

# GOALPOST SAFETY

make safety your goal

## CHECK IT! →

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

## SECURE IT! →

Goalposts of any size must be anchored securely to the ground according to manufacturer's instructions. Portable goalposts 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 cross bar.



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# GOALPOST SAFETY

## play your part



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# “The Football Association of Ireland ...

## is working closely with goalpost suppliers to set new standards in goalpost safety”

Over a period of 2 years the NSAI in conjunction with the National Governing Bodies for Sport in Ireland have put together comprehensive standards for the manufacture, procurement, installation, maintenance inspection and storage of Goalposts.

The Football Association of Ireland has drawn on best practice from around the world to set new standards in goalpost safety.

This leaflet sets out safety guidelines for the use of goalposts, information on where to source new goalposts, and 4 golden rules to make safety your No. 1 goal.



## Goalpost Standards

All Goalposts must be manufactured to the NSAI Goalpost Standards IS 356, IS 357, IS EN 748.

All Goalposts used in matches played under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Ireland must comply with Goalpost Safety Standards.

Clubs, Leagues or Affiliates of the Football Association of Ireland when purchasing Goalposts must only purchase from a manufacturer who complies with the Goalpost Safety Standards. Advice on recommended manufacturers may be attained by contacting the Football Association of Ireland @ 01-8999500.

Goalposts are not toys. Goalposts must only be used for the purpose of playing matches and coaching. Except for Goalnets, 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 Coaches and Referees are instructed in Goalpost Safety.

NSAI Goalpost Safety Standards have been issued to all FAI Affiliates and Leagues. The Goalpost Safety Standards may be accessed at [www.fai.ie](http://www.fai.ie) or by contacting the Football Association of Ireland @ 01-8999500.



## 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 free-standing. All goalposts should be either 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.
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 training or match situation that the goalposts need to be checked for any damage and also to ensure that they are secure, safe and ready to be used.**
10. Goalposts and equipment should comply to current Safety Standards IS 356:2007, IS 357, ISEN 748, EN 750 and BS 8462:2005. All products should carry a manufacturers label and a safety warning. It is recommend that a safety officer /officers should be appointed at all schools and clubs to oversee these guidelines and any other precautions that may be deemed necessary for safety.



