



ONTARIO RECREATION
FACILITIES ASSOCIATION INC.

**SUGGESTED GUIDELINES
FOR
ARENA NETS &
PEGS**

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to recreation facility managers, supervisors and operators to ensure that the proper hockey nets are purchased for use in their facilities.

The importance of purchasing nets that meet industry standards will assist you in providing safe equipment for your facility users. As the owner, manager, supervisor or operator of the facility, you have an obligation to ensure the proper net pegs are purchased. You must evaluate the age, size and skill level of your facility participants to determine what net pegs best suit the needs of your facility.

The net pegs that you choose must break away easily enough so that the participants will not get injured upon impact. These net pegs must be stable enough to prevent dislodging every time someone bumps into the net thereby causing an accident to the activity being played. Where a net pegging system is required a suitable system should be used that meets the safety and program needs of your facility.

In our research we found most facilities used several types of net pegs. For example: facilities used gravity/melt in pegs for minor house league hockey, minor rep hockey below midget, adult pick up groups etc. For minor hockey aged players, midget and above, junior hockey, intermediate and organized adult leagues, they were using rubber pegs and or Megg pegs with a #1 setting.

You have a responsibility to review the activities in your facility to assist in making the correct choice of which net pegs to use. It is recommended that each operation have written procedures in their work place for handling and moving nets, net storage and net pegging.

Owners should not permit anyone other than their staff to handle or move nets during their operations. Only referees should be permitted to place the net back to its proper location if dislodged.

A template of the various procedures are listed in this document. As facility managers, supervisors and operators we are accountable when things go wrong. Having the proper procedures in place, purchasing the correct equipment and providing the appropriate training to staff and users go a long way to ensuring the safety of our patrons and staff using our facilities.

The following recommended guidelines would help ensure that the proper hockey nets are purchased for your facility:

- All goal nets will be 6 ft. long and 4 ft. high, inside measurements.
- The goal posts must be 6 ft. (1.83m) apart measured from the inside of the posts.
- They shall extend 4 ft. (1.22m) vertically from the ice surface and a cross bar of the same material as the goal posts shall be extended horizontally from the top of the other posts.
- The goal posts, cross bar and the exterior surface of all other supporting framework for the goal shall be painted red in colour.
- The surface of the base plate inside the goal and supports other than the goal post shall be painted white.

HOCKEY GOAL NETS

Net Construction

- **Goal Posts** - tubing for goal posts should be schedule 40 tubing or .125 wall with post being
- 2 3/8" (60.53 mm) outside diameter (OD).
- **Middle/Centre Frame** - tubing should be 1.313" (33.45mm) outside diameter (1 5/16") and 1.00" pipe inside wall.
- **Lower/Back Frame**- tubing should be 1.84" (46.79 mm) outside diameter and 1 3/8" pipe inside wall.
- **Net Tie Down** - the steel ribble net tie down should be 1/4" diameter with 5/16" high spacing.
- **Net Frames** - it is recommended that all net frames shall be 44" deep. Nets can be purchased with or without top centre support frame.

Netting

- All netting must be professional knotted or knotless and strength should be a minimum of 700lbs. (+ or – 50lbs).
- Net stretch mesh size should be no more than 2.75" inside measurement (+ or – 1/4")
- Netting should be made of 100% braided nylon.
- Netting should be laced (tied) with 1/8" nylon cord.
- Netting must be preshrunk.
- Netting must be white in colour
- Net twine size minimum is 5mm.
- All purchasers of nets must follow manufacturers procedures for tying netting.
- It is strongly recommended that all netting be treated with polymerization (which increases abrasion resistance and increase breaking strength).
- All netting should be purchased to net custom shape and labelled to fit hockey net frames.

Bottom Cushion/Skirting

- Must not weigh more than 12lbs.
- Should be made of white nylon, vinyl or canvas.
- Skate Protector (Net lacing protector)
- Should be of ballistic nylon or vinyl.
- Must be installed according to manufacturer's specifications, using the lacing provided
- Should be white in colour
- Centre post protectors are available to purchase for protection and should be white in colour.

PROCEDURE FOR MOVING HOCKEY NETS

1. **Purpose:** to ensure that the moving of hockey nets on, onto and from the ice is done safely and in such a way as to not create a hazard or injury.
2. **Responsibility/Accountability:**
 - a) Supervisor/Responsibility:
 - Ensure that employees are informed and trained in the proper procedure
 - Maintains employee training records
 - Ensure that proper work procedures and safety equipment are available.
 - b) Employee Responsibility:
 - Accepts training and understands proper procedures
 - Uses the recommended procedure and equipment to do the task
 - Reports to the Supervisor any safety concerns relating to the task or procedure
3. **Procedure:**
 - a) It is recommended that employees do not lift the hockey nets by supporting the complete weight of the hockey net on their neck and/or shoulders.
 - b) To move the net onto the ice, the hockey net should be moved by pushing or pulling along the surface of the ice.
 - c) To remove the hockey net from the ice, one end should be lifted on the edge and then pulled or pushed off the ice. For moving on to the ice, reverse the procedure.
 - d) For movement of the hockey net while off the ice, use the net transporters when available otherwise, the moving of the net(s) should be done by two employees.

PROCEDURE FOR STORAGE OF HOCKEY NETS

Purpose: To store hockey nets, when not in use, in a safe manner as to prevent injury to the public or employees and to prevent damage to the nets.

All hockey nets, when not in use, must be stored in a safe location. If the nets are stored outside of the ice resurfacer room, and are accessible to the public, they must be chained to a wall as to prevent the improper use of them. When there is no location for storage available on a wall, nets **must** be chained facing each other to prevent any access to the

inside of the nets, then stored in a safe location. Please note that if the nets are stored safely in the ice resurfacer room, away from the public, it is not necessary to chain them.

It is strongly recommended that netting, metal frames, bumpers, pads, skirts etc. be inspected daily by facility staff. Make repairs and corrections as required.

Nets must not be stored in front of any emergency exits, points of egress or stairways. Net pegs should be stored in a safe location away from the public.

PROCEDURES FOR PEGGING NETS

Purpose: To ensure safe pegging of ice sport nets.

It is strongly recommended that one of the following net pegging systems be used and purchased from a qualified net manufacturer.

PROCEDURES FOR PEGGING NETS (GRAVITY MELT PIN PEGGING SYSTEM)

1. Pegging shall be completed and installed by properly trained facility staff.
2. It is recommended that you wear the slip-on ice cleats/creepers before walking out onto the ice surface.
3. Make sure that no participants have come onto the ice surface. If this occurs, staff must clear the ice surface prior to continuing with the net pegging procedures.
4. Place the net in its proper location – directly on the goal line and directly centred within the goal crease. It is recommended to have two small markings painted below the ice surface to mark the post locations.
5. Slide the net frame back a few inches from the goal line, and place the net pegs in their proper location (i.e. the post markings, if they have painted below the surface)
6. With your legs shoulder-width apart, bending your knees, and keeping your back straight, lift one post and place it on the peg. Dropping the net on the peg slowly will allow the individual pins to penetrate the ice surface, and locking the peg and net in place.
7. Repeat step 5 for the other post on the net frame.
8. When only one staff is performing procedures, walk down to the other net (using the rink boards as a guide), and follow steps 3 to 5 above to place the pegs on the second net.
9. Lift nets and remove the pegs while the ice is being flooded.
10. Should you have part-time staff on-duty, ensure that they follow these same procedures.
11. Once you (and the other staff) are off the ice, and the ice resurfacer door(s) has been closed, you may permit the participants to come onto the ice surface.

PROCEDURE FOR PEGGING NETS (FIXED POINT PEG)

1. Pegging shall be completed and installed by properly trained facility staff.
2. It is recommended that you wear the slip-on ice cleats/creepers before walking out onto the ice surface.
3. Make sure that no participants have come onto the ice surface. If this occurs, staff must clear the ice surface prior to continuing with the net pegging procedures.
4. Place the net in its proper location – directly on the goal lines and directly centred within the goal crease. It is recommended to have two small markings painted below the ice surface to mark the post locations.
5. Lift nets and remove the pegs while the ice is being flooded.
6. After the goal crease area is flooded, return the net to the goal crease area, and then tap the fixed pegs onto the goal post marks. Once adequate divot is achieved, put the pegs inside the net posts and place the net pegs into the divots. (An alternate and acceptable method is to use hot water in a squeezable bottle to create the divots for the pegs)

PROCEDURE FOR PEGGING NETS (ADJUSTABLE PEGS)

1. The pegging shall be completed and installed by properly trained facility staff.
2. It is recommended that you wear the slip-on ice cleats/creepers before walking out onto the ice surface.
3. Make sure that no participants have come onto the ice surface. If this occurs, staff must clear the ice surface prior to continuing with the net pegging procedures.
4. Place the net in its proper location – directly on the goal lines and directly centred within the goal crease. It is recommended to have two small markings painted below the ice surface to mark the post locations.
5. Lift the nets and remove the pegs while the ice is being flooded.
6. Adjust the peg height to suit the size of players using the ice surface (i.e. use smaller pegs for smaller players, reducing the risk for injury.)

PROCEDURE FOR PEGGING NETS (SPRING LOADED)

1. Pegging shall be completed and installed by properly trained facility staff.
2. It is recommended that you wear the slip-on ice cleats/creepers before walking out onto the ice surface.
3. Make sure that no participants have come on the ice surface. If this occurs, staff must clear the ice surface prior to continuing with the net pegging procedures.

4. Place the net in its proper location – directly on the goal lines and directly centred within the goal crease. It is recommended to have two small markings painted below the ice surface to mark the post locations.
5. Lift the nets and remove the pegs while the ice is being flooded.
6. Using the portable drill, bore holes approximately 1" in depth on the goal post markings, then put the pegs inside the net posts and place the net in the bored holes.

PROCEDURE FOR PEGGING NETS (RUBBER PEGS)

1. Pegging shall be completed and installed by properly trained facility staff.
2. It is recommended that you wear the slip-on ice cleats/creepers before walking out onto the ice surface.
3. Make sure that no participants have come onto the ice surface. If this occurs, staff must clear the ice surface prior to continuing with the net pegging procedures.
4. Place the net on its proper location – directly on the goal lines and directly centred within the goal crease. It is recommended to have two small markings painted below the ice surface to mark the post locations.
5. Lift the nets and remove the pegs while the ice is being flooded.
6. Using the atomizer bottle (weed sprayer), melt holes at the goal post markings, then drop the pegs into the holes and place the goal posts over the pegs.

PROCEDURE FOR PEGGING NETS (MAGNETIC PEGS)

1. The pegging shall be completed and installed by properly trained facility staff.
2. It is recommended that you wear the slip-on ice cleats/creepers before walking out onto the ice surface.
3. Make sure that no participants have come on the ice surface. If this occurs, staff must clear the ice surface prior to continuing with the net pegging procedures.
4. Place the net on its proper location – directly on the goal lines and directly centred within the goal crease. It is recommended to have two small markings painted below the ice surface to mark the post locations.
5. Lift net and remove peg from net, and fill holes with snow while the ice is being resurfaced.
6. After the goal area is complete, move the net back into the crease area.
7. Drill the existing holes 3" deep with a 3/4" auger bit.

8. Place the peg in the drilled hole, ensuring that you have the proper insert for the age group.
9. Return the goal frame onto inserts.

Note: In ringette net pegs are not used. Pegs should not be left or stored on top of the nets. The pegs should be removed from the tops of the nets and stored in the ice resurfacers room.

PROCEDURE FOR PEGGING NETS (MEGG NET SYSTEM)

1. Pegging shall be completed and installed by properly trained facility staff.
2. It is recommended that staff wear the slip-on ice cleats/creepers before walking out onto the ice surface.
3. Make sure that no participants have come on to the ice surface. If this occurs, staff must clear the ice surface prior to continuing with the net pegging procedure.
4. The Megg Net system consists of a powerful magnet which is slipped into each of the front uprights and located with two $\frac{1}{4}$ " hollow headset of screws in each post. The second main component in this system is the steel "base parts" which are installed into the playing surface. The system comes with two special tools – a hole saw mounted on a handle, and a wrench used to rotate the base part if they become difficult to move by hand. Other tools and supplies needed when using this system include: wood chisel, slot screwdriver, 1" H.S.S. drill bit, $\frac{1}{2}$ " drill motor, $\frac{3}{8}$ " cordless drill, dry rags, Vaseline, cardboard disc, and plastic bucket in which to store everything.
5. **Installation:** There are five sets of four base parts, each numerically coded. Although use of this system is primarily used for most senior levels of play, the following information may be useful at some time:
 - Set #1 is for N.H.L., Junior, or Intermediate hockey
 - Set #2 is for Adult, Double A, and Triple A Midgets
 - Set #3 is for Bantam, Midget and Double and Triple A PeeWees
 - Set #4 is for PeeWees
 - Set #5 is for Tyke, Novice, and Atom
 - Locate the floor sockets for the goal nets - these will be found at a break in the goal line 2' 9" in from the inside edge of the goal crease. A discoloration of the ice, either grey or white may pinpoint the location.
 - Using the appropriate size prentice shank H.S.S. bit mounted in the $\frac{1}{2}$ " drill motor, drill a hole with minimum 3" deep through the ice and into the floor socket.

- Using the hole saw provided and centred in the hole just drilled, cut into the ice to a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
- Using the wood chisel, carefully shave away the ice between the drilled hole and the saw cut to a depth (about $\frac{1}{8}$ ") so that the outside edge of the base part will remain about $\frac{1}{8}$ " above the ice surface.
- Make sure the pin (threaded) part of the base parts is well coated with petroleum jelly, and insert it into the hole.

Note: In order to easily find the second floor socket, you may now set the magnetized post onto this base part and rotate the net to the goal line. Where the opposite crosses the line is where the socket is in the floor.

- You should have on hand at least a dozen cardboard discs $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter to cover the holes when the ice is being resurfaced
- During resurfacing, remove the net from the base part by jarring the net up and back. Remove the base part from the ice; replace it with a cardboard disc and pack snow over it.
- After the ice resurfer has resurfaced this area, the discs are removed, the holes towel dried, and using the appropriate prentice shank H.S.S. bit (machined to fit) in the $\frac{3}{8}$ " cordless drill, clean out the drilled hole.
- Replace the base parts and nets.

Note: It is important to keep the base parts well greased and the holes clean and dry. If you do not do this every time, the base parts will freeze into the ice. In this embarrassing situation, you will find yourself struggling with the special wrench to turn the base part while prying up with the screwdriver.

- After each use, the pegging system and accessories should be returned to the pail and stored in their proper location. The $\frac{1}{2}$ " drill motor and $\frac{3}{8}$ " cordless drill are to be returned to their proper location in the shop.