

MARK HARROD

**GENERAL MAINTENANCE &
SAFETY GUIDANCE
FOR FOOTBALL & OTHER
SPORTS EQUIPMENT**



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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The Code of Practice provided by BS8461 gives guidance as to the type of check that should be carried out on football goals and how often they should be checked. Although this is football specific, it is widely considered best practice for all sports.

It is the responsibility of the facility operator to provide equipment that is fit for purpose and maintained to the required standard. Operators also have a responsibility to staff under the Health and Safety at Work Act to ensure that staff are properly trained to carry out the required tasks for which they are employed. It is the facility providers who could find themselves liable in the case of any accidents where a member of staff is found not to be competent.

Assembly and Dismantling Goals and Nets

1. When erecting equipment, always use the instructions and recommendations provided by the manufacturer.
2. The appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times. I.E. hard hat, steel toe cap boots, gloves, etc.
3. When tall and/or heavy equipment is being erected, it is recommended that scaffolding and/or heavy lifting equipment is used. A risk assessment should be carried out if necessary.
4. The correct tools for the job must be used at all times.
5. Assembly must be carried out by a sufficient number of competent persons.

Checking Goals and Nets

Equipment should be checked on a regular basis; this requires positive action and the information gathered must be recorded and acted upon immediately should any faults be found.

1. Check all equipment, a minimum of once every week—but always before any game or training activity.
2. Carry out a thorough visual check of the whole goal.
3. Check that all fixings are secure and there are no loose or missing nuts, bolts, pins or other fixings.
4. If nuts, bolts, pins or other fixings are loose or missing, it is not possible to assemble the equipment correctly. It is therefore vital that missing parts are purchased from the manufacturer to ensure compatibility.
5. If parts of the goal are bent or other damage is present, there may be more damage internally which is not visible and could result in the goal collapsing or tipping. The goal should then be taken out of action and removed from site.
6. Check that all pivot points are in good condition and lubricate with grease.
7. Any chips and scratches must be treated to prevent corrosion occurring at these points.
8. Check all anchoring attachments and anchoring points.
9. Should weight type anchors be used, check there is the correct number for the size of the goal (see chart).
10. If you find a fault you must record the fault, and not continue to use the goal. It must be correctly repaired or replaced with new equipment.
11. Do not modify goals by welding or by substituting with incorrect parts. If any part is missing or broken, obtain a replacement from the original manufacturer.
12. Wheel mechanisms should be complete and in full working order.
13. Inflatable tyres must be checked for punctures and be inflated to no more than maximum pressure marked on the tyre. Cellular or solid tyres are preferred as little maintenance is required.

Assembly and Dismantling Goals and Nets

1. Check for missing or broken net fixings as these may allow a ball to pass between the edge of the net and goal frame, resulting in confusion over whether or not a goal has been scored.
2. The size of the mesh of the net has been chosen to reduce the risk of injury caused by entrapment. If there are broken cords, the holes become larger than intended and require repair or replacement.
3. Any broken cord in the nets may be repaired using the same cord used to manufacture the net.

Anchoring Goal and Nets

All equipment should be weighted and/or anchored at all times as per the manufacturer's instructions and labelling.

1. Ensure that the correct number of weights and/or anchors is used to enable the goal to meet the BSEN standard applicable to that piece of equipment (see chart).

Type of Goal	Sizes (ft)	Sizes (mm)	Appropriate Specification	Number of Counterweights
Full Size	24 x 8	7320 x 2440	BSEN 748	6 per goal
Youth Size	21 x 7	6440 x 2130	BS8462:2012	6 per goal
9v9	16 x 7	4880 x 2130	BS8462:2012	6 per goal
Mini Soccer	12 x 6 16 x 6	3660 x 1830 4880 x 1830	BS8462:2012 BS8462:2012	4 per goal 4 per goal
Five a Side	8 x 4 12 x 4 16 x 4	2440 x 1220 3660 x 1220 4880 x 1220	BS8462:2012 BS8462:2012 BS8462:2012	4 per goal 4 per goal 4 per goal
Futsal		3000 x 2000	BS8462:2012	4 per goal
Hockey	12 x 7	3660 x 2130	BSEN 750	6 per goal

2. It is unsafe to use any goal if the correct number of anchors are not fitted or if the goals are not restrained by other suitable means. If this is the case, do not under any circumstances use the goals.
3. If the goals are unsafe, immediately obtain the extra weights needed by contacting MARK HARROD Ltd Sales on 01502 710039
4. Goals are required to be anchored or restrained at ALL times, including when standing out of use or when stored.
5. All weight/anchors and anchoring systems should be checked prior to each game by the facility provider to ensure that the equipment is safe for use, and that weights and anchors are positioned, attached and functioning correctly.



Please Note: Serious injury or death could occur if goals are incorrectly anchored or restrained. If there is any doubt whatsoever with reference to the safety of equipment, please contact MARK HARROD Ltd immediately on 01502 710039 for advise.

Moving Goals and Nets

1. Great care must be taken in moving the product whilst it is still assembled.
2. If no transportation wheels are provided, equipment must be lifted by a sufficient number of competent persons to prevent injury, or damage to the product.
3. Equipment should never be dragged across the ground. Moving equipment in this way is likely to cause damage to both the product and to the surface, whether natural or synthetic. Equipment must be lifted clear of the ground when it is being moved.
4. If additional weights are fitted to the goal, they must be removed first before attempting to move the goal. Once the goal is in position, carry the counterweights to the goal and re-attach.
5. Where goals with specific folding mechanisms are used, care must be taken to fold, in accordance with both the instructions and labels. Damage can often occur when mechanisms are not released in the correct manner. Always refer to labels and instructions.
6. Fence fixed folding goals, with fixed support posts, are designed to be manoeuvred simultaneously by two competent persons. Care must be taken whilst moving the goal to ensure the net does not become entangled.
7. Full size goals fitted with wheels should be moved by 4 competent persons, one in each corner of the frame.

Storage of Goal and Nets

1. Our recommendations regarding anchoring must still be adhered to when freestanding products are stored assembled.
2. If equipment has folding back supports, it is recommended that the posts are stored flat on the ground. If they are required to be stored vertically, ie, leant against a fence, they must be attached in such a way as to prevent them falling over.
3. When dismantled, parts must be stored safely and securely in order to prevent accidents in the storage area.
4. Nets must be stored out of direct sunlight and away from rodents.


Keeping Records of Safety Checks

1. The safety of equipment is the responsibility of the facility providers. Equipment should be installed and maintained in a safe condition, and the users should only use the equipment for its intended purpose.
2. Facility providers should be aware of the operation and maintenance guidelines and keep records of all checks, installations and maintenance carried out.

RECORD SHEETS

In your handover pack you will find Goal inspection sheets (example below) for each of your goals. Inspections should take place annually in order to keep your goals covered by the required standards, and as evidence of good practice.

MARK HARROD GOAL POST INSPECTION SHEET



Use this inspection sheet to monitor the condition of your goals. Goal inspections should be carried out yearly from the date of installation. These checks are critical for the safety of those using them and can be carried out by yourself or by Mark Harrod.

Goal Reference:

Type of goal:

Date of installation:

Date of inspection:

Checked	Reason for check	Findings	Actions Taken	Checked by
Missing nuts/bolts				
Broken Cards				
Missing/broken net hooks				
Broken or damaged parts				
Scratched/damaged paintwork				
Other				

Findings:

Actions taken:

FOR MAINTENANCE CHECKS, SPARES AND REPAIRS PLEASE CONTACT OUR TEAM

SUPPORT@MARKHARROD.COM • 01502 710039 • WWW.MARKHARROD.COM

Additional record sheets can be downloaded from www.markharrod.com

RECOMMENDED SAFE PRACTICE FOR INSPECTION

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 the sockets;
- broken or missing net fixings;
- any broken cord in the nets;
- bent sections or other damage to any part of the goal;
- 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 748:2004 or BS 8462:2005 + A1:2012, 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 be repaired using only the correct parts supplied by the original manufacturer/supplier. Goals should not be modified or repaired by welding or by substituting incorrect parts.

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 (see enclosed record sheet).

SIGNAGE

A warning sign that summarises the dangers of not installing, securing or using goals correctly should be displayed on or near every pitch or sports hall where goals are used.