

# Force Soccer Academy

Developing confident, inspired, and competitive athletes.

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## Equipment and Safety Policy

November 2023

### I. Purpose

This policy outlines the standards and procedures to ensure the safety and suitability of all facilities and equipment used by Burlington Force Soccer Academy (BFSA). It aims to safeguard the well-being and safety of all participants, including players, coaches, staff, volunteers, and spectators.

### II. Policy Statement

BFSA is committed to providing a safe environment for soccer activities. The Academy recognizes that the condition of playing fields and the quality of equipment are crucial in minimizing the risk of injuries and ensuring a safe playing experience.

### III. Facility Safety

**Field Inspection and Maintenance:** BFSA will regularly inspect and work with the City of Burlington, and owners of our indoor facilities to maintain soccer fields to ensure they are free of hazards such as holes or uneven surfaces that can increase injury risks.

**Emergency Preparedness:** All facilities will have clearly outlined EAP's, including evacuation plans, which will be communicated to all facility users.

### IV. Equipment Safety

**Regular Checks and Maintenance:** BFSA will routinely inspect and maintain all soccer equipment, including goals, balls, and training aids.

**Ball Standards:** Soccer balls that lose their water-resistant qualities will be replaced. Balls appropriate for the age and gender of players will be used.

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## Portable Goal Safety:

- All portable goals must be securely anchored to the ground to prevent toppling.
- Coaches and staff must ensure that goals are never climbed on or swung upon.
- Portable goals must be disassembled and securely stored when not in use.
- Use of plastic hooks or tape is recommended for securing nets, avoiding metal cup hooks.

**Prohibited Equipment:** Homemade or modified goalposts are not permitted due to safety concerns.

## V. Safe Use Guidelines

**Blood and Open Wound Protocol:** Players with bleeding wounds or blood on their uniform must leave the game until the bleeding is stopped, and the uniform is cleaned or changed.

**Jewelry and Accessories:** Players are not permitted to wear jewelry or any items that could be dangerous. Medical alert bracelets must be covered with a soft material.

**Headscarf and Turban:** In compliance with IFAB's decision, head covers must be safe, non-protruding, and match the team's uniform color.

**Players Wearing Casts:** Only non-dangerous protective equipment is permitted. Hard casts are not allowed, while soft casts may be used if deemed safe by the referee or officials.

**Player Insulin Pump Policy:** Players with medical conditions requiring an insulin pump must provide medical clearance and ensure the pump poses no danger to anyone.

## VI. Lightning Safety and Severe Weather

**Weather Safety Protocol:** The "When thunder roars, go indoors" approach will be strictly followed. Activities will be halted at the sound of thunder, and will not resume until 30 minutes after the last thunder rumble.

**Shelter and Evacuation Plans:** Designated safe structures or locations will be identified for each facility.

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## VII. Compliance and Enforcement

**Responsibility:** Coaches, staff, and volunteers are responsible for enforcing these safety protocols.

**Non-Compliance:** Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action.

## VIII. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to ensure the highest safety standards are upheld.

BURLINGTON