

# MINI-SOCCER GOALPOST

## SAFETY GUIDELINES

Extracts from BSEN748: 1996 are reproduced with the permission of BSI under licence number PD1999 1537.  
Complete copies of the standard can be obtained by post from  
BSI Customer Services,  
389 Chiswick High Road London W4 4AL

### European Standard BSEN 748 Playing Field Equipment, Football Goals, requirements and test methods including safety.

There are two different types of goals currently covered by this standard they are permanent with ground sockets and Freestanding goal frames, both are classed as sports equipment. Only full size 7.32 x 2.44 and 5m x 2m Youth goals are within the scope of this European standard. These are classified as;

1. Football goal with free guy of the net and with round sockets.
2. Football goal with net supports and ground sockets.
3. Freestanding football goal with ground fixings.

Five-a-side, Mini Soccer pack-away portable goals and other goals outside these dimensions are not covered and should therefore not indirectly infer or state that they comply to BSEN 748.

The European Standard BS5665 is a toy standard and any goal with this reference should be treated as a toy and is specifically excluded as a piece of sports equipment.

## INTRODUCTION

Steel goals are much stronger than aluminium, wood or uPVC but these goals due to their weight, cause the majority of injuries, loss of limbs and all known fatalities. They have the same common characteristics:

***Heavy steel goalposts, quite often home made***

***Goals not properly dismantled***

***Goals not stored safely***

***Goals Not supervised around children***

***Goals removed from ground sockets assembled and lent against a wall***

***Steel Freestanding Goals frames toppling over that were not secured by anchors or weights***

***Broken sharp welds protruding from goal frame***

***Net Hooks with large openings***

***Entrapment in open areas of goal frame***

## SAFETY FEATURES FOR MINI SOCCER & YOUTH GOALS

All underlined text is taken from BS EN 748.

All goal frame constructions should be sufficient to withstand the stresses during a game and when moved. The stresses for children are obviously less than that for adult games. uPVC portable goals cannot match the rigidity of metal goals however they are inherently safer for younger children. Mini Soccer Goals have different safety features, depending on construction and materials however they should in our opinion all follow certain criteria.

### NETS

1 The net opening should not be more than 120cm to prevent a head from entrapment. Net meshes shall be square with filaments running horizontally & vertically (not diamond in shape)

2 The net cord should be no less than 2 mm thick (to avoid cutting) and should be self extinguishing. We recommend 2.5mm and (Heavy Duty 3mm thick cord for intense use).

3. The net opening on any hook or fastener should not be more than 5mm to prevent the, entrapment of fingers. Net hooks fixings should be made of non-corrosive metal or plastic materials. Tensioned spring type hooks should have screw caps. Net fixings shall be designed in such a way that the player cannot be hurt.

4 The net should be attached behind the posts to avoid the possibility of a child sliding down the front of the post and receiving a skin burn. Net fittings should discourage climbing on the upright. Any net fastenings should retain the net yet not take the weight of a child and should give if shimmering is attempted.

5 Goals should be designed in such a way as to create a roof to support the net at least 300mm back from the crossbar to avoid balls rebounding straight back out of the goal or into a child's face. Nets should be supported loosely falling so that a ball scoring a goal cannot rebound immediately. The ball should not be able to pass through the sides or rear of the net on the ground.

## GOAL STRUCTURE

1 (3.66M x 1.83M) mini-soccer goals for children should weigh no more than 30 kilos and (5M x 2M) Youth Goals for older children should not exceed 35 Kilos in weight (excluding counter balance weights).

2 Any side and back support ground frames on freestanding goals should be on the ground. No free area or clearance underneath whatsoever to prevent entrapment of hand or foot. The cross section of the side parts of a goal frame shall not protrude past the uprights.

3 The dimension of any side frame should be no less than two thirds of the dimension of the upright it is supporting. All exposed corners and edges should be rounded with a minimum radius of at least 3mm, no sharp corners on posts, support brackets, back stanchions or ground frames. On mobile freestanding goalposts sides should not be able to rock up or down or move inwards or outwards but should always be secured to a back ground frame for stability. Side support frames should never be hinged to uprights and crossbar. They should never be able to be stored against a wall with sides attached. Such goals must have sides removed and be securely stored separately from crossbar and back ground frame. The maximum weight of a single side frame of a goal that has been removed from the crossbar & backbar should be less than 10kilos for Mini Soccer goals or 12Kilos for Youth Goals to prevent injury if one did fall onto a child.

4 Goal post (net supports) 'D' brackets, fastened to the top of permanently sited posts, should not enable a child to become entrapped. The National Playing Fields Association have recently made recommendations to fill in the ends of such 'D' frames. The ideal situation is that such brackets are removed after each game.

5 Freestanding goalposts should be prevented from toppling by anchoring the ground frame or using a counter balance weight more that the total weight of the goal frame in front of the supporting back ground frame that is to have counter balance weights attached. It shall be pointed out in the fitting instructions that any freestanding goals that are not being used at the moment should be secured against over turning.(we recommend leaving the goal in the toppled position with counter balances suitably repositioned)

6 Solid steel or concrete block type counter balance weights attached to outer of goal frame should not be dangerously positioned at corners of goals where a child could come into contact. These type of weights should be covered with a minimum of 50mm thick dense foam to protect children's head should they fall onto them.

7 The uprights and the crossbar of any football goal shall have the same cross section. Square box section should be used in preference to round to prevent shimmering and sliding down. Steel should not be used in any part of the crossbar & upright. Crossbars should be fastened at each end to prevent them from coming away from uprights and dropping onto a child's head. They should not easily fracture, collapse, show deformation or crease should a small child attempt to hang from them. They should however be able to give, release or even fracture before and in preference to pulling the whole goal frame over. uPVC goals have the distinct advantage for younger children in that they do not provide a sturdy enough frame for children to swing or climb on and this in turn helps prevent such activity. Crossbars on goals five metres and above in length should be manufactured in Aluminium only. The goal frame shall be either white or be natural silver colour of light metal.

8 Back stanchions and net support brackets should be attached at all times during games to the top of goal upright or crossbar to prevent them from springing out and falling on to players. When a freestanding goal is tilted forward the back stanchion fitting to any ground frame should be able to release before the counter balanced back frame lifts more than 150mm from the ground. Goals for children should give a little when young children collide into them, to prevent serious injury.

9 All goals should have a clear instruction label attached highlighting important safety features. They should identify the manufacturer, or importer, where the product was made, and in what year. The goal should clearly identify if it is classified as a piece of sports equipment or a toy. And should clearly state any relevant European Standard it purports to meet.

10 Goals should not be used with damaged or missing parts. A full and detailed spare parts list and information as to availability should be provided, prior to sale, by every manufacturer to ensure compliance and to enable user to evaluate the after sales service offered.

11 All uPVC and Aluminium tube used in mini soccer goalposts uprights, crossbars and stanchion supports should have a wall thickness that is strong enough to take 130 kilos in weight placed 100mm from the end of the tube over a 300mm length without any sign of buckling, permanently deforming, squashing, creasing or splitting.

12 All uPVC should be of a high outdoor impact grade, with granules free from contamination and U.V. protection stabilizer, to prevent yellowing.

13 Permanent steel goal posts over 30 kilos in weight sited in sunken ground sockets should be designed in such a way as not to allow crossbars to be removed attached to uprights. ( To prevent goalposts being removed as one unit and leant onto walls or sheds).

14 Sunken Ground sockets should be filled with sand bags and topped off with turf when not in use to prevent entrapment or foot injury. Never clear a socket by hand, soil can fall behind the arm and block it's exit from the hole. (A tool is available to clear blocked sockets).

15 There should be no exposed welds on any part of the goal frame stanchions, uprights or crossbars. In particular welded hooks that can break and leave sharp protrusions. Screw in hooks with centre metal rods that rust, break and leave a jagged metal centre should not be used.

16 Portable goal carry bags should have lateral and vertical straps to strengthen and spread load. Bags should have an internal pocket to enable fitting instructions to be kept with goal.

17 Ground pegs should be made from safety plastics not metal and should be bright in colour so as to be easily identified after use to prevent them being left on the playing surface for children to fall onto and become impaled.

#### OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

1 Referees should not allow any affiliated game to proceed with goalposts that do not carry a reputable manufacturers identification label. They should check that they are correctly installed and that nets are properly attached. No home made goal should be used, and such goals should be reported to the health and safety executive and the county football association immediately. Information on the types of goals in use in their referees area should be lodged with each county football association.

2 The governing body of the sport should ensure that a detailed circular is sent on a regular basis via existing mailings (the F.A. information bulletin for example) to all affiliated clubs and referees, leagues and county football associations, leisure centre managers, professional football associations, known coaching associations, school headmasters, Health & Safety Executives, the National Playing Fields Association, the Youth Club Association, Boy Scouts Association, and any other relevant association or body that would use goalposts. This circular should include instruction showing how goals are anchored, how goals should be stored, who to contact, and what to do if they are unsure about safety rather than simply stating that goals should be anchored.

3 All affiliated leagues should ensure that all teams registered have safe goalposts manufactured by a reputable manufacturer before they are allowed to take part in any matches. An undertaking should be given each year to leagues as to current safety of goalposts and match reports by referees for leagues and county associations should all include observations as to goalpost conditions at each ground they attend.

4 All clubs, teams and leagues should have public liability insurance cover and should appoint a safety officer who is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of equipment.

5 All courses run by governing body of the sport to qualify referees, coaches, managers and anyone involved with the purchase or use of equipment should have a thorough grounding on how safety is achieved with demonstrations and videos.

6 Coaches, club managers, secretaries and volunteer helpers should ensure that they are fully conversant with goalpost and equipment safety. They should attain copies of instructions of relevant equipment. Special extra laminated copies should be made available by manufacturers. No goalpost should be loaned to another club without a copy of the fitting instructions and a practical demonstration of how goals should be installed.

7 Children should not use full size steel goals (7.32m x 2.4m) until they become fourteen years of age.

8 Manufacturers should work in accordance with the I.S.O.9000 system and place safety as the first priority over price.

“ COPYRIGHT ITSA GOAL 1999 No part of this safety guidelines information may be reproduced stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form without permission. ITSA GOAL cannot accept responsibility for any products not meeting these safety standards. We would welcome comments and suggestions or recommendations with regard to improving our safety guidelines.

Striving for Excellence.

For further copies visit our web site

[www.minisoccer.com](http://www.minisoccer.com)

Click onto the ITSAGOAL section  
and enter the **FREE** soccer downloads section.

SPONSORED BY



### MINI-SOCCER GOALS, TEAMKITS & TRAINING ACCESSORIES

ITSA GOAL-LINE : (01142) Four-Two Four-Two Four-Four  
Fax:01142 44 86 83  
101Ferrars Road, Tinsley, Sheffield, S9 1RZ

© copyright ITSA GOAL 1999 All rights reserved

#### TYPES OF MINI SOCCER GOALS AVAILABLE

##### SOCKETED (PERMANENTLY SITED)

Goals that slot into ground sockets sunk below the playing surface that are in permanent positions. Ground sockets are fixed into position with concrete to a minimum depth of 500mm with 40mm clearance at surface. They should have a drainage hole. This type of goal is the sturdiest form of goal frame. They can have net support brackets, back stanchion support frames or separate net support poles to rear. Heavy steel goal frames weighing above 30 kilos should not be able to be removed from ground sockets with crossbar and uprights attached.

##### SOCKETED (REMOVABLE) ALUMINIUM

Goals that are lightweight that slot into ground sockets in permanent positions. Sockets are excavated into the ground to a minimum depth of 500mm with a drainage hole. The sockets should be aluminium or plastic. Goals can be removed intact provided secure lockable wall brackets are used to prevent them falling over. Versions are available that can dismantle and fit into storage boxes. Rear net support poles are available to support net. These goalposts should be lightweight and should not exceed 15 kilos in weight.

##### FREESTANDING STEEL GOALS

We as a company have always declined from manufacturing steel freestanding goals. Steel versions are difficult to move around and are becoming less popular and are potentially dangerous (This type of steel goalpost has killed young children) and must be used with care. Hinged versions in particular should be avoided as they are often lent against a wall and when they topple over the whole weight of the goal crashes down. Removable side frames are much safer.

We fully support the implementation of a ban on steel goalposts asked for by the families of children who have unfortunately been killed by such goals

##### PORTABLE ANCHORED (Packed in Bags)

Goals that are assembled in sections to enable them to be packed into carry-bags. They have ground anchors for use on grass to secure goal frame. Nets fastened with pegs into ground help secure frame. Carrying weight of a goal in one bag should not exceed 30 kilograms. These are the most popular type of uPVC goals. Aluminium and uPVC versions are available.

##### PORTABLE FREESTANDING (Packed in Bags)

Goals that have side and back ground frames to allow them to be used in sports halls or on hard surfaces such as artificial grass. Multi Surface Conversions are available to adapt grass anchored portable goals. Counter balance weights or anchors must be used with this type of goal. Wheels are also available to move goals around. uPVC & Aluminium versions are available.

##### FREESTANDING (MOBILE) Aluminium

Goals that have ground frames with one piece crossbars and side frames. These can have removable sides or can be permanently assembled goal frames. Wheel attachments for easy maneuverability are available. Ground anchors or counter balance weights must be used with this type of goal. They are lightweight yet sturdy and offer good value for money.