



## Linton Aztecs FC – Goal Post Safety Code

Linton Aztecs Football Club (LAFC) is committed to the on-going safety of all **players** registered with the club and will respect other clubs and their **players** in the same manner.

Safety is always of paramount importance to LAFC and everyone associated with the club must play their part to prevent incidents occurring. LAFC have an excellent record when it comes to **player** safety, however there have been too many serious injuries and fatalities that have occurred in recent years in local football as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts.

Therefore, the following rules shall be strictly adhered to in the clubs management of goal post **usage**:

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, **recommended as** at least 4 (four) chained anchor specified weights per mini-soccer goal, and at least 6 (six) per 9v9 Youth goal **and Colts sized goal**.
- 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.
- Regular inspections of goalposts must be carried out and recorded to check that they are properly maintained.

2. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled or folded and removed to a place of secure storage that will prevent improper use. Storage shall include a locked anchorage with appropriate chaining and authorised key holders.

3. The use of metal cup hooks on goals 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 should only be secured by plastic arrowhead hooks, Velcro tapes or plastic clips 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. No goalposts which are "homemade" or which have been altered from their original size or construction must be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries in local junior football

5. There is no BS/CEN standard for wooden goals and it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test and therefore must not be used. Only goals made from compliant metal, aluminium or plastic goalposts shall be used.

6. Before use, those responsible for setting up goals shall test the load and stability (NOT by climbing or swinging) by:

- Ensuring each goal is anchored securely in its place as specified
- Exerting an appropriate downward force on the cross bar
- Exerting an appropriate backward force on both upright posts
- Exerting an appropriate forward force on both upright posts

These must be repeated until it is established that the goal post structure is secure. If not, alternative goals/pitches must be used.

7. The FA and BSI, in conjunction with the industry, have developed two standards for goalposts - BSEN 748 (2004) and BS 8462 (2005). LAFC will ensure that all that all future goals purchased comply with the relevant standards.

8. This code has been developed in conjunction with The FA Charter Standard Club Programme Goalpost Safety Guidelines and the FA Football Goals – Guidance Notes (July 2006) and Mark Harrod Ltd Goalpost Safety Guidance.