

# Risk Assessment in Conjunction with Health and Safety for Grass Roots Football Clubs

## What are the Hazards?

## Who might be Harmed?

## How might they be Harmed?

### Goalposts

Permanent Goalposts

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

Goalposts may collapse, paint splinters caused by rust, members of the public climbing on them and falling. Fixing nets with metal cup hooks.

Temporary Goal Posts

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

Goalposts have a stronger possibility of collapse. Fixing nets with metal cup hooks.

### Weather

Extreme weather conditions

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

Extreme weather conditions can cause a huge variety of risks, such as flooding, frost, snow.

### State of the pitch

Uneven ground

Players, Officials.

Tripping, slipping or falling.

Presence of pot holes/objects

Players, Officials.

Tripping, slipping or falling. Object may cause lacerations to players limbs.

Surrounding area

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

Tripping, slipping or falling over objects used by the club.

### Balls

Too Hard/Damaged Leather

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

Struck with the ball at force.

### Footwear

Sharp studs

Players.

Laceration to other players.

### Jewellery

Loose or Sharp Jewellery

Players.

Strangulation caused by loose jewellery. Lacerations to other players.

### Conduct of Players

Dangerous Play

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

High aggression on the pitch can cause bodily injury to others.

Physical Violence

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

Violence on the pitch could spread to the public.

### Injuries from Normal Play

Accidental Bodily Injury

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

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.

### Dehydration and Exhaustion

Bodily Injury

Players.

Players can risk serious long term health problems if not dealt with in time.

### Public Proximity to Pitch

Players colliding with public

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

Players may collide with members of the club or public whilst running at speed.

### Structures and Dug Outs

Players/Public Injury

Players, Officials, Members of the Public.

Players may fall or crash into structures.

### Blood Spillage

Blood Loss

Players.

Lacerations may cause blood loss.

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**Measures in place to control the risk and protect persons**    **Further actions required to minimise the risks**    **Risk Factor**

Follow FA and BSI guidelines when purchasing goals and do not use goal with metal cup hooks.

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Make sure the ground is safe to play and is inspected by the groundsmen prior to games and training.

The pitch should be checked by the referee prior to any training or games.

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The surrounding area should be checked for objects that may cause bodily injury, e.g. glass bottles.

The balls should be checked by Referee/Match Official prior to games and training.

The referee should check prior to all matches that sharp studs are not worn.

Club officials should make sure all jewellery has been removed or taped down before any match or training session can proceed.

The club must play to the FA rules/guidelines. The referee should caution or send off an overly aggressive player.

If it is believed violence could occur then the offending players should be cautioned or sent off.

Players should warm up and cool down correctly. If a serious injury should happen a first aid worker should be first at the scene.

Club officials must provide bottles of water at all times.

Members of the public must be a minimum of 2 meters from the sidelines, further back than 3 meters is often recommended at most clubs.

All dug outs are to be a minimum of 2 meters from the edge of the pitch. Structures are not to be fixed within 2 meters of the sideline.

First aid kit should be available to all players.

Referee should clear the posts safe prior to play.

When they are not in use, put away and store. Referee should clear the posts safe prior to play.

Referee and club officials should call off the fixture or training session, if extreme weather is expected.

The pitch and surrounding area should be checked before each event by the organisers/club officials.

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Make sure all balls are pumped to correct pressure, as per the manufacturers guidelines. When leather peels they should be destroyed.

Club officials should check to make sure that studs their players are wearing appropriate footwear for the surface. Players should regularly check their studs.

Referee should check to make sure all jewellery is removed or taped down.

The club should train their player to tackle correctly and within the FA rules/guidelines.

The club should remove any player from the field if behaving in a violent or dangerous manor. Legal action can be taken against a club for not controlling their player.

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.

Players should be advised to bring additional water to training and matches.

The linesman can insist that members of the public are to move back to a distance of his/her choosing, with full support of the club.

Warn all players prior to participating that the dug out/structure is near the pitch side.

First aid training to deal with such an incident.

**Medium/  
High Risk**

**Medium/  
High Risk**

**Low/  
Medium Risk**

**Medium/  
High Risk**

**Medium/  
High Risk**

**Medium/  
High Risk**

**Low Risk**

**Low Risk**

**Low Risk**

**Very  
High Risk**

**Very  
High Risk**

**Very  
High Risk**

**High Risk**

**High Risk**

**High Risk**

**Medium Risk**

***Where there is no blame there is no claim,  
Protect the future of Scottish Youth Football, safeguard your club.***