



GOALPOST SAFETY GUIDELINES

Updated June 2008

The Football Association, along with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Health and Safety Executive and the British Standards Institution, would like to draw your attention to the following guidelines for the safe use of goalposts.

Too many serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future

1. For safety reasons goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground
 - Portable goalposts must be secured as per the manufacturer's instructions; this is also a requirement for the Laws of the Game.
 - Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goalposts;
 - Particular attention is drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may overturn; and
 - Regular inspections of goalposts must be carried out to check that they are properly maintained.
2. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should *either* be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage, *or placed together and suitable fixings applied to prevent unauthorised use at any time.*
3. The use of metal cup hooks on *any part of a goal frame* was banned from the commencement of season 2007/08 and match officials have been instructed not to commence matches where such net fixings are evident for safety reasons. Nets *may* be secured by plastic *fixings, arrow head shaped plastic hooks* or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced. New goalposts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks.
4. Goalposts which are "home made" or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries.
5. There is no BS/CEN standard for wooden goals and it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test. The FA recommends that wooden goals should be replaced when necessary with compliant metal, aluminium or plastic goalposts. All wooden goals previously tested by independent consultants have failed strength and stability tests.

For reference, you should note that The FA and BSI, in conjunction with the industry, have developed two standards for goalposts – BSEN 748 (2004) and BS 8462 (2005). It is strongly recommended that you ensure that all goals purchased comply with the relevant standard. A Code of Practice BS 8461 has also been completed and copies of all of these three standards are available from the British Standards Institution.

Funding for replacement goals is available via the Football Foundation and eligibility criteria and further details can be obtained on their web site – www.footballfoundation.org.uk

The FA together with representatives from the industry, sports governing bodies and Government have prepared guidance notes for pitch users and pitch providers, which summarise the key priorities of the BSI's Code of Practice and provide further details on the information included above. These details are featured within the grassroots section of The FA's website – www.TheFA.com.

REMEMBER TO USE GOALPOSTS SAFELY AT ALL TIMES



The Football Foundation have released a goalpost safety scheme to offer financial support to replace unsafe goals.

Goals eligible for replacement:

- pre-1996 i.e. before British Standards were produced
- metal cup hooks on posts and crossbars
- wooden
- freestanding
- Mini-Soccer goals which are now incomplete
- corroded or rusted

Note: *Free standing training goals are not eligible.*

Grant Ceiling

An individual grant cannot exceed 50% of the cost of a pair of goals up to a ceiling of £1,500. An applicant (such as a local authority) may apply for up to a maximum of 10 grants (the grants may apply to one site or several).

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from FA affiliated clubs, local authorities, schools (that demonstrate commitment to football and FA Charter Standard), local community groups and clubs in the National League System Step 7 and below.

Who cannot apply?

Professional clubs including their Academies and Centres of Excellence; clubs that do not have an open membership policy, clubs in the National League System Steps 1 to 6 and commercial operators are all ineligible to apply.

Goals may be purchased using the suitable suppliers. Any goal purchased from any other source outside of this will be deemed ineligible for funding.

An applicant can only use their grant to purchase all of their goals through one of the "suitable" suppliers. Orders cannot be split between suppliers.

The application must be approved before order and purchase of replacement goals.

Goals when purchased should be assembled and installed in accordance with the suppliers instructions.

Guidance and advice

Applications must be sanctioned by Cambridgeshire Football Association; photographic evidence of the need must be supplied with the application, and following installation there must be evidence that the goals being replaced are destroyed.

The FA has produced guidance notes to assist applicants with the process of checking the standard of goals. These can be accessed at:

www.thefa.com/GrassrootsNew/Facilities/SafetyAndRegulations/Postings/2004/02/GoalPostSafety

Application Packs

These can be obtained from Cambridgeshire Football Association, or the Football Foundation web site (www.footballfoundation.org). Completed forms with appropriate evidence of need must be sent to Cambridgeshire Football Association as the first step in the application process.

Contact Jim Hill, County Development Manager on 01223 209034 for help and support for the application process.