Coaches Safety Checklist

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**COACHES CHECKLIST**

Prior to each practice or game coaches and their assistants should develop the habit of a safety check with the goal of promoting a safe environment for both participants and spectators.

**GOAL POST SAFETY**
- Portable goal posts properly secured and anchored and used on level playing fields
- Inspect goal post for sharp corners to include general integrity
- Instruct all players and their parents of the potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals
- Forbid any horseplay by players or members of the general public on or around any goal post
- Remove nets when goals are not in use
- Portable goal posts should only be moved by authorized personnel
- Anchor or chain one portable goal to another or to a nearby fence when not in use

**FIELD SAFETY**
- Inspect for foreign objects
- Check for pot holes, hills/ruts
- Make sure sprinkler heads are seated
- Observe 3’ Restraining Line from Touch Line
- Notify your club and field owners of unsafe field conditions in writing
- Do not allow participation by your players until noted hazards have been corrected

**PLAYER SAFETY**
- Communicate the laws of the game to all players and parents
- Provide proper supervision at all scheduled activities. Prohibit behaviors that do not promote a safe and healthy experience
- Make sure shin guards are covered, jewelry removed and shoes are adequate for field conditions
- Place players together of similar ability
- Establish travel transportation policies for practices and games. Arrange for supervision of players without rides at conclusion of every practice
- Remove immediately all players from fields upon approaching severe weather
- Communicate with all parents your expectations as a coach
- Know location of nearest emergency health care facility. Know of any special medical conditions of your players
- Maintain in your possession first aid kit, phone numbers of parents, medical treatment authorization, and cell phone
- Make sure you or an official on the soccer field has basic first aid training
- Communicate with parents your expectations in promoting a safe environment. Recruit their assistance

**INJURY CLAIMS**
- Maintain a supply of player medical claim forms
- Obtain and record relevant information about an injury to a player and/or spectator
- Don’t leave a player unattended until transferred to health or security personnel in the pre-authorized manner or released at their own request
- Don’t accept or suggest fault for the incident
- Don’t state that medical bills will be paid. Contact your state association or its designated insurance personnel with any questions.
- Always give respect and appropriate attention to the injured person
- Always correct any hazardous situation as soon as reasonable after attending to the injured person

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