

GOAL POST & FIELD SAFETY GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION: Highfield Grange Football Club is committed to a safety culture that ensures the protection of our players at any level. Safety is of paramount importance as in all walks of society whether at home, work or play but is reliant on all the person's involved playing their part to ensure adequate standards and policing is maintained on all equipment used in our football activities.

GOAL POST SAFETY

Highfield Grange FC support and have adopted the football Association five checks to help make safety our goal, which are :-

- 1) For safety reasons goal posts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or training venue) must always be anchored to the ground.
 - Portable goals must be secured as per the manufacturer's instructions or by the use of chain or appropriate anchor weights to stop them toppling forward.
 - Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goal posts that might affect the integrity of them.
 - Particular attention is drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goal posts may overturn
 - Regular inspection of goal posts must be carried out to check that they are properly maintained*. Any damaged sections are to be replaced immediately. The club is fortunate that it has spare parts from previous goal sets no longer used.
- 2) Portable goal posts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a safe place of storage.
- 3) Nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks ** should be removed and replaced. New goal posts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks that cannot be replaced with another type of securing / fixing system.
- 4) Goal posts which are a "home made" variety
- 5) There is no BS / CEN or PAS standard for wooden goals

NOTES : * Club Team Officials should not take it for granted that hired (from a venue) or provided by a league or any other body on field that they play on is in good order. Team official should test (see below) the integrity of the goal before playing.

** Highfield teams coming across this type must inform the local authority Leisure Trust or any other body that use this type of fixing to ensure that it is removed. Attention should be brought to the referee and opposition officials of the type of fixing and the H & S implications before the match commences. After the match the game sheet should be completed with reference to the type of fixing being used at the ground for future action to be followed by the appropriate body.

HIGHFIELD GRANGE FC GOOD PRACTICE FOR POST SAFETY

- ✓ Assemble goals in line with the manufacturer's instructions;
- ✓ Ensure that the goals are adequately secured in place;
- ✓ Test by exhibiting a horizontal down force on the cross bar and both posts;
- ✓ Test by exhibiting a vertical force on the cross bar and posts

If any concerns over the equipment - do not use it and report it to a club committee person immediately !

Remember the FA's "four golden rules " of :-

Check it !- Secure it ! – Test it ! & Respect it !

FUTURE PURCHASING OF EQUIPMENT : The FA and the British Standards Institute (BSI) have developed a standard (PAS 36: 2000) which should be marked on approved goal posts etc to aid anyone buying equipment

REMEMBER TO USE ALL EQUIPMENT SAFELY (NOT JUST GOAL POST S) AND WITH RESPECT AT ALL TIMES, JUST AS IT BELONGED TO YOU!

FIELD SAFETY

DOG FOULING : Dogs are banned from the club's own private field at Oldham's Fold but this is not the case on other local authority fields that the club teams might play on. Unfortunately, the council operates a "open field " policy meaning that anyone can access any council owned open spaces land at all times and particularly football fields which sometimes you cannot help think that they are looked on open toilets by people for their pets.

Dogs are in general friendly animals, providing much comfort and enjoyment to their owners, and rather than condemn dogs in general.

Dogs, in themselves, are not a problem. It is the lack of control, by a small minority of owners, which causes problems. However this minority does present potential health and safety problems in areas designated for recreation and children's playing.

Dogs and their mess on football fields represent a major health and injury hazard:-

- Toxocariasis - a rare infection caused by roundworm parasites, most commonly found in cats, dogs and foxes faeces.
- Children and young adults are usually affected due to contact with contaminated soil or sand within play areas by swallowing the infected egg.
- There is evidence that dogs can also carry E.coli and hepatitis in their faeces.
- There are over 7,000 admissions to hospital for dog bites and attacks annually in the U.K. and under 10's were most likely to be admitted. (NHS Digital info)

Even where poo bins are provided on leisure facilities, they are ignored totally or even those who do half the operation in bagging the poo, just drop it on the pavement (see photo) for a mythical poo fairy to come along and deal with it.



The dog faeces besides being unpleasant if you land in them can be very dangerous to our players as demonstrated by the above facts.

Good practice would be for home teams (possibly parents) to sweep the field for dog fouling prior to a game starting with plastic bags to collect- up the fouling, then turn the bag inside out, knot it and then dispose of it. The club realises that this is a not pleasant thing to do but the safety of our players must come first. It is also distressing for young players to end up with it on them.

CORNER FLAGS : Although the poles made of robust PVC material these days they are prone to break – never put a broken one back in the ground or facing upwards with jagged edges exposed. N.B Corner flags should be a minimum of 1500 mm high – FA Rule One

PITCH LINE STAKES : It is now mandatory in the leagues which the club teams play in to provide a barrier between the spectators and the touch line, to stop encroachment onto the field of play. The fairly robust plastic stakes that are used by the club - can like the corner flags be prone to break and any defective ones noticed when setting the line out or breaking before and during the game should be removed and replaced either straight away or later.

The rope rolls involved with above should be position at the end of the line to avoid being a trip hazard.