

ARKLOW TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



ESSENTIAL GUIDANCE ON GOALPOST SAFETY



BRIDGEWATER CENTRE PARK, LAMBERTON, ARKLOW, CO WICKLOW

GUIDANCE ON GOALPOST SAFETY

TEAM MANAGERS AND COACHES MUST FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THIS VITALLY IMPORTANT ISSUE AND STRICTLY FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES PROVIDED.


Research conducted in recent years indicates that many goal frames used in Ireland and the UK are unsafe because they are improperly designed, manufactured, or installed. Regretfully on some occasions the goal frames have resulted in child fatalities along with a large number of injuries requiring hospitalisation. Many of the deaths were caused by the goal frames tipping over on to the victim. Others resulted from the mechanical failure of improperly designed or maintained crossbars. The primary difficulties identified included unstable goal frames and goals which were either unanchored or incorrectly weighted or counterbalanced.

Following the publication of a goalpost survey undertaken by the State Claims Agency in Ireland in 2003, the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), in conjunction with the National Governing Bodies for Sport in Ireland, put together comprehensive standards for the manufacture, procurement, installation, maintenance, inspection and storage of goalposts.



In February 2008 the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) published “**Goalpost Safety Guidelines**” and it is imperative that all Managers and Coaches become familiar with the contents. We must all remember that goalposts are not toys and they must only be used for the purpose of playing matches and coaching. Except for nets, appendages of any description must not be attached to goalposts. Portable or demountable goalposts must be adequately secured as per manufacturers instructions and when not in use must be stored in a secure and safe environment.

FAI Goalpost Safety Guidelines

- 1 Before use, ensure that the goalpost is secured at all times by means of the appropriate supplied anchoring system. This applies to all posts whether they are fixed, portable or freestanding. All goalposts should be anchored, weighed, pinned, chained, pegged or otherwise made secure so as to prevent overturning.
- 2 Before assembly of equipment, check that it is not damaged and that it is fit for use. Check for damages to nets, joints and that locking devices are in good working condition.
- 3 Check that all fixings are secure and that all pivot points are in good condition and are lubricated where recommended.
- 4 Check that the equipment for securing the product is intact and in good working order.
- 5 When tall and / or heavy equipment is being erected or assembled it is recommended that heavy lifting equipment is used and that the correct tools for the job are used at all times. Assembly and erection of goals must be carried out by a sufficient number of persons. Never try to assemble large and / or heavy products with only one person.
- 6 When dismantling goalposts follow the assembly instructions and recommendations. Ensure all ground sockets have been suitably blanked off when goalposts have been taken out to eliminate any trip hazards.
- 7 Portable goals should be dismantled or removed to a secure area when not in use following recommended storage instructions.
- 8 Moving: If a piece of equipment must be moved, and no transportation wheels are provided, the equipment must be lifted by a sufficient number of competent persons to prevent injury and to prevent damage to the product. You should never attempt to move a goal frame as per this image.
- 9 In order to comply with safety standards, Sports Facilities owners are obliged to remove from use any damaged goods immediately. Regular maintenance of equipment is essential to ensure that it is fit for its purpose. Thoroughly inspect the goals at least once a month for damage and remove goals from use until any damaged parts have been replaced. It is strongly recommended that before every match or training situation that the

goalposts need to be checked for any damage and also to ensure that they are secure, safe and ready for use.

- 10 Goalposts and equipment should comply to current Safety Standards IS356:2007, IS357, ISEN748, EN750 and BS8462:2005. All products should carry a manufacturer's label and a safety warning. It is recommended that a Safety Officer / Officers should be appointed at all clubs and schools to oversee these guidelines and any other precautions that may be deemed necessary for safety.



GOALPOST SAFETY

MANAGERS - PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

CHECK IT - Make sure your goalposts are in good condition and properly constructed. Homemade goalposts must not be used - they do not have built in safety features and may be particularly hazardous for younger children.

SECURE IT - Goalposts of any size must be anchored securely to the ground according to manufacturer's instructions. Portable goals must be pinned or weighted down to prevent them from overturning. Portable goalposts should be removed from the pitch when not in use and stored securely.

TEST IT - Before use, adults should test the goalposts to make sure they are stable. If you are unsure of the safety of your goalposts you should have them tested professionally.

RESPECT IT - Respect your equipment. Goalposts are not designed for gymnastic displays. So don't swing on the crossbar.

ARKLOW TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB, IN PROVIDING GUIDELINES, DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO GIVE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE IN RELATION TO THESE ISSUES. ANY PARTY WITH A LEGAL QUERY SHOULD SEEK APPROPRIATE LEGAL ADVICE ON THE ISSUES CONCERNED.