

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY

Field Safety Policy

1. Purpose

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY, in partnership with local municipalities (e.g., City of Oakville and surrounding communities), is committed to providing a safe playing environment for all athletes, coaches, officials, and families.

As soccer infrastructure continues to evolve with permanent and portable goal systems, it is essential that all participants follow proper safety procedures to minimize risk and prevent injuries.

2. Goal Safety Guidelines

1. Pre-Use Inspection

- Coaches must inspect all goals prior to each training session or game
- Ensure all goals are properly secured and anchored

2. Use of Anchored Goals Only

- Under no circumstances should training or games take place with unanchored or unstable goals
- If unsafe, the session must not proceed

3. Reporting Unsafe Equipment

- Any unsafe goal or equipment must be reported immediately to club leadership
- The club will coordinate with municipal services to resolve the issue

4. Do Not Move Goals

- Goals must not be moved from their designated positions set by municipal parks staff

5. No Climbing or Misuse

- Players and participants must not climb, swing, or hang from goalposts, nets, or crossbars

3. Field Safety Guidelines

1. Field Inspection

- Coaches must inspect the playing surface before use
- Identify hazards such as holes, debris, or uneven surfaces

2. Hazard Reporting

- Unsafe conditions (e.g., damaged fields, exposed hazards) should be documented, including photos where possible

- Reports must be submitted to club leadership for follow-up with municipal authorities

3. Weather-Related Conditions

- Avoid use of fields with standing water, excessive moisture, or unsafe footing
- Modify or cancel activities when conditions present increased risk of injury

4. Reporting and Responsibility

- All members of **OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY** share responsibility for field safety
- Coaches, parents, and players are encouraged to report unsafe conditions immediately
- The club will work with municipal partners to address and resolve issues in a timely manner

5. Commitment Statement

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY is committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety across all training and competition environments.

By following these guidelines and reporting potential hazards, we help ensure a safe, positive, and professional environment for all participants.

Additional Policy Regarding the Session Safety

6. STOP / MODIFY / CANCEL – Safety Decision Guidelines

To ensure consistent and responsible decision-making, coaches and staff of **OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY** must assess conditions before and during every session and take appropriate action using the following guidelines:

STOP (Immediate Action Required)

Activities must be stopped immediately if any of the following are present:

- Unanchored, unstable, or damaged goals
- Lightning or severe weather in the area
- Serious injury requiring medical attention
- Unsafe field conditions (e.g., large holes, debris, broken glass)
- Any situation where participant safety is at immediate risk

Action:

- Stop all activity immediately
- Move participants to a safe area
- Follow Emergency Action Plan (EAP) if required
- Notify club leadership

MODIFY (Adjust Activity to Reduce Risk)

Activities may continue with modifications when conditions present manageable risk:

- Wet or slippery playing surface
- Extreme heat or cold
- Minor field imperfections
- Limited space or shared field conditions

Examples of Modifications:

- Reduce intensity or duration of session
- Increase hydration breaks
- Adjust playing area or drills
- Avoid high-risk activities (e.g., sliding, sprinting on poor surfaces)

Action:

- Inform players and parents of adjustments
- Monitor conditions continuously

CANCEL (Do Not Proceed with Activity)

Sessions must be cancelled if risks cannot be safely managed:

- Persistent lightning or severe weather warnings
- Waterlogged or unsafe field conditions
- Lack of safe equipment (e.g., no anchored goals)
- Insufficient supervision (Rule of Two cannot be met)

Action:

- Communicate cancellation promptly to players and parents
- Reschedule where possible
- Report reason for cancellation to club leadership

Coach Responsibility

Coaches are responsible for making final safety decisions on-site. When in doubt, the decision must always prioritize player safety.

Commitment to Safety

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY supports all staff in making conservative, safety-first decisions. No coach or staff member will be penalized for stopping or cancelling an activity in the interest of participant safety.