

Goal Post Safety

**General Maintenance & Safety
Recommendations for Sports
Ground Equipment**

Goal Post Safety

General Maintenance & Safety Recommendations
for Sports Ground Equipment



Goal post safety is an emotive issue and one that we have always taken very seriously here at Harrod Sport. As the UK's leading manufacturer of goals, posts and nets, we are fully committed to designing and manufacturing industry leading designs that have widely become the standard in our marketplace.

As both a founding member and UK representative of the Comité de Européan Normalisation (CEN) Safety Standards Committee since 1989 we are passionate advocates for goal post safety, striving to educate and change the culture of procurement and more importantly the use of unsafe goals that have sadly been responsible for many fatal injuries.

We have *Set the Standard* for goal post safety documentation and have designed a goal post safety information pack to accompany every goal that leaves our factory. This pack can also be downloaded by clicking on the image to the right hand side of this page. Our aim for the information packs is to provide you with important facts and guidelines to help ensure your equipment is safe both in use and whilst being stored.

Our range of "Original Self Weighted goals" was a game changer in terms of safety. Our aim was to design a goal that required no any additional anchorage to conform to EU standards as well as more importantly being safe to use at all times. The concept we developed has now been widely adopted as the industry standard and we are rightly proud that our designs have contributed to making our sports fields a safer place to enjoy sport.

Wherever there is an EU standard, you can be assured that every Harrod Sport product has been independently tested and certified to the latest relevant safety standard by a UKAS accredited test house.

We are continually innovating and improving our range to ensure you have absolute confidence with their safety, performance and durability.

***Setting the standard,
leading the field***

Goal Post Standards

General Maintenance & Safety Recommendations for Sports Ground Equipment



British Standard for European Normalisation BS EN 748

Applicable for socketed and freestanding metal football goals measuring 7.32m x 2.44m and 5m x 2x. Elbow Net Supports to be supplied as per National Playing Fields recommendations.

Testing - Strength Test

The crossbar must be tested for strength. To pass this test they must be able to withstand a verticle force of 180kg applied to the middle of the crossbar for 1 minute. The crossbar should then not have a permanent deformation of more than 10mm max after 30 minutes have elapsed.

Testing - Stability Test

The goals must undergo a stability test where a horizontal force of 110kgs is applied to the centre of the crossbar and the goal must remain stable and not topple over. The net must be tested for breaking force and be a maximum 120mm square mesh.

Instructions

All manufacturers must provide written instructions for assembly, installation, use, storage, maintenance and anchorage.

Warning Label

All goals must have labels bearing safety information and the goals intended use. Manufacturers must show the standard it conforms to, its size, the name of the manufacturer and the year of manufacture.

THESE POSTS MUST BE ANCHORED AT ALL TIMES SWINGING ON CROSSBAR CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY



THIS 7.32x2.44m FOOTBALL GOAL CONFORMS TO: **BS EN 16579:2018**
PROVIDING IT IS ANCHORED/ INSTALLED TO THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

- THIS GOAL IS INTENDED TO BE USED FOR FOOTBALL AND NO OTHER PURPOSE
- ENSURE THAT THIS GOAL IS SECURED AT ALL TIMES BY MEANS OF THE APPROPRIATE ANCHORING SYSTEM WHEN IN USE AND IN STORAGE
- DO NOT AFFIX APPENDAGES TO PARTS OF THE GOAL FRAME THAT COULD AFFECT THE SAFETY OF THE GOAL
- DO NOT CLIMB, HANG OR SWING ON THE NET OR GOAL FRAMEWORK



WEIGHT OF GOAL (WITH 2.5mm NET)
41KG



Harrod UK

LBL180 SPARE PARTS AND GUIDANCE ON GOALPOST SAFETY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:
WWW.HARROD.UK.COM MANUFACTURED IN 20XX

MADE IN THE UK 

All Harrod Sport Senior Goals have been in-house tested or independantly by a recognised testing house and conform to BS EN 748. Certificates of conformity are sent with all goals.

Goal Post Standards

General Maintenance & Safety Recommendations for Sports Ground Equipment



British Standard for European Normalisation BS EN 16579

Applicable for socketed and freestanding football goals measuring 6.4m x 2.13m and under.

Testing – Strength Test

Youth Football, 9 v 9 and Futsal Goals

The crossbar must be tested for strength. To pass this test they must be able to withstand a vertical force of 180kg applied to the middle of the crossbar for 1 minute. The crossbar should then not have a permanent deformation of more than 10mm max. after 30 minutes have elapsed.

Mini Soccer and Small Sided Goals of which the total mass is equal or greater than 18.0kg

The crossbar must be tested for strength. To pass this test they must be able to withstand a vertical force of 80kg applied to the middle of the crossbar for 1 minute. The crossbar should then not have a permanent deformation of more than 10mm max. after 30 minutes have elapsed.

Mini Soccer and Small Sided Goals of which the total mass is less than 18.0kg

The crossbar must be tested for strength. To pass this test they must be able to withstand a vertical force of 30kg applied to the middle of the crossbar for 1 minute. The crossbar should then not have a permanent deformation of more than 10mm max. after 30 minutes have elapsed.

Testing – Stability Test

Youth Football, 9 v 9 and Futsal Goals

The goals must undergo a stability test where a horizontal force of 110kgs is applied to the centre of the crossbar and the goal must remain stable and not topple over. The net must be tested for breaking force and be a maximum 120mm square mesh.

Mini Soccer and Small Sided Goals of which the total mass is equal or greater than 18.0kg

The goals must undergo a stability test where a horizontal force of 70kgs is applied to the centre of the crossbar and the goal must remain stable and not topple over. The net must be tested for breaking force and be a maximum 120mm square mesh.

Mini Soccer and Small Sided Goals of which the total mass is less than 18.0kg

The goals must undergo a stability test where a horizontal force of 30kgs is applied to the centre of the crossbar and the goal must remain stable and not topple over. The net must be tested for breaking force and be a maximum 120mm square mesh.

All Harrod Sport Small Sided Goals have been in-house tested or independantly by a recognised testing house and conform to BS EN 16579. Certificates of conformity are sent with all goals.

Code of Practice

General Maintenance & Safety Recommendations for Sports Ground Equipment



BS EN 748

Football Goals - Code of Practice for their procurement, installation, maintenance, storage and inspection

Procurement

Goals, nets and fittings for use should conform to BS EN 748 or BS EN 16579, as appropriate (see table on page 4).

Goals should be purchased as a complete unit or as separate parts to make up a complete unit (e.g. goal, net, anchors, chains, etc. together with any other accessories that may be needed).

Replacement items for a goal should always be purchased from the original manufacturer or supplier and it is important to ensure that the combination of goal and new component will continue to conform to BS EN 748 or BS EN 16579 as appropriate.

Installing Goals

On receipt, a new goal should be checked carefully to ensure it has not been damaged in transit and that all parts are present. In the event of any parts being missing, the goal should not be assembled, nor used in an incomplete state.

Goals should always be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Installation should only be undertaken by, or under the direct supervision of, trained persons with enough experience and with adequate assistance for the size of the goal being erected.

Socketed Goals

Goal post sockets should always be set into concrete. Always install as per manufacturers instructions to determine dimensions of concrete and ensure a minimum cube of 600mm x 600mm.

Although the information contained in these British Standard Guidelines are specific to football, they represent best practice for any sports posts and should be adopted wherever posts and nets are used in team sports.

Free-standing Goals

Free-standing goals should be properly stabilised in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. They must be anchored at all times whether in use or storage.

Free-standing goals are only safe if they are properly stabilised. Most of the commonly used methods of stabilisation can be affected by poor installation techniques as well as by poor ground conditions.

For this reason, the most reliable methods of stabilising freestanding goals are:

- attaching the back bar of the support frame to permanent fixing points, for instance, eyebolts, stainless-steel loops set in concrete blocks in the correct position or suitable attachment points on a permanent fence or wall
- using adequate weights attached to the back bar of the support frame in the correct positions specified by the manufacturer

When other forms of anchors are to be used i.e. U Pegs, soil conditions play an important part as the goals may not hold adequately in certain ground conditions. Therefore these types of fixing should only be used where evidence exists of their effectiveness under the worst predictable ground conditions. Care should be taken to ensure the attachment of anchors does not create an additional hazard such as entrapment or trip. The use of pins, u-staples or screw-in anchors on natural turf pitches is generally not recommended as these types of fixings may provide inadequate stability on some types of ground or under certain weather conditions. They should be used only if there is evidence that they are effective under the worst possible predictable ground conditions on the site in question.

Type of Football	Size (mm)	Size (ft)	Appropriate Specification	Number of Counterweights
Senior (11v11)	7320 x 2440	24 x 8	BS EN 748	Six per goal
Youth Football	6440 x 2130	21 x 7	BS EN 16579	Six per goal
9v9	4880 x 2130	16 x 7	BS EN 16579	Six per goal
Mini Soccer	3660 x 1830 4880 x 1830	12 x 6 16 x 6	BS EN 16579 BS EN 16579	Four per goal Four per goal
Small Sided Football (Five-a-Side)	2440 x 1220 3660 x 1220 4880 x 1220	8 x 4 12 x 4 16 x 4	BS EN 16579 BS EN 16579 BS EN 16579	Four per goal Four per goal Four per goal
Futsal	3000 x 2000	9.84 x 6.56	BS EN 16579	Four per goal
Hockey	3660 x 2130	12 x 7	BS EN 750	Ten per goal

Moving Goals

A goal may be at its most dangerous when it is being moved. Under these circumstances, most types of goal are detached from any anchors, weights, fixing points or sockets and are therefore unstable.

Goals should never be moved without an adequate number of physically fit and capable people who have been fully trained to use proper lifting techniques. A full-sized goal should never be moved using fewer than four adults.

NOTE: Guidance notes from the Health and Safety Executive (such as getting to grips with manual handling), gives advice on lifting and moving heavy objects safely.

Manufacturer's instructions on moving goals should always be followed. Goals should never be dragged across the ground as this may damage the goal and/or the playing surface. If wheels are fitted to the goal, they should be used correctly, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Wheels should be of a type suitable for the surface across which the goal is to be moved.

Goals fitted with four wheels can easily topple if they are pushed in the wrong direction and should only be moved by pushing the uprights in a backwards direction. Goals with two wheels should be moved by lifting the back bar and pulling in a backwards direction. If the ground is soft, wheeled goals should be lifted.

Storing Goals

Goals should be properly stored when they are not in use. Stored goals should never be left accessible, upright or unsecured. Socketed goals and folded free-standing goals should not be left leaning unsecured against a wall or fence. They should be locked securely and safely to a wall or fence. If this is not possible they should be left lying flat on the ground so that they cannot fall over.

Movable goals may be left safely by chaining them face to face in pairs or putting them in securable enclosures. If no method is available to store goals safely it is safer to leave them in place, properly stabilised as if in use.

Inspecting Goals

Goals should be inspected regularly to ensure that they are still safe to be used.

It is not possible to specify exactly what checks should be made or at what intervals, because the conditions under which goals are kept and used vary so widely. It may be necessary to check a goal which is permanently installed in an open public space every day, while one which is in a locked, fenced enclosure and is only ever used by an organised club at a high level with supervision may need to be checked relatively infrequently. The type and thoroughness of the checks may also vary with the type of goal.

The following inspection procedures should be used as a guide to establish the minimum frequency and level of checks required for any one set of goals. The parameters should be reviewed in the light of actual events; if the records show that faults are found at each inspection the frequency of inspections should be increased.

Inspection type 1

Undertaken at least every week, and before any game or training activity.

Undertake a thorough visual check of the whole goal and check for the following:

- loose and missing nuts, bolts, pins and other fixings;
- firm attachment to anchoring points or signs of movement in sockets;
- broken or missing net fixings;
- any broken cord in the nets;
- bent sections or other damage to any part of the goal;
- that all identification and instruction labels are firmly attached and fully legible

Inspection type 2

Undertaken each time a goal is repositioned.

Undertake all the checks listed under inspection type 1 and:

- check that the goal has been firmly reattached to all of its anchors;
- check that the anchors are secure;
- if weights are used, ensure that they are all present.

The manufacturer's label on the goal should say what weight is needed to stabilise it;

- check that the goal has not been bent or otherwise damaged whilst being moved.

Inspection type 3

Undertaken once every twelve months ideally prior to the start of every season.

Undertake all the checks listed under inspection types 1 and 2 and the following:

- check (every goal) for strength and stability, in accordance with BS EN 748 or BS EN 16579, as appropriate.
- A goal's strength or stability should never be tested by hanging or swinging from the crossbar.

Repairs to damaged or faulty goals

If a goal is found to be damaged, or if faults are found during an inspection, the goal should be withdrawn from service until the defect is made good.

Goals should not be modified or repaired by welding or by substituting incorrect parts. No repair should be made that changes the structural integrity, design or shape of the goal.

Goals should be repaired using only the correct parts supplied by the original manufacturer/supplier. Repairs to any goal frame or ground socket should be undertaken only by the goalpost manufacturer or his authorised agent

Records

A permanent identification label should be attached to every goal. On receipt/installation of a new goal, a log book should be established to record when the goal was purchased and first erected, together with how it was installed and how it is maintained.

The log book should be kept for a minimum of 21 years to ensure that evidence of good practice is available in the event of any subsequent legal proceedings.

Record Sheets

General Maintenance & Safety Recommendations
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Example 1 - Goal Record Sheet

Goal Record Sheet



Goal reference	Pitch 3 - North End
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Date	Type of check	Findings	Action taken	Checked by
10th Dec '21	Weekly	Scratched paint work on left hand upright	Painted over area - used Harrod Sport white touch up paint	Joe Bloggs
18th Dec '21	Weekly	All ok	None	Joe Bloggs
2nd Jan '22	Full	Goal passed strength and stability test - no other problems	Full Goal Post Risk Assessment undertaken	Joe Bloggs
10th Jan '22	Weekly	Goal net has holes and broken meshes, some net hooks also missing	Purchased new net clips and fitted to goal	Joe Bloggs

Example 2 - Goal Inspection Sheet

Goal Inspection Sheet



Site	Walmer Road	Pitch no.	3
Goal reference	Pitch 3 - North End	Type of goal	Socketed Aluminium
Size of goal	7.32m x 2.44m	Stability test pass	Yes / No
Strength test	Notes	Start height	mm
		Finish height	mm
		Deflection test (more than 10mm is a fail)	mm Pass / Fail
Supplier or Manufacturer	Harrod Sport	Date of manufacture	February 2021
Inspected by	Joe Bloggs	Date of inspection	10th Jan 2022
Findings	Goal nets has holes and broken meshes, some net hooks also missing		
Action taken	Purchased new net and clips and have fitted to goal		
Contact details for spares and repairs	Harrod Sport, Pinbush Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 7NL Tel: 01502 583515 Email: sales@harrod.uk.com		

Hockey Goal Standards

General Maintenance & Safety Recommendations for Sports Ground Equipment



British Standard for European Normalisation BS EN 750

To pass this test they must be able to withstand a vertical force of 180kg applied to the middle of the crossbar for 1 minute. The crossbar should then not have a permanent deformation of more than 10mm max (this simulates 3 adults swinging on the crossbar). They also undergo a stability test where a horizontal force of 110kgs is applied to the centre of the crossbar and the goal must remain stable and not topple over.

Ensure the goals are assembled as per manufacturers installation instructions.

If used on grass, it is essential that you install 2 heavy-duty grass ground anchors per goal. These anchors come complete with chains and clips for attachment to the back rails. It is imperative that the ground anchors are correctly installed in the ground at the angle recommended and tested as below for safety prior to use.

If used on a synthetic pitch, the goals must be suitably anchored to conform to BS EN 750.

Care must be taken to ensure any anchors are correctly installed on the goals as recommended in our instructions and always test as below for safety prior to use.

Before each use check all fixings are securely fitted i.e. all bolts and back supports if fitted.

Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb, swing on or play with the structure of the goalposts, or on the nets. Home-made goalposts have been a cause of a number of deaths and injuries, such goalposts should under no circumstances be used.

When moving freestanding goals, always ensure that sufficient people are used to enable them to be carried in a safe and stable manner. Wheel options are available for all Harrod Sport hockey goals and make transportation both safe and easy.

When using folding hockey goals always ensure you have at least one person at each end of the goal, as they are likely to become unstable if only one person is present.

When goals are brought onto the playing area and positioned for play, it is vital that they are not left unanchored whilst the next goal is being made ready.

Always make sure the goals are secured even when not in use. Nets need to be a maximum 45mm square mesh to conform to BS EN 750. However the vast majority of nets supplied are however 50mm square mesh which is the usual standard supplied to the UK market. These will not conform to the standard requirements.

If pitch is accessible when unsupervised, we recommend that goals are removed from the playing area and either stored away or secured to the nearest fence to ensure they are safe.

Periodically check structure for signs of vandalism.

Goal Record Sheet



The safety of equipment is the responsibility of both the facility providers (who should provide safe goals, installed and maintained in a safe condition) and the users (who should only use the equipment for its intended purpose). The purpose of this Goal Record Sheet is to keep record of the condition of your goals and maintain them for safety purposes.

Goal reference

Date	Type of check	Findings	Action taken	Checked by

Goal Inspection Sheet



The safety of equipment is the responsibility of both the facility providers (who should provide safe goals, installed and maintained in a safe condition) and the users (who should only use the equipment for its intended purpose). The purpose of this Goal Inspection Sheet is to keep record of the condition of your goals and maintain them for safety purposes.

Site		Pitch no.	
Goal reference		Type of goal	
Size of goal		Stability test pass	Yes / No
Strength test		Start height	mm
		Finish height	mm
		Deflection test	mm
		(more than 10mm is a fail)	Pass / Fail
Supplier or Manufacturer		Date of manufacture	
Inspected by		Date of inspection	
Findings			
Action taken			
Contact details for spares and repairs	Harrod Sport, Pinbush Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 7NL Tel: 01502 583515 Email: sales@harrod.uk.com		

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