

PENWORTHAM TOWN/BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB

Founder members - Central Lanc's J.F.L.
Founder members - Mid Lanc's colts J.F.L.
Founder members - L.E.P. Youth Division
Founder members - Preston City Football D. L.
Affiliated to the Lancashire Football Association

GOAL-POST SAFETY **PLAY YOUR PART**

Tragically during the past few years, nine children including Jack Sheerin, a seven year old from West Yorkshire, and Jonathan Smith, an eleven year old from Essex have been killed by falling goal-posts.

Football should be fun, safe and enjoyable, whether you play in a park at a school or for a local club. That's why the FA is working with manufactures and the British Standards Institute to set new standards in goal-post safety.

The four golden rules of the campaign are:

CHECK IT,
SECURE IT,
TEST IT,
RESPECT IT.

The FA needs YOUR help.

FA National Goalkeeping Coach Ray Clemence launched The F.A.'s Goalpost Safety campaign to highlight the safety issues involved with using goalposts at grassroots football back in August 2000 at Watford FC, and is keen to raise awareness of the campaign once again.

Ray said:

“The issue of goalposts safety is one that I take very seriously. Under no circumstances should children use goalposts as gymnastic equipment, they are simply not designed for that. If you want to become England's Number 1, you have to defend your goal not attack it,”
During the 2001/02 season, The Football Association carried out a programme of on site inspection and testing of goalpost sets at a number of sites across the country. Some of the findings are as follows:

1. Of all goals tested, 41% of mini-football goals, 50% of 5-a-side goals and 20% of junior goals failed stability tests.
2. Ground conditions can effect the stability of goals therefore it is important to liase with manufactures on the appropriate ground fixings in relation in relation to ground conditions.
3. Staff at every 2ND site were unaware of the safety campaign involving goalposts.

Through extending this campaign to the third year - with 25,000 leaflets going to clubs, Schools, youth groups, referees, coaches and leisure facilities across the country from the beginning of November 2002 - The FA is committed to raising this awareness and aims to create a safer environment for all football.

Steve Parkin, Director of The FA National game Division, investing £35million a year -£20million via The Football Foundation - to lead the development of, and investment in grassroots football

said:

“The launch of the campaign I August 2000 was vital to The FA’s commitment to making safety a top priority in football at all levels. By re-launching the campaign in 2002/03, we wanted to stress to everyone involved on playing and organising football that they must play their part to ensure that such tragic accidents never happen again”.

Under no circumstances should children use the goalposts as gymnastic equipment, and goalposts should not be used at all, unless they are in good condition, securely anchored to the ground, and are stable.