

Keep It
safe!



HOCKEY NETS

SAFETY MEASURES FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR PLAYING SURFACES



FIELD OF APPLICATION

In order to provide an environment conducive to physical activity, the Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche has evaluated the risk of injury caused by hockey nets tipping forward on players.¹ This document presents the safety measures to be taken according to the types of nets used.

It is important to keep in mind that these measures are intended only for public outdoor playing surfaces, particularly outdoor skating rinks. They do not apply to residential activities or indoor playing surfaces such as gymnasiums and arenas,² which often have a different environment and different equipment and supervision requirements. The recommendations contained in this document can serve, however, as a general reference for indoor playing surfaces.

¹ The Ministère has conducted studies on commercial nets considered standard by the sports community.

² AQAIRS, [Guide de sécurité et de prévention dans les arénas](#), 3rd. ed. (Montréal and Québec City: AQAIRS and MELS, 2013).

RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO TYPES OF HOCKEY NETS³

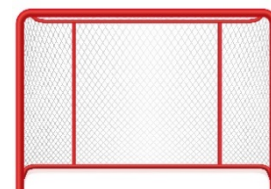
For the purpose of this document, the type of net, its weight and its depth at the base form a whole that cannot be broken down or modified when evaluating the risk of its tipping over.

1. OHA practice net

Weight: approx. 27 kg (60 lb.)

Depth at base: from 45 to 70 cm (18 to 28 in.)

Specific supervisory or storage measures: winter **NO**;
other seasons **NO**.



Comment: This net is recommended specifically for training purposes and for pickup hockey year-round. Although it can be knocked over easily, a child can readily lift it back up and free himself or herself from it if caught underneath. This is also the type of net that hits the playing surface with the least amount of force when it falls over. No specific supervisory or storage measures are recommended for this type of net.

2. NHL hockey net (professional)

Weight: approx. 45 kg (100 lb.)

Depth at base: from 105 to 112 cm (40 to 44 in.)

Specific supervisory or storage measures: winter **NO**;
other seasons **YES**.



Comment: Despite its weight, this net is very stable owing to its depth and the strength required to knock it over. No specific supervisory or storage measures are recommended for the winter season.

In other seasons, safety measures are recommended when the net is in use. It can tip forward on uneven or sticky surfaces, especially if misused as a play structure. As a result, supervisory measures⁴ must be applied when it is in use; storage measures⁵ must be used at other times.

³ Young people aged 7 to 13 took part in tests on the handling of hockey nets.

⁴ See the section "Definition of the concept of supervisory measure."

⁵ See the "Storage recommendations" section.

3. NHL hockey net (college)

Weight: approx. 42 kg (93 lb.)

Depth at base: 86 cm (34 in.)



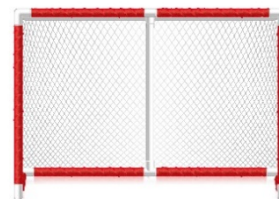
Specific supervisory or storage measures: winter **YES**;
other seasons **YES**.

Comment: Roughly equivalent in weight to a professional NHL hockey net, this type of goal can tip over more easily owing to its depth. In addition to being difficult for a child to lift, this net produces the strongest impact when it falls. For these reasons, supervisory measures are necessary in all seasons. Moreover, this type of goal must be safely stored when not in use.

4. Street hockey, Cosom hockey and gym hockey nets

Weight: 18 kg (40 lb.) or less

Depth at base: variable



Specific supervisory or storage measures: winter **NO**;
other seasons **NO**.

Comment: Made generally of aluminum, PVC or lightweight steel, these types of nets do not require any specific measures. They are, however, less durable than the preceding models.

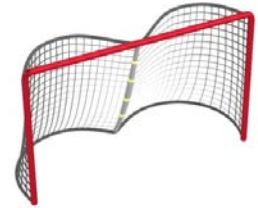
5. All other types of commercial or handmade hockey nets

If a net does not fit into one of the preceding categories in terms of weight or depth at the base,⁶ **supervisory and storage measures must be applied, or the goal must be permanently withdrawn from service.**

⁶ For example, a practice hockey net weighing 47 kg (100 lb.) and with a depth of 45 cm (18 in.); or, an NHL net with a depth of 70 cm (28 in.).

A note on the Art Ross (B-shaped) model

Since these are generally old hockey nets, the weight and depth must be measured accurately. The depth extends from the base of the rear centre post to the opening. If these measurements do not match those in one of the first four categories, supervisory and storage measures must be applied, or the goal must be permanently withdrawn from service.



Moreover, if the base has a point extending from the rear centre post toward the opening, **the net must not be used** because the point could prove to be dangerous if the goal tips backward.⁷

DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT OF SUPERVISORY MEASURE

The term *supervisory measure* is defined as follows: having present, near the playing surface, a person who can react quickly when nets are in use. This could be an employee or a volunteer assigned to the task.

STORAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

If goals must be stored when not in use, they should be removed from the playing surface and padlocked one behind the other to keep them from falling forward.

If this isn't possible, they could be attached to a fixed structure (e.g. a post) outside the playing area. It would be necessary to ensure that the means used to attach the nets could not also result in injury.

It is always better to store nets inside—infrastructure permitting. They should not be put back on the ice too soon after being stored at a temperature higher than that outside because any metal parts that are warmer than the ice will tend to get stuck in the surface.

Finally, if nets are used only in winter, they should be stored for the rest of the year or locked away using the methods described above.



⁷ Regroupement québécois du loisir municipal et Régie de la sécurité dans les sports, *La prévention et la sécurité des aires extérieures de patinage sur glace: Guide de gestion des aires extérieures de patinage sur glace* (RQLM, 1995), p. 22.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

To reduce the risk of nets falling over during handling, pushing them across the ice (using the goalposts, NOT the crossbar) is better than trying to lift them.

It is highly inadvisable to drive the goalposts into the ice, to place ballast at the back of nets during the winter, or to attach nets to a structure when they are on the playing surface. In addition to making nets more difficult to move, these methods can not only increase the number of injuries but make them more serious.

Do not place nets in areas where there is excess water in winter because they will probably get stuck in the ice. To avoid this situation during maintenance, the nets can be taken off the ice or laid at a 45⁰-angle against the boards.

To reduce the seriousness of collision-related injuries on outdoor rinks, nets should not be anchored.

HOW TO REACH US

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CHECKLIST

HOCKEY NETS • SAFETY MEASURES FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR PLAYING SURFACES

Recommendations With Regard to Types of Hockey Nets

Type of net	Weight	Depth at base	Supervision and storage	
			Winter	Other seasons
1. OHA practice net	Approx. 27 kg (60 lb.)	From 45 to 70 cm (18 to 28 in.)	NO	NO
2. Professional NHL net	Approx. 45 kg (100 lb.)	From 105 to 112 cm (40 to 44 in.)	NO	YES
3. NHL college net	Approx. 42 kg (93 lb.)	86 cm (34 in.)	YES	YES
4. Street hockey, Cosom hockey and gym hockey nets	18 kg (40 lb.) or less	Variable	NO	NO
5. All other types of commercial or handmade nets	Variable	Variable	YES	YES

ART ROSS MODEL (B-SHAPED)

- The depth extends from the base of the rear centre post to the goal opening.
- If the base has a point extending from the rear centre post toward the opening, **the goal must not be used.**

SUPERVISION

If necessary, an employee or another designated person must be **near the playing surface** whenever nets are in use.

STORAGE

If necessary, goals must be removed from the playing surface, stacked one behind the other, and locked together. They could also be attached to a fixed structure, or stored indoors.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- In winter, pushing nets across the ice (using the goalposts, NOT the crossbar) is better than trying to lift them.
- It is inadvisable to drive the goalposts into the ice, to place ballast at the back of nets during the winter, or to attach them to a structure when they are on the playing surface.
- To prevent goalposts from sticking in the ice after watering it, they can either be removed from the rink or laid at a 45°-angle against the boards.
- Nets should not be anchored on outdoor rinks.

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