

FW: GOALPOST SAFETY GUIDELINES 2013-2014

2 days ago 12:21 PM

From John Treacy

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Subject: GOALPOST SAFETY GUIDELINES 2013-2014

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LEAGUES & CLUBS GOAL POST SAFETY GUIDELINES 2013/14

Dear League Secretary,

Can you please as a matter of "Priority" bring the **below guidance on " GOAL POST SAFETY GUIDELINES 2013/14"** to the attention of all your members and emphasise the importance of ensuring that your goal posts are safe, secure and pass Health and safety regulations.

. Can you please **pay particular attention to sections 3, 4 & 5.**

Your goalposts whilst not in use must always be safe, secured away when not in use, or "**made safe at all times**" if not able to be stowed away in a safe and secure place!!

Please remember we have a duty to safeguard everyone including those not involved with our organisations and around our facilities and Equipment!!

" IT IS A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY"!!!

Kind Regards

John.

GOALPOST SAFETY GUIDELINES 2013-2014

GOALPOST SAFETY GUIDELINES

Updated May 2013

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.

Several 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 or have a weighted back bar.
 - 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 be either 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 under any circumstances as they potentially pose a serious safety risk
 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) BS 8461:2005 +A1: 2009 and BS 8462: 2005 +A2: 2012. 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 BSI.

Funding for the replacement of unsafe goals is available via the Football Foundation and eligibility criteria and further details can be obtained from their website.

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 facilities section of The FA's website – www.TheFA.com

REMEMBER TO USE GOALPOSTS SAFELY AT ALL TIMES

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