



GENERAL MAINTENANCE & SAFETY GUIDANCE

GREAT BRITISH SPORTS EQUIPMENT DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER

01502 711298

info@mhgoals.com

www.mhgoals.com

**MH GOALS LTD, UNIT 7 - 10 WARWICK COURT,
ELLOUGH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BECCLES, SUFFOLK NR34 7FD**

GENERAL MAINTENANCE & SAFETY GUIDANCE

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

The responsibility to ensure that all equipment is fit for purpose and well maintained to the correct standard is down to the facility operator. Facility operators also have a responsibility to their staff (under the Health and Safety at Work Act) to ensure that they are properly trained to carry out the required tasks for which they are employed. The facility providers could find themselves liable if an accident occurs where a member of staff is found not to be competent.

INSTALLATION OF GOALS

- Always use the instructions and recommendations provided by the manufacturer when installing equipment.
- The appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times. i.e, hard hat, steel toe cap boots, gloves, etc.
- 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.
- 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 goal being erected.

SOCKETED GOALS

- Goal posts sockets should always be set in concrete.
- The foundation required will be depend on the ground conditions but should always be in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.
- If the ground conditions are not known then the minimum concrete block size should be 600mm x 600mm x 600mm, or in accordance to the manufacturers recommendations, whichever is greater.
- The base of the footing should be square with the socket depth at 460mm.
- The concrete should be rounded gently away from the socket and should slope downwards at an angle of about 45 degrees.
- On natural surfaces the top of the concrete should be set at least 40mm below the surface, this ensures it stays below the ground even if there is erosion or ground movement.
- The minimum depth that a full size goal should sit in the socket is 300mm.
- When the goals have been safely removed and the sockets are not in use they should be capped to prevent accidents.

FREESTANDING GOALS

- Freestanding goals should be anchored correctly at all times and in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.
- If weights are to be used to anchor the goal the correct number should be employed and always attached – see chart below for weights required per type of goal.

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

- 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.
- If the goals are unsafe, immediately obtain the extra weights needed by contacting MH Goals Ltd on 01502 711298.
- Goals are required to be anchored or restrained at ALL times, including when standing out of use or when stored.
- All weights/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.

MOVING & STORAGE

MOVING GOALS

- Remove all weights and anchors.
- A goal is at its most dangerous when being moved.
- Always follow the manufacturers instructions on moving goals.
- Goals should be moved with an adequate number of physically fit and able-bodied people and they should all be trained to use proper lifting techniques.
- A full sized goal should not be moved with less than four adults.
- Goals should not be dragged as this can cause damage to the goal and the playing surface.
- If the goal has fitted wheels these should be used correctly and in accordance to the manufacturers instructions. They should also be suitable for the ground surface that the goal is be moved on.
- Goals with wheels can topple if pushed incorrectly. If the goal has four wheels then it should be pushed by the uprights in a backwards direction. This technique can also be used for 5-A-Side goals that have two wheels.

STORAGE

- Goals not in use should be stored properly and never left accessible, upright or unstable.
- Socketed and freestanding goals should not be left leaning unsecured, i.e. against the side of a building/club house. They should be secured in such a way as to prevent them from falling over.
- If they cannot be secured in an upright position then goals should be left lying on the ground so they cannot fall over.
- Wheeled goals can be left safely secured in pairs, chained and padlocked together, or in a secure compound.

GUIDANCE ON GOAL INSPECTIONS, REPAIRS & RECORD KEEPING

Goals should be inspected regularly to ensure that they are safe to use and records should be kept of all checks and maintenance that have been carried out.

- The frequency of inspections should be reviewed in the light of actual events, and if records show that faults are found at each inspection the frequency of inspections should be increased.
- A goal's strength or stability should never be tested by hanging or swinging from the crossbar.

The BS8461 standard sets out guidelines that are the recommended safe practice for goal inspection. The following pages set out different inspection types and an inspection record template for goal post inspections.

RECOMMENDED SAFE PRACTICE FOR GOALPOST INSPECTION

TYPE 1 INSPECTION

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.

TYPE 2 INSPECTION

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.

TYPE 3 INSPECTION

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.



Use this inspection sheet to monitor the condition of your goals. Goal inspections should be carried out yearly on the date of installation. These checks are critical for the safety of those using them.

Goal Reference:

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Type of goal:

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Date of installation:

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Date of inspection:

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CHECKED	REASON FOR CHECK	FINDINGS	ACTIONS TAKEN	CHECKED BY
Missing nuts/bolts				
Broken mesh/netting				
Missing/broken net hooks				
Broken or damaged parts				
Scratched/damaged paintwork				
Other				

Findings:

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Action taken:

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