

Wednesday 11 August 2010.

10/04

## GOALPOST SAFETY REMINDER

As the Summer Football season approaches and preparations commence, the safety of everyone involved in football, both indoors and outdoors, remains paramount. In conjunction with the Football NSW 'Goalpost Safety Policy' and 'Australian Standard 4866.1 Playing Field Equipment – Soccer Goals' regarding the manufacture, use and safe storage of goalposts and 'NSW Office of Fair Trading Act 1987' we remind all Clubs and Associations of the requirements to abide by these applicable safety aspects regarding the use of goalposts.

Prior to the use of any portable goalposts, match day organisers are required to check the goalpost structure to ensure that it is secured or pegged down with a minimum of either **10 x 300mm stakes** or **10 x bags of cement** and is safe for use. It is essential that the structure's stability and anchoring has been correctly established prior to commencement of any usage.

Therefore please ensure that

1. ALL goalposts, whether fixed or portable, large or small, are properly secured and anchored and are stable **AT ALL TIMES**. This includes their surface positioning.
2. Portable goalposts must be pegged, pinned or weighted down by the use of stakes, pegs, sleeves, chain anchors or appropriate weights such as sandbags or cement bags to prevent the structure from overbalancing or falling.
3. Outdoor goalposts should be secured by one of the following formats and a minimum of three (3) anchor points in compliance with NSW Office of Fair Trading Act 1987 as follows:
  - Steel stakes or 'J' Hook style pegs. Sufficient stakes or hooks are required to support each goal, taking the size of the goalpost into consideration. Minimum of 10 stakes for a full size goal.
  - Anchors can fit over a ground bar with staking holes for steel pegs or spiral styled screws, which secure fully into the ground.
  - A semi-permanent anchor requires that the main support is a permanently secured base that is buried underground to connect the underground base to the goal.
4. For both indoor goals and outdoor goals, where the ground surface cannot be penetrated, sandbags or counterweights should be utilised. The number of bags required to support the structure should be adequate and relative to the size of the goal. 12 Bags of sand or 10 bags of cement for a full size goal.
5. Portable goalposts should **NOT** be left in place after use – they should be safely moved to a place of secure storage or chained appropriately to a fixed and non moveable object.
6. In accordance with Australian Standard AS4866.1 goalposts should not be fitted with metal hooks. Nets should only be secured by plastic hooks, tape, net hooks or another safer alternative. Net pegs should only be used to anchor a net and not be used to anchor the actual goal structure.
7. All portable goalposts should be affixed with a Warning notice or sticker that warns of the dangers of portable goalposts. Children or adults should never be allowed to climb, swing or play on goalposts or goal netting as it may cause severe harm, permanent injury or even death.

