

Risks associated with metal sporting equipment

The collapse of sporting equipment can pose a number of risks and hazards, particularly if persons are within close proximity at the time of failure. Sporting equipment of metal fabrication is susceptible to rust, which can compromise its structural integrity.

The following factors may increase the risk of outdoor metal sporting equipment collapse:

- Weather impacts to external installations
- Proximity to coastline
- Paint and coatings that are peeling exposing the metal to the elements
- Water retention within the frame
- Age of structure, impacts or damage
- Repetitive impacts (i.e. dunking) or inappropriate use (i.e. climbing on or swinging off)
- The structure wobbles when pushed



Who has responsibility for managing the risks?

There is a joint responsibility for managing risk and preventing the collapse of fixed sporting equipment:

- The Department is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy work environment.
- The Principal or their delegate is responsible for identifying, assessing, and controlling hazards in consultation with health and safety representatives and employees.
- Employees must exercise reasonable care for their own and others' health and safety.

What are schools to do?

To ensure the safety of students and staff, it is advisable to:

- Ensure that regular / timely inspections are undertaken to assess structural integrity. Confirm inspections are added as a control measure during the [CARA process](#).
- Apply the relevant [CARA Guidelines](#) for managing risks in different sporting activities.
- Notify your [Regional Infrastructure Advisor](#) if fixed sporting equipment is identified in poor condition.

Further Information

For information specific to [Basketball Equipment](#) refer to the relevant design standard before installation or modification of basketball equipment.

If you require more information contact infrastructure.safety@qed.qld.gov.au.