

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Yukon government sets new rules for movable soccer goals**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon passed a new regulation last week that sets new safety standards for movable soccer goals. The *Movable Soccer Goal Safety Regulation* ensures all Yukoners can safely participate in the sport of soccer.

"The new regulations reflect the Yukon government's commitment to protecting the health and safety of all Yukoners, including children and students," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "The standards will help to ensure the safe installation, inspection, use and maintenance of moveable soccer goals in Yukon."

The regulation applies to any movable soccer goals available for public use that weigh more than 18 kilograms. It requires movable soccer goals to meet the strict manufacturing standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The new standards also include requirements for the size of netting, labelling, storage, usage, inspection, maintenance and anchoring of goals. These standards will ensure that movable soccer goals are set up and anchored properly, reducing the risk of goals tipping and causing injury.

The Yukon government will be investing \$150,000 to replace any of the Department of Education's movable soccer goal equipment that do not meet these standards. The new regulation comes into effect on May 1, with the exception of the requirement that regulated goals meet ASTM standards. As of October 1, all regulated goals in Yukon must meet ASTM manufacturing standards.

"The regulation addresses the recommendations by the Office of the Yukon Chief Coroner and what we heard from many of our partners and stakeholders" Graham added. "We thank everyone for their contributions to this regulation and their dedication to the safety of all Yukoners, especially our students and children."

The *Movable Soccer Goal Safety Act* was passed on May 16, 2013, with interim safety measures put in place by the Department of Education and the Yukon Soccer Association for the use of this equipment. The new regulation is similar to the interim measures and is the result of an extensive public engagement process that took place from April to June 2015 with First Nations governments, Yukon municipalities, recreation and soccer associations, Yukon schools and the Yukon Coroner's Office.

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### **See backgrounder.**

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### **Full list of requirements under the Movable Soccer Goals Safety Act Regulation**

As of May 1, 2016, the following rules and procedures under the Movable Soccer Goal Safety Regulation apply only to movable soccer goals that weigh more than 18 kg:

- The mesh of movable soccer goal nets will need to be 9 cm by 9 cm (3.5" by 3.5") or less.
- Permanent bilingual labels must be affixed to the goal warning:
  - against climbing or hanging on the goal;
  - the goal must be anchored at all times while in use; and
  - if the goal is not secured it could tip over and cause serious injury or death.
- Movable soccer goals must be located on a level surface and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If a goal is used outside, it must be anchored securely to the ground.
- If a goal is used indoors, it must be secured to the floor, to the wall or with weights according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Movable soccer goals being made available for use must be inspected twice per year (once at the beginning of the soccer season and one other time during the year) for structural integrity, proper installation and anchoring and safety label requirements.
- A regulated goal that is not in use or is in storage must be secured in such a way that it is not at risk of tipping and does not otherwise present a hazard.
- Records of inspections, modifications and repairs must be established, maintained and retained by the group or person offering goals for use.

Responsibility for inspections and retaining records may be transferred from the person/group offering a goal for use to the public body that operates the recreational facility where the goal is located.

As of October 1, 2016, regulated goals must meet the manufacturing requirements of the American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM F2950-14 Standard Safety and Performance Specification for Soccer Goals.

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