

Health and Safety Hazard Alert

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Volleyball Post Ratchet Winch



1 HOW IS THE WINCH USED?

The winch is fixed to volleyball posts for raising (tensioning) and lowering volleyball nets.

2 WHAT IS THE HAZARD?

If the handle is released during use, it can spin backwards with great speed and force with the potential to hit the operator.

3 WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

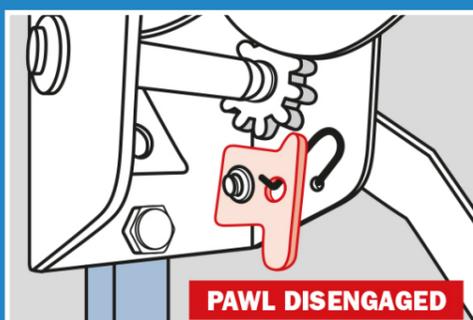
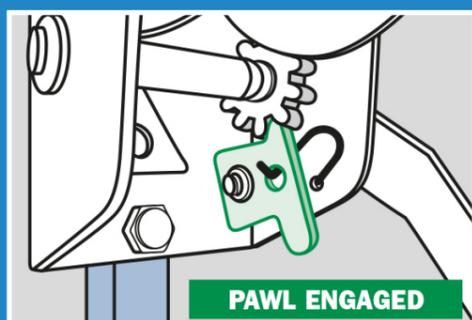
The consequences of the winch hazard could be very serious depending on which part of the body is hit, how hard impact is and how many times impact is made. A person could sustain serious or even fatal injury if hit in the head.

4 HOW WAS THE HAZARD IDENTIFIED?

A student sustained a serious injury while winding the winch. The handle slipped out of the student's hand and spun back into the student's face several times, causing serious facial injury.

5 WHAT ARE THE CONTROLS?

- Posts, nets and winch equipment should be checked for damage before play commences and removed from use where necessary.
- Winch handles on posts should be removed before play commences. Non-removable winding equipment on posts should be padded.
- Where students are involved in using a winch-tensioning device, they should be given instructions in accordance with this Hazard Alert, on the safe use of this equipment.
- Consideration should be given to the suitability of the student/s for using a winch-tensioning device. The following should be considered:
 - strength of student to control handle under tension.
 - height of student – it is recommended that the winch base be lower than shoulders of operator.



- Keep body **CLEAR** of winch and handle
- **DO NOT** allow handle to spin out of control
- **DO NOT** release handle unless pawl is properly engaged
- **DO NOT** disengage pawl unless handle is held firmly

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

This hazard alert and others are available at the 'Creating Healthier Workplaces' website.