

# INSTALLATION

## ALUMINUM SOCKETED OVAL STADIUM GOALS

Lockable precise and easy to use aluminium socketed goal posts with corners that are welded both internally and externally to ensure they will stand up to the most rigorous conditions. Crossbar expansion is carried through the corner which has the affect of lifting the crossbar slightly until the goal contracts. With this design corners do not expand apart and they do not need constant attention.

Twist and lock industrial nylon net fixings enable nets to be attached quickly and easily. The net can be secured under the net fixings inside the extrusion groove or they can be hung over the hook section of the fixing. We recommend that in the top corners where the crossbar meets the upright and in the centre of the crossbar the net be secured underneath the net fixing. If you require the net fixings to be left in position then the fixing allows a 4mm rod to be slotted down inside the hole on the fitting to connect through them all to prevent them being removed.(slide rod out from top to remove fixings)

Before installing the ground sockets you need to check that your pitch is square as if not your playing area will have one touchline longer than the other. The builders rule 3-4-5 (three metres along goal line, 4meters down touchline and 5 metres between both points is a good way to check the corners are at ninety degrees. (Pythagoras)

Once your playing area is square and marked out check the measurement between each diagonal line before you start excavating your holes. Once you are sure the pitch is square mark the middle of each goal line. Work out from this marker (the centre of the goal posts) the position of the uprights to enable you to dig your holes for the ground .(12 foot on adult goals 10'6" on 21 foot wide goals, 8 foot on 16foot wide goals and 6 foot on 12 foot wide goals.- measured to the inside of uprights )

Excavate your holes for the ground sockets and pot in a small amount of pea gravel or grit sand to level the bottom of the hole. Make a drain hole down through the centre of the excavated hole to help allow water to soak away. Lower the ground socket into the hole at one side. The oval ground sockets have a front and a back and the front should be positioned to face towards the pitch. This can be determined if you feel inside the socket as the front is flush to the front of oval socket top plate whereas the back has a small space that your fingers can go under and feel it is set back slightly. This is a deliberate design feature that allows box nets are to be used and tensioned. In this instance the base of the post will not lean back when put under extreme tension as it pushes into the front of the socket wall. (A common fault in other similar stadium goal posts) The design of these sockets allows for any debris to be easily removed. Insert the upright into the ground socket and position the upright with the lock housing to the rear (not facing the pitch) and start to drop a dry mix of concrete around the base of the socket to hold the post and the socket upright. Double

check the position is the correct distance from the centre mark on the goal line and plumb up. With a large level check that the upright is it is not leaning inwards, forwards, backwards or sideways and that the base is the correct depth .Fill in around the sides of the ground socket with concrete as per the diagram on the fitting instructions.

The upright post should be eight foot less the distance under the corner (100mm) from the ground level. Too deep and you will need to lower the pitch around the posts too high and you will need to higher your area around the posts. Adjust to the correct height with stones or pea gravel under the base plate before filling with concrete. You need to do this on both goals at both ends of the pitch until you have two of the upright posts standing vertical and in the right position on both ends of the pitch. Fill these in and compact the soil around the foot of the posts to ensure they are secure. These can then be used to support the rest of the goal as you concrete in the other uprights.

The second uprights need to be positioned into the remaining excavated holes prepared at the other side of the goal post position and then the upright dropped into the hole in the same way as before. Level to the correct height and then use a small amount of concrete to support the socket with the post inside in the approximate finished position. Lift the crossbar onto both the fixed and the unfixed uprights and insert the locks. The crossbar is heavy so ensure you have enough helping hands or suitable lifting gear to lift the crossbar on and off the uprights. Make sure no children are near whilst fitting or removing the goal posts. Never at any time stand underneath the crossbar.

Once the crossbar is positioned on both uprights and the locks are fitted the second upright can be moved and lined up along the goal line and positioned vertically in the same way as before ensuring the base is at the correct depth.

Compact the concrete and soil and leave the goal with the crossbar attached until it is totally secure. DO not leave the goal until you are happy that the concrete has set fully and that the goal is secure.

## **MAINTENANCE**

To maintain the goals we recommend grease be applied inside the lock housing to facilitate easy removal of the lock case. Oil and clean the lock to ensure the key is working well at all times. If a key breaks inside the lock a special pick can be used to remove it. Spare keys are locks are always available.

The goal can be lifted out of the ground sockets with the uprights attached if you prefer or the locks can be removed and the crossbar lifted off the uprights from small caravan type steps. Which ever way you install or take down your goals they should never be stored intact but should always be unlocked and stored flat.

The crossbars are heavy and care should be taken when lifting on and off the uprights. Never stand under the crossbar always stand to the side. If the crossbar is lifted by mechanical means then it must be lifted equally from the

centre and not one end at a time as this will bend and damage the end not being lifted. Use protective materials around posts like rubber if lifting with mechanical arms otherwise you may damage the paintwork. If the crossbars are to be lifted out from the ground sockets with the uprights intact or unlocked and lifted from the uprights manually then they must be lifted at each end simultaneously.

At the end of the season when the goals are not in use check all welds to ensure they have not become damaged. Check periodically through the season that the goals have not been damaged especially if they are left up in areas prone to vandalism.

**When installing your goals take your time and get it right first time and you will have optimum performance.** Read the fitting instructions carefully before proceeding. If you feel in any way unsure about installation a competent local builder may be able to help or you can contact our technical director who will talk you through it.

When the goal is not in the sockets we recommend that an old pair of tights is filled with old rags and pushed inside socket to collect debris and grass growth before the lockable cap is fitted. If lids become damaged or vandalised a quick solution is to make a wooden plug to drop into the socket which needs to be 2mm above the top of the steel rim to allow for grass cutting machinery to pass over the submerged socket. If you have your ground verti drained indicate to the grounds man the position of the sockets to prevent damage.

The net supports positioned on the crossbar ( if supplied) enable the net head support cord to be as tight as you require it to be. These net supports are easily fitted on match days and we recommend that they be removed and stored with the nets especially if the goals are used in locations prone to vandalism or areas that have active young children and teenagers about. They can be left in position on the crossbar in supervised or secure areas. The net supports are designed with safety in mind and will give if miss used prior to any goal post corner welds being weakened.

To protect the life of your paintwork we suggest that 50mm wide plastic stretch (electricians) tape be wrapped around the base of the posts about 600mm up from the ground to protect the paintwork from goal keepers kicking the base of the upright. This can be taken into the rear groove and then cut neatly before net fixings are fixed in place. This tape can be purchased from our web site or any local DIY store and should be renewed as and when required. It is much better however if you can ask all visiting and home goal keepers not to kick the posts.

At the base of the upright below ground we recommend that duct tape be wrapped around the post. These areas of the uprights are lifted in and out and are more prone to the paintwork being chipped and by applying tape it will prevent this from happening.

A thorough inspection each year and when goals are installed should be carried out and recorded. A goal post maintenance sheet is available to be downloaded from our web site [www.itsagoal.net](http://www.itsagoal.net). Problems should be recorded, noted down and acted upon straight away. These aluminium posts however are designed in such a way that even if the corner insert comes away the goal crossbar they can still be lifted on an off the uprights and used safely.

Goals need to be treated and handled with care and they will then last longer and will perform better. Any paint chips need to be repaired as soon as possible. Rub down with emery paper to form a smooth surface down to bare metal and apply a good quality aluminium primer undercoat and then a top coat to seal the affected area. Any areas left untreated will allow water to penetrate between the powder coat finish and the base metal and if left unchecked the paint work will start to peel away. Any local DIY store will supply what you need.

Once the cap has been locked in position on the socket it is a good idea to place a small off cut of a green carpet tile or artificial grass over the top and screw down on each corner. This will prevent tampering with the lockable lid and will also protect the lock housing from grass cutting equipment.

**NEVER USE DAMAGED GOAL POSTS OR GOAL NETS** Never allow anyone to use socketed goal posts that are unstable, have nuts and bolts missing or do not have nets properly supported away from the posts. If corners have expanded apart ask the match officials to check the size of the goal and ask that the corner be closed up and re bolted in position. The size tolerance allowed on the safety standard EN 748 is plus or minus 8mm