

School Buying Guide

Portable Soccer Goals, Training Markers & Field Lighting

For school districts, PE departments, athletic directors & procurement officers

This guide walks a school or district through buying portable soccer goals and training equipment the right way — what to specify, which safety standard to require, the documentation your procurement and risk teams need, and a copy-paste RFP spec you can drop into your own request. It is written by a manufacturer (Eco Walker / TAY Sports), so it reflects what makes a request easy to bid accurately — which is the same thing that gets you comparable, honest quotes.

1. Why Portable Goals for Schools

- **Safer by design.** Soft, inflatable-frame goals put no rigid metal tube near children and are anti-tip by design — directly addressing the one documented hazard in this category (goals tipping forward).
- **90-second setup, no tools.** Custodial or PE staff can deploy and pack down a goal in minutes — no permanent installation, no ground works, no consents.
- **Store anywhere.** Packs into a carry bag for off-season storage or shared-field rotation.
- **Multi-age, multi-use.** One equipment set can cover PE, after-school programs, and several age groups with mixed sizes.

2. The Safety Standard to Require

The one requirement that matters most is **anti-tip stability** — the historical fatal-incident pattern for soccer goals is unanchored metal goals tipping onto a child. That is the entire reason goal-safety standards exist.

In the UK and EU, the current standard is **EN 16579** (portable and freestanding soccer goals, last revised 2018). In North America, ASTM and CPSC guidance govern movable-goal safety, again centred on anti-tip anchoring. When you write your RFP, require the standard *and the evidence*:

- A signed **Declaration of Compliance** referencing EN 16579, plus the test records behind it.
- Note: EN 16579 for portable goals uses a **manufacturer self-declaration route** — there is no mandatory third-party "certificate". A supplier promising a third-party EN 16579 certificate for a portable goal is overstating. Require a signed declaration, not a certificate that does not exist for this product class.
- An **anti-tip anchoring system** as standard, suited to your ground type (grass, turf, or hard court).

3. How to Size Goals by Age Group

Standard small-sided formats (US Youth Soccer). Confirm against your league or PE curriculum:

Age / format	Play format	Recommended goal size
U6–U8	4v4	4 ft × 6 ft
U9–U10	7v7	6 ft × 12 ft
U11–U12	9v9	7 ft × 21 ft
U13+ / adult	11v11	8 ft × 24 ft (full size)

Most schools buy a mix — e.g. several 4x6 for PE and 7v7 plus a pair of full-size goals for older squads. Mixed-size orders are normal and do not raise the per-unit price.

4. Three Ways to Buy (and What Each Costs)

Path	Typical cost	Best when
Retail catalog	Highest	1–2 goals, need it this week, budget not tight
Specialty distributor	Mid	Want a local rep and bundled service
Manufacturer-direct	40–55% lower	4+ goals or a district-wide buy; want compliance docs at source

5. Documentation Your Procurement & Risk Teams Need

For an institutional purchase order, require this 7-item package up front. A serious supplier turns project-specific signed versions around in 1–2 business days:

- **W-9** — for US vendor setup and 1099 reporting
- **Certificate of Insurance (COI)** — naming your district / school where required
- **EN 16579 compliance attestation** — signed Declaration of Compliance
- **MSDS / material safety data** — for the fabric and components
- **Warranty terms** — written coverage and claim process
- **Return & freight terms** — clear and in writing before the PO
- **Anti-tip / anchoring guidance** — for your specific ground type

6. Copy-Paste RFP Specification

Drop this into your RFP and edit the bracketed fields:

```
SCOPE
  [Qty] x portable soccer goals, size [e.g. 12ft x 6ft], for [age group]
  Delivery to: [site address(es)]   Required by: [date]

TECHNICAL
  Portable / freestanding; setup < [X] min by 1-2 people, no tools
  Weather- & UV-resistant; anti-tip anchoring included for [ground type]
  Packs into a carry bag; state packed size & weight

SAFETY & COMPLIANCE
  Built to comply with EN 16579; signed Declaration of Compliance required
  Anti-tip stability mandatory

DOCUMENTATION (with bid or on award)
  EN 16579 attestation, MSDS, W-9, COI, warranty, freight/returns terms

COMMERCIAL
  Unit price, freight & any fees itemized; payment terms [net-30 / 50-50]

EVALUATION (example weighting)
  Compliance & docs 30% | delivered cost 30% | spec match 20% |
  lead time 10% | warranty & support 10%
```

7. Budget & 5-Year Thinking

Score bids on **delivered** cost (unit + freight + fees), not unit price alone. A goal that is \$30 cheaper but ships without an anti-tip system or compliance attestation is a liability, not a saving. Over a 5-year horizon, repairability matters: a goal you can fix with a \$15 valve or patch beats one you replace for several hundred dollars. Ask whether replacement parts are sold separately.

8. How to Buy From Eco Walker

We are TAY Sports — manufacturer of the portable goals, markers, and field lighting in this line. Send us your spec or RFP and we return an itemized bid with the full documentation package within 1–2 business days. North American buyers ship from our US warehouse (5–10 days on in-stock items); international buyers ship by sea

freight from China.

Request a quote: bulk@taysports.com • WhatsApp +86 138 1660 5789 • www.taysports.com/b2b • Compliance & downloads: www.taysports.com/compliance

Eco Walker is a brand of TAY Sports. Manufacturing: Shaoxing, China. UK & EU trading entity: TAY SPORTS LTD, Registered in England & Wales No. 12327575. Goals are designed and built to comply with EN 16579 and shock-tested in-house to its requirements; EN 16579 uses a manufacturer self-declaration route. This guide is general procurement information, not legal advice.