



GOAL POSTS

STANDARDS AND SAFETY GUIDE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Guide has been developed to assist Local Council Authorities, clubs and zones to purchase, manage and safely maintain football goals.

DISCLAIMER: This Guide has been developed to provide general guidance to local councils, clubs, and associations in Queensland to assist with game day infrastructure. The contents of this Guide should not be used for any other purpose or reproduced or communicated without the consent of Football Queensland. Football Queensland makes no representation or warranty about the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in the Guide. You should not rely solely on the information in this Guide and should make independent enquiries, including seeking professional advice. To the extent permitted by law, Football Queensland disclaims any responsibility and liability for any cost, expense, loss, or damage incurred by any entity or person relying on the information contained in this Guide.

VERSION: 2023v1

INTRODUCTION

Football Queensland has created this Guide to provide clubs with goal post standards for competitions and safety requirements for football facilities.

Clubs are responsible for providing competition regulation goals for game day and ensuring that all goals are permanently fixed during use (matches and training), properly maintained and safely stored when not in use.

REQUIREMENTS

All Football Queensland affiliated clubs participating in sanctioned competitions and tournaments must use goals that are compliant with [FIFA standards \(FIFA Quality Programme for Football Goals\)](#) and comply with the [Australia Standard 4866.1-2007 – Playing field equipment – Soccer goal](#).

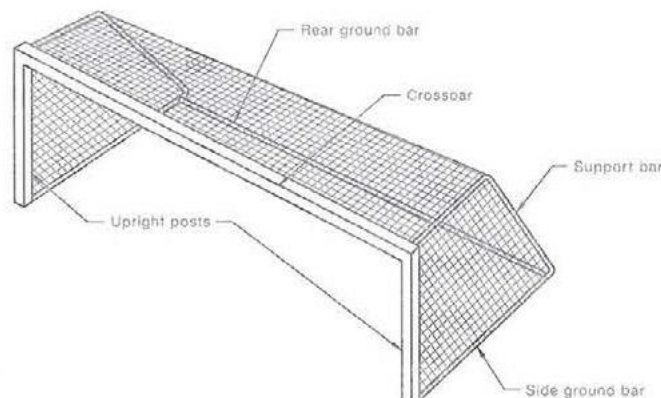
Clubs should seek certificates of compliance from goal suppliers when purchasing and follow the guidelines and instructions provided by the goal manufacturer.



TYPES OF GOALS

Moveable (Portable) Goal

A freestanding structure consisting of at least two upright posts, two side ground bars, a rear ground bar, a crossbar and support bars as shown in the image.



A moveable goal is designed:

- to be used by adults or children for the purposes of a soccer goal;
- to be used without any other form of support or restraint (other than pegs, stakes or other forms of temporary anchoring device); and
- to be able to be moved to different locations.

NOTE: A soccer goal that is supported by a sleeve set in the ground is a semi-permanent goal, not a moveable soccer goal.

Permanent Goal

Any goal fixed by concrete or other material to ground, with or without net supports.

Semi-Permanent Goal

Any goal designed to be inserted into a ground sleeve and thereby able to be taken from the field during the off-season.



COMPETITION REGULATIONS

FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA NATIONAL PLAYING FORMATS & RULES – MINIROOS

U6 & U7

Goal size: 2m x 1m Pop-Up Style Portable Goals

It is preferable that pop-up style portable goals are used where possible, however the use of poles or markers as goals is also suitable. View the playing format and rules [here](#).

U8 & U9

Goal Size: 3m x 2m Portable Goals

It is preferable that portable goals are used where possible however, the use of poles or markers as goals is also suitable. View the playing format and rules [here](#).

U10 & U11

Goal Size: Maximum 5m x 2m Portable Goals

It is preferable that portable goals are used where possible however, the use of poles or markers as goals is also suitable. View the playing format and rules [here](#).

U12 & U13

Goal Size: Maximum 5m x 2m Portable Goals

It is preferable that solid portable goals (bow-nets or similar are not acceptable) are used for the Under 12 competitions. The use of poles and markers as goals is prohibited. View the playing format and rules [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD – LAWS OF THE GAME

A full-size goal that consists of two vertical posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar is required for all matches above the under 13 age group.

The goalpost and crossbar must be made of approved material and must not be dangerous. The goalposts and crossbar of both goals must be the same shape, which must be square, rectangular, round, elliptical or a hybrid of these options.

The distance between the inside of the posts is 7.32 m (8 yds) and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 2.44 m (8 ft). The goalposts and the crossbar must be white and have the same width and depth, which must not exceed 12 cm (5 ins).

Nets must be attached to the goals and the ground behind the goal; they must be properly supported and must not interfere with the goalkeeper.

GOAL POST SAFETY

Safety of all participants involved in football indoors and outdoors is paramount. There have been at least 49 deaths and a range of serious injuries worldwide related to moveable soccer goals.

In Australia there have been at least seven deaths and one incident resulting in the person becoming paraplegic. Unfortunately, the victims are often young kids and teenagers.

In conjunction with the Australian Standard EN 16579:2020, the European Standard EN 748:2004 and the QLD Office of Fair-Trading Safety Standards for Moveable Soccer Goals 2008, we remind all Clubs of the requirements to abide by regarding the use and storage of goalposts.

Moveable goals must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on a horizontal surface using the recommended minimum anchors. Goals must be inspected and checked regularly to ensure they remain compliant to the standards, have all required bolts and joints before each use and are securely stored when not in use.

Hazards

Death and serious injury can happen if moveable soccer goals are installed incorrectly or when they are used inappropriately. Specifically, blunt force injuries and trauma to the head, neck, chest and limbs can occur from moveable soccer goals due to:

- Instability
- Goals becoming unanchored
- Goals with inadequate anchoring
- Inappropriate or ineffective installation
- Inappropriate use, such as swinging on goalposts or cross bars

Inspections

There are three types of goal inspections that should be performed on a regular basis to safeguard its users.

Inspect upon repositioning: Each time a goal is repositioned, inspection to the firmness of the reattachment of the goal and its anchors should be assessed. If counterweights are used, specific attention should be given to ensure that they are correctly positioned.

Weekly visual inspection: This inspection involves checking for damage or defects, such as loose or missing nuts or pins, broken net fixings or cords, or signs of movement in the sockets and should be performed before matches or training sessions.

Strength and stability check: Finally, a check for the strength and stability of the goal frame, in accordance with BS EN 748:2004 or BS 8462:2005 + A1:2012, should be performed on a yearly basis, preferably by a FIFA-accredited test institute, ideally at the start of every season. Strength or stability tests should never be done by someone hanging or swinging from the crossbar.

Moving Goals

Whilst moving goals it is important to follow the below guidelines:

- Check that all joints are firm, there are no missing screws or bolts and that there are no cracks before moving them.
- For goals with counterweights, instructions on their moving and handling should be followed.
- Goals must be moved by a minimum of four people. Children should not move goals on their own, unless under adult supervision



Anchoring Goals

All moveable soccer goals weighing 10kg or more must be anchored securely to the ground. It takes 200 kilograms to properly anchor a full size portable soccer goalpost which equals 10 (300mm) stakes and 12 bags of sand, or 10 bags of cement mix. Check the manufacturer instructions regarding the type and requirement for anchoring the goals.

Moveable goals shall have two side ground bars and a rear ground bar. Goals shall be provided with an effective ground anchor system and instructions on the use of the system. At least one anchor point shall be provided at each side of the rear ground bar.

Storing Goals

Moveable goals should be stored face to face and secured to one another. To minimise the risks of potential dangers and harm, goals should be stored as shown after all games and especially when not in use during the off-season.

Securing the goals face to face can be done either at both ends of the goals or once at the top cross bar. Securing the goals as described, restricts the ability of the goals tipping over.



Warning Labels

When purchasing portable goals, it is a requirement that portable goalposts comply with Australian Standard EN 16579:2020 and display the regulated warning notice. Do not purchase portable goals that weigh 28kg+ and have not been tested and meet AS compliance.

Moveable soccer goals weighing a minimum of 10kg require warning labels alerting of the dangers of playing and climbing on goals and goals tipping over.

Warning labels must be placed in three positions on the goal - on the underside of the crossbar and on the outside of both goal upright posts. The warning label must read as follows:

“WARNING – ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL – NEVER CLIMB OR HANG ON CROSS BAR. UNANCHORED GOALS CAN TIP OVER CAUSING SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.”

The words in the warning label must be permanently marked clearly and legibly and be written in upper case letters or at least 25mm high and lower case letters of at least 12.5mm high.

Anchor, Check, Respect Campaign

Football Queensland endorses the Anchor, Check, Respect: The Game Plan for moveable soccer goal safety campaign. It is a national safety initiative by Football Australia and Product Safety Australia, designed to help prevent deaths and serious injuries and make soccer a safe activity for everyone involved.

Football Queensland encourages clubs to access the following resources relevant to the Anchor, Check, Respect campaign:

VIDEO: [Anchor, Check, Respect: The Game Plan for moveable soccer goal safety](#)

BOOKLET: [Safe soccer goals guide: Keeping kids safe before, during and after the game](#)

FURTHER READING

Links & Resources

- [FIFA standards \(FIFA Quality Programme for Football Goals\)](#)
- [Australia Standard 4866.1-2007 – Playing field equipment – Soccer goal](#)
- [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission - Moveable Soccer Goals](#)
- [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission – Movable Soccer Goals – Supplier Guide](#)
- [Football Australia - National Playing Format & Rules](#)
- [Football Queensland - U12 Playing Format & Rules](#)
- [Football Queensland – U13 Playing Format & Rules](#)
- [Anchor, Check, Respect: The Game Plan for moveable soccer goal safety](#)
- [Safe soccer goals guide: Keeping kids safe before, during and after the game](#)

