

# CIRCULAR



Thursday 24 March 2011.

## GOALPOST SAFETY POLICY

In the sport of football, the safety of everyone involved and playing both indoors and outdoors, remains paramount. In conjunction with 'Australian Standard 4866.1-2007 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 and storage of goalposts.

Prior to the use or erection 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, **12 x bags of sand** 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 once erected or relocated and 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 and safe for use **AT ALL TIMES**. This includes the goals 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 or sleeved anchoring 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 used. 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 when not in use.
6. **Metal or steel net hooks are not permitted** on goalposts. In accordance with Australian Standard AS4866.1 goalposts must not be fitted with metal net hooks. Nets should only be secured by tape, velcro, plastic net clips or another safer alternative. Net pegs should only be used to anchor a net and not to anchor any goal structure.
7. **Warning Stickers or a printed Warning Notice must be affixed to or printed on all portable goalposts** in accordance with Australian Standard AS4866.1 – 2007 to warn 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.
8. Where possible all clubs and associations should complete the FNSW Goalpost Safety Compliance form and return to their respective Association or Football NSW.