

GOALPOST SAFETY POLICY

1. Leighton United Football Club is fully committed to implementing the Football Association goalpost safety guidelines in the current edition of The FA Handbook.
2. For safety reasons goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground and have a weighted back bar.
 - Portable goalposts must be secured as per the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goalposts.
 - Goal frames will always be properly assembled and secured to prevent toppling over.
 - Regular inspections of goalposts will be carried out to check that they are properly maintained.
3. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should either be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage or placed together and suitable fixings applied to prevent unauthorized use at any time.
4. The use of metal cup hooks on any part of a goal frame has been banned by the Football Association. For safety reasons match officials should not start matches where such net fixings are evident. Nets should be secured using plastic fixings, arrowhead shaped plastic hooks or tape. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced.
5. Goalposts which are 'home made' or which have been altered from their original size or construction will not be used under any circumstances as they potentially pose a serious safety risk. Similarly wooden goal frames will not be used.
6. New goalposts will be acquired from reputable suppliers and which comply with the latest editions of BS EN standard 748 and BS EN standard 16579 and Football Association guidelines.
7. Guidelines to prevent toppling:
 - i. Follow manufacturer's guidelines in assembling goalposts.

- ii. Before use, adults should:
- Ensure each goal is anchored securely in its place.
 - Exert a significant downward force on the cross bar.
 - Exert a significant backward force on both upright posts.
 - Exert a significant forward force on both upright posts.

These must be repeated until it is established that the structure is secure. If not, alternative goalposts or pitches with acceptable goalposts must be used.