

ESSENTIAL GUIDE #4: GOALPOST SAFETY

WHAT IS GOALPOST SAFETY?

Goalpost safety should be of paramount importance for all rugby clubs and this short one-page guide offers advice as to how clubs can manage this in an effective way. For the purposes of this guide, the safety process has been broken into four distinct sections:

- Procurement
- Installation
- Maintenance
- Risk Assessment



INSTALLATION

Always install rugby posts as per the manufacturer's guidelines. Check when purchasing posts that the manufacturer's installation instructions will be provided. If installation instructions are not available this is an indication that you are not dealing with a reputable supplier. Many rugby clubs choose to install rugby posts themselves and this is a perfectly acceptable solution as long as all health and safety standards are achieved and a comprehensive risk assessment has been carried out in preparation. Private contractors may charge in the region of £2,000-£3,000 to install goalposts as it is a labour intensive job.

PROCUREMENT

Always purchase rugby posts from a reputable manufacturer. When purchasing from a retailer always find out the name of the manufacturer and don't be afraid to ask for references or examples of other clubs that have purchased and installed their posts. Never consider using homemade goalposts.

MAINTENANCE

Carry out regular maintenance on your rugby posts as per the manufacturer's guidelines. Check when purchasing posts that the manufacturer's maintenance instructions will be provided. If maintenance instructions are not available this is an indication that you are not dealing with a reputable supplier. The RFU recommends hinged goalposts as these enable the posts to be raised and lowered simply and safely and make the maintenance of posts a much more straightforward task. If appropriate maintenance is carried out the lifecycle of the posts will be extended.

RISK ASSESSMENT

It is vitally important that all rugby posts are regularly risk assessed in line with the club's health and safety and risk assessment policies. The RFU has an online guide to risk assessments including a goalpost safety risk assessment demonstration video. The key elements to this are:

- Check the stability of the uprights and ensure they fit tightly into the ground sockets
- Check for weak spots in the uprights
- Check that the cross bar is connected to the uprights securely
- Check for weak spots in the cross bar
- Check for protrusions and sharp edges, especially where the crossbar joins the uprights.
- Check that bolts & connectors are safely concealed, including ground sockets
- Check for wear & tear and any rust
- Monitor the stability of the posts in high winds
- Keep a record of each risk assessment for reference

DON'T FORGET

Always use rugby post padding for any activity including warm ups and training; not just for matches.



Please note: whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this guide, any party who makes use of any part of this document in support of rugby post safety shall indemnify the Rugby Football Union (RFU), its servants, consultants or agents against all claims, proceedings, actions, damages, costs, expenses and any other liabilities for loss or damage to any property, or injury or death to any person that may be made against or incurred by the RFU arising out of or in connection with such use.

MORE INFORMATION

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