



Guidelines for the safe use of goalposts

The Camanachd Association would like to highlight the following guidelines for the safe use of goalposts.

Too many serious injuries and even fatalities have occurred in recent years in the United Kingdom as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts.

Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in shinty must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future:

- 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. In the absence of such instructions great care must be taken in ensuring any weights or pins are adequate and "Fit for Purpose". It is always advised to over-secure rather than under-secure.**
- 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 to check that they are properly maintained
- Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage
- The use of metal cup hooks on goals are discouraged for safety reasons. Nets should be secured by plastic hooks, net grips 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
- 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 within the United Kingdom.
- Due to the low number of portable goals required for Full, Youth and Women's Shinty there are no regular suppliers. This has led to local joinery, blacksmith and light engineering companies producing individual sets of goals of the required sizes indicated in the CA's Bye-law 1.
 - Goalposts when set out on pitch should be checked by the coach before each session.
 - Larger metal goal posts in the higher age groups to be moved/erected by at least two people, preferably adults and if by juniors min. 14+ years and of suitable size, strength and maturity.
 - **Good communication/coordination is vital when setting and taking down goals particularly when folding/unfolding support legs when the goals are unstable as this is the key moment where toppling can occur.**
 - Care must be taken when carrying goals to avoid manual handling injury to operatives and impact injury to others still on the field. Give clear signals to stand clear especially with excitable children at play.

- Parents to assist only under direction of coaches.

There is no BS/CEN standard for wooden goals and it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test. The CA 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 BSI, in conjunction with other Governing Bodies and the manufacturing 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 Institute.