

SOCCER

Step 1: IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS: Let's look at the hazards associated with soccer:

- Location (near the road, free of holes)
- Referees
- Ability of players
- Protective equipment

Step 2: ASSESS THE RISK: Then assess the impact of each hazard in terms of potential loss and severity:

- Could you accidentally run into a hazardous area, sprain an ankle
- More injuries associated with pick up play
- More injuries associated with less experienced players
- Possible shin injuries, fractured ankles, and broken toes

Step 3: MAKE RISK DECISIONS: Once you have identified the hazards and assessed the associated risk, you should develop risk control options. Start with the most serious risk first and select controls that will reduce the risk to a minimum consistent with mission accomplishment. Decide on some controls that can be employed to reduce or mitigate the hazards:

- Lay out of field should be away from roads and inspect field prior to play for hazards
- If possible use referees to control the play
- Play within your ability, remember you're not Mia Hamm
- Only play if you have proper safety gear

With selected controls in place, decide if the benefit outweighs the risk. If risk outweighs benefits or if assistance is required to implement controls, communicate with higher authority in the chain of command. You need to either accept the risk, avoid the risk, reduce the risk, or spread the risk. Do not make dumb decisions.

Step 4: IMPLEMENT CONTROLS: Once you select appropriate controls, implement them! A plan is only good if it is followed.

Step 5: SUPERVISE: As always, the situation is subject to change quickly. Monitor the situation and adjust as necessary to keep things under control. Soccer is a great way to have fun and we all deserve a break every now and then. Use risk management to make your soccer game fun, memorable, and safe. No one wants an outing to turn into a tragedy!
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