

# PROJECT RISK ASSESSMENT



## GOALPOSTS

Too many serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future.

**What are the hazards?** Permanent goal posts. Temporary goal posts

**Who might be harmed?** Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

**How might they be harmed?** Goalposts may collapse, paint splinters caused by rust, members of the public climbing on them and falling. Fixing nets with metal cup hooks. Goalposts have a stronger possibility of collapse. Fixing nets with metal cup hooks.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - Follow QUK and BSI guidelines when purchasing goals and do not use goals with metal cup hooks.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - Referee / facilitators should clear the posts safe prior to play. When they are not in use, put them away and store them.

**RISK FACTOR** Medium / High Risk

## WEATHER

Although not something we can control, the weather conditions can also cause serious injury. It is paramount that we try to be prepared as possible for any weather condition that may occur. The first priority should be the safety of individuals and all persons should be as protected as possible. Below are ways in which extreme weather conditions can be handled:

**What are the hazards?** Extreme weather conditions.

**Who might be harmed?** Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

**How might they be harmed?** Extreme weather conditions can cause a huge variety of risks, such as flooding, frost, snow.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - Make sure the ground is safe to play and is inspected by the groundsman prior to games and training.

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**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - Referee and club officials should call off the fixture or training session, if extreme weather is expected.

### **RISK FACTOR Low / Medium Risk**

#### **STATE OF THE PITCH**

Often with external factors, the state of the pitch can also cause harm or injury to those involved. Although we are limited to the ways we can manage this at grassroots level, there are precautions that we can take in order to reduce the risk to our players and volunteers. Below are ways we can try to manage this situation:

**What are the hazards?** Uneven ground, presence of potholes/objects, surrounding area.

**Who might be harmed?** Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

**How might they be harmed?** Injury sustained due to poor pitch or weather conditions. Failure to identify potential hazards or objects

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - The pitch should be checked by the referee prior to any training or games. The surrounding area should be checked for objects that may cause bodily injury e.g. bottles or glass.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - The pitch and surrounding area should be checked before each event by the organisers/club officials.

### **RISK FACTOR Medium / High Risk**

#### **FOOTWEAR**

In the modern game of football there are a number of different surfaces that the game is now played on however, not all of these surfaces are suitable for the same footwear. To ensure the safety of all involved, it is important to ensure that players and coaches are wearing the correct footwear for the surface. Below introduce ways in which this can be managed:

**What are the hazards?** Sharp studs

**Who might be harmed?** Players.

**How might they be harmed?** Laceration to other players.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - The referee / facilitators should check prior to all matches that sharp studs are not worn.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - Club officials should check to make sure that studs their players are wearing appropriate footwear for the surface. Players should regularly check their studs.

### **RISK FACTOR Low Risk**

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## JEWELLERY

The wearing of jewellery is often overlooked as it is seen as a low risk however, it is important to highlight the risks involved. It is accepted that jewellery is often worn in regular day to day life, but it is imperative that we ensure the safety of players, officials, volunteers and spectators within a sporting environment. In order to support Clubs, below we highlight precautions to take in relation to the wearing of jewellery:

**What are the hazards?** Loose or sharp jewellery

**Who might be harmed?** Players.

**How might they be harmed?** Strangulation due to loose jewellery or lacerations to Players.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons-** Facilitators should make sure all jewellery has been removed or taped down before any match or training session can proceed.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - Referee should check to make sure all jewellery is removed or taped down.

**RISK FACTOR** Low Risk

## CONDUCT OF PLAYERS

Football is about allowing players to play the game in a fun and safe environment regardless of the level or age of those involved. In order to ensure the safety of all involved, it is important to ensure that the conduct of players doesn't put any other person at risk including match officials, volunteers and spectators. Below we highlight the risks involved when the conduct of players doesn't meet Club Codes of Conduct, or doesn't abide by the Laws of the Game:

**What are the hazards?** Dangerous Play, physical violence.

**Who might be harmed?** Players officials, members of the public.

**How might they be harmed?** High aggression on the pitch can cause bodily injury to others, Violence on the pitch may spread to the public.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - The club must play to the QUK rules/guidelines. The referee should caution or send off an overly aggressive player. If it is believed violence could occur the offending players should be cautioned or sent off.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - The club should train their player to tackle correctly and within the QUK rules/guidelines. The club should remove any player from the field of play if behaving in a violent or dangerous manner. Legal action can be taken against a club for not controlling their player.

**RISK FACTOR** Very High Risk

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## **INJURIES FROM NORMAL PLAY**

Football is a contact sport and injuries are often seen as part and parcel of participating. However, it is important that Clubs and Coaches ensure that all precautions are taken in order to reduce the likely chances of an injury being sustained. Below we highlight ways to reduce the risk of injury and the steps to take:

**What are the hazards?** Accidental bodily harm.

**Who might be harmed?** Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

**How might they be harmed?** Injuries to players is a regular occurrence and should be taken very seriously. Injuries to members of the public on the sidelines are less common however still a fairly regular occurrence.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - Players should warm up and cool down correctly. If a serious injury should happen a first aid worker should be first at the scene.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - If you are in any doubt about the severity of an injury and you believe it could be life threatening contact the emergency services on 999.

**RISK FACTOR** Very High Risk

## **DEHYDRATION AND EXHAUSTION**

It is hugely important to ensure that all players are hydrated both in training and match day environments. If undealt with, dehydration and exhaustion can have huge impacts on a players health. Below are the risks involved with dehydration and exhaustion, and steps to take in order to reduce the risk involved or the likeliness of this happening:

**What are the hazards?** Bodily injury.

**Who might be harmed?** Players.

**How might they be harmed?** Players may risk long term serious health problems if not dealt with in time.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - Club officials must provide bottles of water at all times.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - Players should be advised to bring additional water to games and training.

**RISK FACTOR** High Risk

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## **STRUCTURES AND DUGOUTS**

There are a number of new facilities being built across the country in order to aid the development of grassroots football.

With a number of new facilities being used across the county, it is important to ensure the structures and dugouts being used are being used in the correct and safe manner. Below we highlight the risks involved and precautions to take:

**What are the hazards?** Players and public liability.

**Who might be harmed?** Players, officials and members of the public.

**How might they be harmed?** Players may fall or crash into structures.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - All dug outs to be a minimum of meters from the edge of the pitch. Structures are not to be fixed within 2 meters of the side-line.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - Warn all players prior to participating that the dugout/structure is near the pitch side.

**RISK FACTOR** High Risk

## **BLOOD SPILLAGE**

As a contact sport, players always run the risk of picking up and injury or open wound during a fixture and although not common, it is again important to ensure that all precautions have been put into place in order to protect a player wherever possible. Blood loss can have a big impact on a person's life and it is because of this that the safety of players, officials and volunteers must be priorities. Below we highlight the hazards involved and some precautionary steps that can be made:

**What are the hazards?** Blood loss.

**Who might be harmed?** Players and Officials.

**How might they be harmed?** Lacerations may cause excessive blood loss.

**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons** - First aid kit should be available to all players.

**Further actions required to minimise the risk** - First aid training to deal with such incidents.

**RISK FACTOR** Medium Risk

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