



FIELD AND FIELD EQUIPMENT POLICY

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Originator:	D. Hawkins
Checker	I. Toellner
Approver:	C. Craig
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Big Country Soccer Association strives to ensure all venues and facilities, both public and private, utilized by Big Country Soccer Association and its members of parents, players, officials, spectators, and patrons at large are safe, well maintained and in good working condition at all times.

Prior to the commencement of each game coaches are required to walk down the field to look for hazards that may need to be assessed for risk to the players who will be playing their games. If the risk is serious, coaches are to meet with the Match Official to review the hazard and agree on a plan to deal with the hazard.

It is the responsibility of each Big Country Soccer Association member to maintain their playing fields and field equipment such as goals, netting, corner flags (if present) and any other equipment located at the field that players will be accessing and/ or using during their games i.e. benches, etc. throughout the season to ensure player safety.

In the event that any of the following has occurred the reporting procedure is as follows:

- Note in your game report the issue with the facility/ equipment encountered.
- Note in your game report any actions you took to rectify the situation such as removing the debris, cordoning off the area, etc.
- If the conditions are such that the safe operation of the field/ facility/ equipment is not possible without intervention that is beyond your control, you must notify Big Country Soccer Association and postpone any events that have/ are scheduled in the area with the field and equipment.

Soccer Field Checklist

Prior to each practice or game, coaches, Match Officials, and/ or designated volunteers should develop the habit of a field and area safety check. This checklist is designed to be a general guide for all fields. Certain fields will have other specific areas of concern that should be inspected and, if necessary, reported to all visiting teams to that field.

Goal Post Safety:

- Portable goal properly secured and anchored. Confirm anchoring system is not a hazard to participants.
- Permanent goals properly secured and anchored. Confirm anchoring system is not a hazard to participants.
- Inspect goal net and goal post for sharp corners/ edges, loose bolts and general integrity.
- Forbid any horseplay by players or members of the general public on or around any goal post.
- Portable goal posts should only be moved by authorized personnel.



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Field and Area Safety:

- Inspect for foreign objects such as stones, glass, etc.
- Check field for holes, depressions, torn sections (if artificial turf), etc. Notify the member of the home field of unsafe field conditions in writing. Keep a copy for your records. Suggest each home field have a bag of sand that can be used to help fill in holes/ depressions in the field.
- Make sure sprinkler heads are seated if present.
- Observe 3' restraining line from the touch line (coaching area where players are located when not in the field of play). Area must be obstruction free, except for coaches.
- Review fencing, if installed. No climbing to retrieve balls.
- Check bleachers /players benches for safety. Make spectators aware of bleachers that may not be safe.
- Inspect the condition of and access to locker rooms, restrooms, and portable toilets.
- Survey parking lots, concessions, and vendors areas for any obvious hazards. Make spectators and players aware of any hazardous conditions; and notify the member of the home field of unsafe conditions in writing as soon as practical.
- Confirm that the field is accessible to all participants and spectators that are to use the field and/ ro attend the soccer event in support of Big Country Soccer Association's Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-010).

Change of Field Location

In the event that the home field for a scheduled game is unplayable, a reschedule of the game may be considered so long as the Match Official, visiting team, and home team agree that the home field is in a condition that presents a risk to players and must be abandoned.

Big Country Soccer Association is to be notified of a rescheduling of the game which may include a change of field location should the initial field location will remain unplayable.

Reference

Big Country Soccer Association Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-001)

Big Country Soccer Association Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-010)

Big Country Soccer Association Risk Management Guidelines (Ref: BCSA-GUI-002)

Big Country Soccer Association Match Official Guidelines (Ref: BCSA-GUI-003)

Big Country Soccer Association Soccer Equipment Management Guidelines (Ref: BCSA-GUI-004)

Big Country Soccer Association Coaching Guidelines (Ref: BCSA-GUI-006)