



RE GOALPOST SAFETY GUIDELINES

Updated June 2008

The Football Association, along with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Health and Safety Executive and the British Standards Institution, would like to draw your attention to the following guidelines for the safe use of goalposts.

Too many serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future:

1. 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
 - Portable goalposts must be secured as per the manufacturer's instructions; this is also a requirement for the Laws of the Game.
 - Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goalposts;
 - Particular attention is drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may overturn; and
 - Regular inspections of goalposts must be carried out to check that they are properly maintained.
2. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be either dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage, or placed together and suitable fixings applied to prevent unauthorised use at any time.
3. The use of metal cup hooks on any part of a goal frame was banned from the commencement of season 2007/08 and match officials have been instructed not to commence matches where such net fixings are evident for safety reasons. Nets may be secured by plastic fixings, arrow head shaped plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced. New goalposts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks.
4. Goalposts which are "home made" or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries.
5. There is no BS/CEN standard for wooden goals and it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test. The FA recommends that wooden goals should be replaced when necessary with compliant metal, aluminium or plastic goalposts. All wooden goals previously tested by independent consultants have failed strength and stability tests.



For reference, you should note that The FA and BSI, in conjunction with the industry, have developed two standards for goalposts – BSEN 748 (2004) and BS 8462 (2005). It is strongly recommended that you ensure that all goals purchased comply with the relevant standard. A Code of Practice BS 8461 has also been completed and copies of all of these three standards are available from the British Standards Institution.

Funding for replacement goals is available via the Football Foundation and eligibility criteria and further details can be obtained on their web site – www.footballfoundation.org.uk

The FA together with representatives from the industry, sports governing bodies and Government have prepared guidance notes for pitch users and pitch providers, which summarise the key priorities of the BSI's Code of Practice and provide further details on the information included above. These details are featured within the grassroots section of The FA's website – www.TheFA.com.

REMEMBER TO USE GOALPOSTS SAFELY AT ALL TIMES

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING ON THE CLOTHING OF PLAYERS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

Introduction

These Regulations are made pursuant to FA Rule J2 and The Association's regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees.

All references to a club or clubs in these Regulations include any team, whether or not part of a club.

Clubs participating in International competitions must also comply with the relevant regulations of FIFA, UEFA and other Confederations.

It is recommended that clubs and clothing manufacturers seeking clarification of any of the regulations do so by referring to the specific competition rules and The Football Association.

We would encourage clubs and clothing manufacturers to seek advice at the earliest possible time, in relation to designs and advertising from The Football Association and their specific competition. Clubs and manufacturers are reminded to obtain the necessary permissions before manufacture. The Football Association have produced an on-line version of these regulations providing a practical guide on how to apply these formal regulations.

This can be found at www.TheFA.com/TheFA/RulesandRegulations/KitAdvertising



Definitions and Interpretation

“Advertising” means any designation, message, logo, trademark, name or emblem of any nature.

“Clothing” means the Match clothing of a Player, Club or Match Official and shall include without limitation shirts, shorts, socks, undershorts, t-shirts (or any other item of clothing worn under the shirt), sweat-bands, headbands, caps, tracksuits, gloves, waterproofs, sweat tops, sock tie-ups. Also, any outer garments worn by substitutes and Club Officials in the Technical Area at any time. Save where stated to the contrary, football boots are not considered as clothing.

“Clothing manufacturer” means any undertaking that carries out the business of the manufacture or licensing of football clothing and has been appointed by the Club concerned to supply the clothing.

“Club Officials” in these Regulations includes any Club Official as defined in the Rules who has team duties such as managers, coaches, physiotherapists, and doctors and includes any person who takes up a position in the Technical Area at any time during a Match.

[Note: In calculating the area of any advertising referred to in these Regulations, the usual mathematical formula will be used, and any outlines or box surrounds of the relevant designation, message, name, logo, emblem or mark, and all included space, shall be considered as part of the area of advertising.]

A. General

1. Save as set out in these Regulations, advertising on clothing is prohibited during the period of a Match. This applies to Players, including substitutes, any others in the Technical Area, including Club Officials and to Match Officials. The rules of an Affiliated Association or Competition may provide that for matches under their jurisdiction a Club is obliged to obtain permission for any of the advertising listed in Section C below, subject always to these Regulations.
2. Where the rules of an Affiliated Association or Competition require a Club to obtain permission under A(1), a new application for permission must be made to the appropriate body each time it is proposed to amend the advertising. Subject to the provisions of Section B2 and Section C(5) below, or any relevant provisions of the appropriate Competition, there is no restriction on the number of such applications that may be made during the course of each season.
3. Disciplinary action in accordance with the Rules may be taken against a Club, Player, Club Official or Match Official for any breach of these Regulations.
4. The appearance on, or incorporation in, any item of clothing (including football boots) of any distasteful, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting, discriminatory or otherwise ethically or morally offensive message, or any political message, is prohibited. The advertising of tobacco products is prohibited.
5. A Club shall observe all recognised advertising standards and in particular those of the Advertising Standards Authority.



6. Advertising entailing the use of numerals is permitted only if such numerals clearly form part of the advertising and cannot in any way be confused with Players' shirt numbers.

7. No colour or design may be used in advertising that might create problems of identification for Match Officials and/or opponents. The colour and design of the clothing of opponents, goalkeepers and match officials must be taken into account.

8. Without limiting the effect of the above, in the case of a team comprising players all under the age of 18 years on 31 August in the current season, the appearance on or incorporation in any item of clothing of any reference whatsoever to a product, service or other activity which is considered by The Association as detrimental to the welfare, health or general interest of young persons, or is otherwise considered inappropriate, having regard to the age of the players, is prohibited.

9. Any issues arising in relation to the interpretation or effect of these Regulations shall be referred to The Association for its determination, which shall be final and binding (subject to provisions relating to Match Officials).

10. A Club shall supply on demand to The Association any item of clothing for consideration as to whether it complies with these Regulations.

B. Permitted advertising (not relating to sponsors)

The following advertising is permitted:

1. Club emblem and name

The officially designated Club emblem, name, initials, nickname or a combination of such may appear:

(a) Once only on the front of the shirt, and once only anywhere on the shorts providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres; and

(b) Once only on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres. An additional officially designated Club emblem, name, initials, nickname or a combination of such may appear on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres and it is not visible when wearing a football boot .

(c) Once only on each sock tie-up providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres. The sock tie-up may show the Player's name, Player's squad number, Competition name, sponsor designation and date of match or any combination of the same. Clubs must receive the approval of the Competition for the use of sock tie-ups. The officially designated Club emblem, name, initials, nickname or web site address, may appear once only on the collar or collar zone of a shirt and/or tracksuit, provided such does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres.

(d) The club may incorporate one of its types of club identification or parts thereof, in jacquard weave form, as tonal print or by embossing the shirt and/or shorts. There is no limitation as to the number, size and positioning of the type of club identification chosen.

The design of such jacquard weave may also be the names of individuals (e.g. club supporter) providing each is limited to 20 square centimetres, with unlimited repeats



being acceptable. Clubs must receive the approval of the Competition to apply the names of individuals into a jacquard weave or similar technique.

The jacquard weave must be incorporated in the main colour and/or in one of the minor colours. It must not dominate, contain a contrasting colour, or affect the distinctiveness of the kit.

2. Clothing Manufacturer

The established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear once only:

- (a) on the shirt and on the shorts provided it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres;
- (b) on each of a goalkeeper's gloves, and on a goalkeeper's cap, provided such does not exceed an area of 25 square centimetres.
- (c) on each of an outfield player's gloves provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres.
- (d) on the front and back of any t-shirt or any other item of clothing worn under the shirt provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and this is not visible outside the playing shirts during the period of the Match;
- (e) on undershorts worn under playing shorts provided such does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and this is not visible outside the playing shorts during the period of the Match;
- (f) (i) The established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may also appear up to twice on each sock between the top edge and the ankle, provided that it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres for such mark, logo or name (or combination thereof) where it appears once on each sock or 10 square centimetres where it appears twice on each sock. It may be incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to 10 square centimetres repeats and must be restricted to any turn-over on the socks.
(ii) An additional established mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer, or a combination of the same, may appear once only on each sock providing it does not exceed an area of 50 square centimetres and it is not visible when wearing a football boot.
- (g) (i) An additional established mark, logo or name of the clothing manufacturer may be used once or repeatedly on either/or both sleeves as part of the design on the trim or taping of shirts, shorts and socks. Such trim or taping shall be limited to down the outer seam of the shirt (armhole to the bottom of the shirt), or the length of the sleeve (neck to cuff), or across the bottom of each sleeve (cuffs) and to the bottom edge of the shorts or down the outer seam of the shorts and across the top edge of the socks.
(ii) The mark, logo or name of the clothing manufacturer which appears once or repeatedly, as part of the design on the trim or taping of the shirts, shorts and socks shall be restricted to a maximum width of 10cm on the shirts and shorts and to a maximum width of 5cm on brand-new (unworn) socks.



(h) The same established mark, logo or name or combination must appear on all clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such advertising appears. Once submitted to and approved by a Competition, the established mark, logo or name or combination on players' and club officials' clothing may not be modified during the course of that season, without the approval of the Competition.

(i) In addition to the club identification, the manufacturer may incorporate one of its types of identification in jacquard weave form or by embossing in the shirt and/or shorts. The type of manufacturer identification chosen must not exceed 20 square centimetres. There is no limitation as to the number and positioning of the type of manufacturer identification chosen. The jacquard weave must be incorporated in the main colour and/or one of the minor colours. It must neither dominate nor affect the distinctiveness of the kit.

3. Product marks and seals of quality

An official licensing product mark or seal of quality is permitted on the outside of the clothing only if Competition rules so allow. However, it may not exceed 20 square centimetres in size. Such shall be placed only on shirts and on an area which is hidden when the shirt is tucked inside the shorts. A second, smaller licensing mark or seal of quality is allowed on the shirt or shorts in the form of a label which must not exceed 12 square centimetres and must be placed along the torso outer seam.

4. Numbers

Where the Competition rules require a number on the back of the shirt, it should be clearly legible and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt. The number should be between 20 cm and 35 cm in height with provision for each competition to set specific criteria. A number may also appear on the front of the shorts which must correspond with the number on the shirt. The number should be between 10 cm and 15 cm in height with provision for each competition to set specific criteria.

The officially designated logo or name of the Competition or combination of the same may appear once only on each of the player's shirt numbers providing the logo, name or combination does not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres. No other advertising or any other marking is allowed on players' shirt numbers.

5. Players Names

The name of a player may appear on the back of shirts or tracksuits only if Competition rules so permit. The height of the lettering must not be greater than 7.5 centimetres.

6. Other Logos

The officially designated logo or name of an Affiliated Association or Competition may appear once only on each sleeve of shirts, provided Affiliated Associations or Competition rules so permit. Such mark must appear between the shoulder seam and the elbow and must not exceed 100 square centimetres.

The officially designated logo, name of any awards or titles won in previous seasons or commemorative occasions may appear on shirts, provided such does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres and permission has been granted from the Competition in which the kit is to be worn.



C. Sponsor designations

The following advertising is permitted:

1 . Playing kit

(a) On the clothing of a Player on the field of play, the following areas shall be permitted to be used for advertising:

- One single area not exceeding 200 square centimetres on the front of the shirt
- One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shirt; and
- One single area not exceeding 100 square centimetres on the back of the shorts
- Once only on each sock tie-up providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres.

In the event that a Club or Competition elects to have an area of sponsor advertising only on the front of the shirt, and on no other item of playing kit, that area may be increased to a maximum of 250 square centimetres if approved by the Competition.

No other advertising is permitted anywhere on the clothing of a Player on the field of play during a match. Such advertising can be used for advertising one or more companies and, in respect of any company, one or more of their products. The same advertising must appear in the same form on the clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such advertising appears, throughout the entirety of the match.

(b) Any advertising under C(1) must be clearly separated from the items described in B above.

2. Tracksuits and other clothing in the Technical Area

Advertising may appear on tracksuits, and other items of clothing other than the clothing of a Player, on the field of play during a match in accordance with the size and locations set out in C1 .

The advertising carried on the tracksuits and other clothing worn by Players and Club Officials in the Technical Area can be either :

- (i) the same sponsor(s) as worn on the playing kit (home or away strips)
- (ii) be additional to the sponsors as worn on the playing kit
- (iii) a single sponsor that is an official partner of the relevant competition

3. Clubs may conclude sponsorship arrangements with different companies in respect of advertising permitted under C(1) above for both their 'home' and 'away' strips. Where Competition rules allow for a third strip to be worn, this must carry advertising as worn on either the "home" or "away" shirt. The advertising must appear in the same form on the clothing of all Players and Club Officials wherever such advertising appears, throughout the entirety of the match.

4. Where a non-member Club wishes to include the name of a sponsor in its Club title, consent must be received in advance from the relevant Affiliated Association and where such consent is given, advertising on behalf of one company only shall be



carried on the Club's match shirts, irrespective of the provisions of B (4) and C (1) above. No Full Member Club or Associate Member Club may include the name of a sponsor in its Club title without the consent of The Football Association.

5. No Club in Membership of the Football Conference, the Isthmian League, Northern Premier League or Southern Football League may include the name of a sponsor in its Club title without the consent of the competition and, in the case of a Full Member Club or Associate Member Club, the consent of The Football Association.

6. Clubs with more than one team may conclude separate shirt advertising agreements on behalf of each team.

D. Match Officials

No advertising of any nature, save as set out below, is permitted on Match Officials' clothing without the consent of The Association.

The following advertising is permitted:

1. The mark, logo or name of a clothing manufacturer or a combination of the same, may appear:

(a) once only on the shirt provided it is an area no greater than 20 square centimetres;

(b) once only on the shorts provided it is an area no greater than 12 square centimetres;

(c) incorporated into the design of the socks, but must be limited to an area no greater than 12 square centimetres.

2. Jacquard Weave

A jacquard weave or similar technique shall be allowed providing each is limited to 20 square centimetres, with unlimited repeats being acceptable. The design of such jacquard weave may be the manufacturer's mark, logo or name. The jacquard weave shading shall be restricted to two shades differing from the base colour, using a standard Pantone reference manual.

3. Sponsor Advertising

Sponsor Advertising in accordance with FIFA Equipment Regulations is permitted only on shirt sleeves and the total surface area of the advertising shall not exceed 200 square centimetres. Any sponsorship contract must be made between the sponsor and The Football Association. Individual Affiliated Associations or Leagues are not permitted to enter into sponsorship contracts.

4. Badges

Match kit shirts may carry the recognised badge of the appropriate Competition once only, which must be on either site of the breast pocket. This badge must not exceed an area of 20 square centimetres and, where it contains the established trademark, trade name or logo of a sponsor of the Competition, must be approved by The Association in advance.

In addition to the recognised competition badge the match kit shirt may carry once only on either site of the breast pocket an officially designated badge of FIFA, The



Football Association, the relevant Affiliated Association or the Referees' Association (where relevant).

Sock Tie-Up

Each sock tie-up may show the name and/or badge of appropriate Affiliated Association or the Referees' Association providing it does not exceed an area of 100 square centimetres.

No advertising is allowed.

GUIDANCE NOTES ON WHITE LINE MARKING OF FOOTBALL PITCHES

There are a wide range of marking compounds, paints and machines on the market, in order to make the marking of white lines a safe practice, in accordance with present regulations.

There have, in the past, been a number of practices when applying white lines to football pitches, in order to reduce labour and materials costs, while endeavouring to keep lines visible for a greater length of time without the requirement to remark. Some of these practices have led to injury and subsequent court action.

In order to clarify this position the Institute of Groundsmanship has drawn up the following guidelines:

BEST PRACTICE - WHAT SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE USED?

The main governing factors for marking out white lines are the same as that for many other routine tasks in the workplace, they are:-

1. Duty of Care

Under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 every employer has a duty of care to their employees, contractors, visitors, players, and spectators to ensure the workplace is safe.

2. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994 (COSHH)

These are designed to prevent ill health from exposure to hazardous substances present in the workplace.



3. Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment requires you to carry out the following assessment, nature of hazard, worst outcome, who is at risk, current precautions, estimated risk and further precautions, on all tasks carried out in the workplace.

If all three of the above are adhered to which incidentally is required by law then this will automatically govern what to use for white line marking and ensure best practice and above all safety.

It is the duty of all Managers to ensure that the regulations are adhered to, as they are ultimately responsible.

SUITABLE LINE MARKING COMPOUNDS

Permanent paints

which are based on pigmented viscous liquid. These “paints” can be applied either in a diluted form or neat.

Powders

There are whitening powders available that are non-toxic which are based on ground natural calcium carbonate and can be used wet or dry and are safe to use provided COSHH is applied. This will tell the user to wear gloves and eye protection and wash off any contact with the skin with water as a precautionary measure.

Most powders are a fine powder Hydrated Lime (Calcium hydroxide) should never be used for line marking. It is toxic and can give rise to chemical skin burns and irritations and can burn the eyes and skin on contact in its dry or wet form. Its use is not recommended by The Institute of Groundsmanship.

USE OF HERBICIDES TO REINFORCE LINE MARKINGS

Until The Food and Environment Protection Act, 1985 (FEPA) was introduced many groundsmen and club members used various herbicides mixed in with whitening compounds to keep the lines in longer and more visible during the winter playing season.

However it is only permissible to use a herbicide, which is approved for use on sports turf, which is likely to be a total herbicide, and again COSHH and Risk Assessment must be carried out prior to any application. A further governing factor is that the user must have obtained his/her Certificate of Competence in Use of Pesticides, PA1, PA2A or PA6A. The legal aspects of using any herbicide product for line marking must be used within the conditions of its approval, granted under The Control of Pesticide Regulations, 1986 (COPR), and outlined on the product label. At all times there should be no risk to players by contact or transfer of the active herbicide to any part of the body.



The addition of herbicides to whitening materials is not a practice recommended by The Institute of Groundsmanship unless a competent, certificated person carries out.

Creosote is another compound used in the past to mark and reinforce line markings but is not approved for use on sports turf under COPR.

The use of Hydrated Lime, herbicide additives and creosote can end up with serious injury to players, which can ultimately lead to actions against clubs or individuals.

Play safe and use only safe and approved compounds that are available on the market today - not old compounds.

It is recommended that the new ready prepared liquids available from the manufactures are the best to use.

MACHINES AVAILABLE TO MARK WHITE LINES

Marking machines fall into the following categories.

Dry Line Markers, which as the name implies are for applying dry powder compounds.

Pressure Pump Markers, a wheel driven pump forces marking fluid through a jet or spout directly onto the turf surface.

Electric Pump Markers, these markers are battery driven and constantly maintain the required pressure and direct the liquid onto the turf surface.

Belt Feed Markers, have a moving belt system, which conveys a continual supply of liquid onto the turf surface by contact.

Wheel Transfer Markers; convey the liquid via rotating wheel, onto a tray and then onto a sponge wheel directly onto the turf surface.

All of the above markers are obtainable from most sports ground suppliers, and before purchasing any marker have a demonstration first, get the right marker for your requirements.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Institute of Groundsmanship (Training Courses) 01908 31251 *or* www.iog.org

Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) 01274 565131 *or* www.stri.co.uk

Crop Protection Association (Code of Practice) 01733-349225

Pesticides Safety Directorate 01904-640500

Health & Safety Executive Info line 0541-545500

HSE Books 01787-881165



Sport England (Health & Safety Guidance Notes) 020-7388-1277

Suppliers of products: Turfpages www.turfpages.co.uk

Institute of Groundsmanship Guidance Notes Disclaimer.

These notes are intended to provide helpful guidance for club managers and groundsmen.

These guidelines may vary or change from time to time, including directions issued by governing bodies or government departments.

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of these guidelines the Institute of Groundsmanship shall not at any time, in any circumstances, be held responsible or liable in respect of any damage or costs of any nature arising directly or indirectly from information contained in this publication. (as at March 2004)