

## FIELD INSPECTION AND SAFETY

A thorough inspection of the field by a coach or official prior to the start of every practice or game is essential.

- The dimensions of the field should conform to the specifications established by OSA and indicated in this document.
- The entire playing field should be free of any holes, depressions, raised sprinkler heads and other hazards.
- Clear the field of stones, pieces of glass and other objects or debris.
- Make sure spectator areas are a safe distance from the field of play; a minimum of 5 feet. Do not allow spectators to be on the playing field. Spectators are to be on the opposite side of the field from players and coaches.
- Light stanchions, fence posts, and trees that are near the field of play should be properly cushioned or protected, and always be designated as “out of play” areas. All “out of play” areas should be cushioned or fenced off or, at minimum, marked by paint, cones or chalk lines.
- Portable goals are to be properly installed and fixed as per the manufacturer’s instructions. Following play, the goals are to be chained together and locked or if designed to be dismantled, removed from the playing field.
- If the field is used for other sports, inspect for fixtures or equipment that may have been left by the previous user.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

- NEVER allow players or others to play on, hang from or move the goalposts. Portable soccer goals are prone to tipping over, and have been responsible for catastrophic injuries and fatalities in recent years.
- Determine where the nearest shelter is from the field in the event of serious weather or other emergency conditions. Note that small, open shelters typically found on playing fields or parks will not provide adequate protection in the event of lightning. A house or substantial building offers the best protection from lightning strikes.
- Locate the nearest landline telephone to the field and note its phone number.
- Locate the nearest medical facility, whether on-site or off-site