe conditions exist:

- Do **not** run the session until hazards are corrected
  - Move to a safe area if possible
  - Report the issue to the club immediately
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## 3.2 Goal Safety

All soccer goals must be:

- Properly anchored (sandbags, stakes, or weighted systems)
- Stable with no damaged frames or sharp edges
- Nets securely fastened and free from rips
- Moved only by adults or trained volunteers
- Never climbed on or used for play

Portable goals must be anchored **before** any player enters the field.

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## 3.3 Indoor Facility Safety

For gyms, domes, or indoor rented facilities:

- Walls or obstacles must be padded or clearly marked
  - Emergency exits must remain unobstructed
  - Floors must be dry and free of hazards
  - Equipment stored safely away from playing areas
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# 4. Equipment Safety Standards

## 4.1 Club-Owned Equipment

Club equipment must be:

- Inspected at the start of each season and regularly thereafter
- Free of defects (damaged balls, broken cones, sharp edges)
- Replaced when worn or unsafe
- Stored securely and safely between uses

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## 4.2 Player Equipment

Players must use appropriate equipment for their age division, including:

- Properly fitted shin guards (mandatory)
- Closed-toe athletic footwear or soccer cleats
- No jewelry (including earrings) during play
- Medical alert bracelets allowed but must be covered

Coaches should verify equipment before sessions begin.

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## 4.3 First Aid & Emergency Supplies

Every program location must have:

- A stocked first aid kit
- Ice packs
- Emergency contact list
- Incident report forms

Coaches must know:

- Where the first aid kit is located
  - Emergency action procedures
  - Facility emergency exits and safety equipment
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# 5. Weather & Environmental Safety

## 5.1 Heat & Air Quality

Programs may be modified or cancelled during:

- Extreme heat
- Poor air quality (e.g., wildfire smoke)
- Humidex values that pose health risks

Coaches must encourage hydration breaks and monitor players.

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## 5.2 Thunder & Lightning

At the first sound of thunder or sight of lightning:

- Stop play immediately
  - Clear the field and move everyone indoors or to vehicles
  - Do not resume play until **30 minutes** after the last thunder sound
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## 5.3 Cold Weather Guidelines

In cold or windy conditions:

- Ensure players wear appropriate layers
  - Limit standing time
  - Cancel sessions if weather presents risk of injury
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# 6. Reporting Safety Concerns

Anyone (volunteer, parent, coach, or player) may report safety concerns involving:

- Facility hazards
- Unsafe equipment
- Environmental issues
- Injuries or near-misses

Reports can be made through:

- Email to the club
- On-field communication with coaches
- Incident report forms

All concerns must be documented and reviewed.

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# 7. Responsibilities

## Club Responsibilities

- Maintain facilities and equipment
- Provide safety guidelines and training
- Conduct seasonal inspections
- Respond to safety reports promptly

## Coach/Volunteer Responsibilities

- Inspect fields and equipment before use
- Report hazards immediately
- Enforce safety rules
- Ensure proper equipment use
- Follow emergency procedures

## Participant/Parent Responsibilities

- Use equipment safely
  - Report hazards or injuries
  - Ensure players arrive with proper gear
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# 8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or when safety standards or Ontario Soccer regulations change.