

Our Ref: NFM/SAW

12 September 2007

**To: All County FA Chief Executives  
County Development Managers  
County Referee Development Managers**

Dear Colleagues,

### **Metal Cup Hooks**

As you will be aware the use of metal cup hooks as net fixings was banned from the commencement of this season by The FA, in view of the number of serious injuries that were being reported to the office over the past few years. Two years notice of this instruction was given in 2005.

The FA has become aware of some grounds – at various levels of the game - where metal cup hooks are still being used as net fixings. This practice must stop and match officials have been advised that matches should be postponed where such fixings are evident on any part of the goal frame. An e-mail will be sent out to all County FAs over the next day or so showing those fixings which will be acceptable, i.e. plastic arrow heads which can be screwed in, plastic clip net fasteners and new goals which have internal channels for plastic grippers.

If Clubs do not wish to purchase new goals because of cost, it is recommended they should consider grinding the hooks off and ensuring the equipment is then well rubbed down to ensure no sharp edges remain. Manufacturers offer various different net ties and fixings which can ensure the nets are securely affixed to the goal. A list of those who can supply such net fixings, are shown below:

- Harrod UK Ltd - 01502-583515
- Edwards Sports – 01308-424111
- Mark Harrod Ltd – 01502-476882
- BG Sports – 01282-860077
- Huck nets – 01308-425100

It would be appreciated if you can spread the message to all of your affiliated clubs and leagues to ensure no further accidents occur this season and to prevent match officials from being embarrassed in having to postpone matches due to these fixings being evident. Thank you for your ongoing help with this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Steve Williams  
National Facilities Manager**