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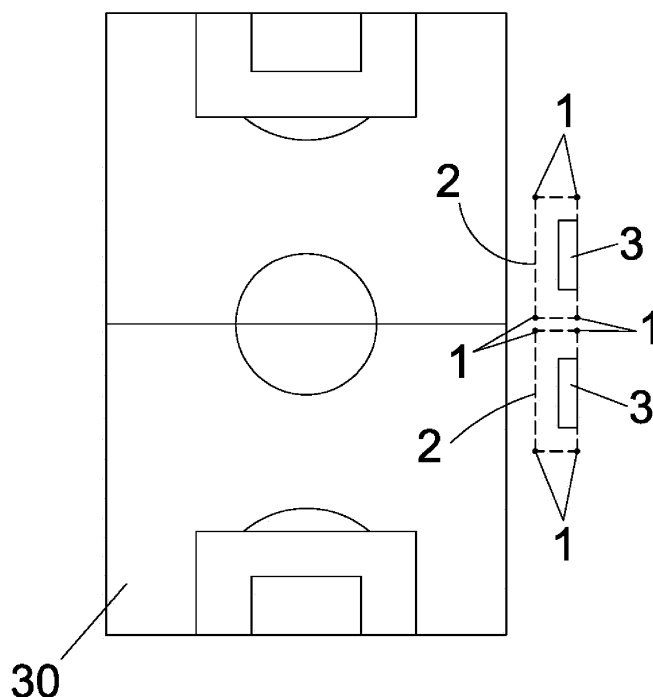
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(54) **DEVICE FOR MARKING THE TECHNICAL AREA OF A BENCH IN A FOOTBALL STADIUM**

(57) The invention relates to a device for marking the technical area of a bench in a football stadium. The device comprises: placement means (6a, 6b) to be placed in or on the ground (10); at least one marker extension (7); and an energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c) in case of impact. The aforementioned placement means can com-

prise an insertable point (6a) or, alternatively, a support base (6b). Additionally, the device incorporates advertising surfaces (12, 12a, 12b) disposed on the visible parts of the placement means, the marker extension or the energy absorbing element.



**Fig 1**

**Description****OBJECT OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The present invention relates to a device for marking the technical area of a bench in a football stadium.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] In the football stadium benches, there are delimited regulatory technical areas, with rectangular shape and specific dimensions, in order to limit the space where occupations and/or movements can take place by the occupants of said bench, all of this with the aim of avoiding indiscriminate circulation outside such technical areas which may lead to confusion, disadvantage and even discomfort or provocations with the bench of the opposing team or the public, or the invasion of the playing field itself.

[0003] These technical areas are delimited by lines normally discontinuous drawn in the terrain or on the grass of said ground, reason why an excess of attention or tension of the occupants of the bench on the events that happen in the playing field often obviates its perception, not being able to look simultaneously at the ground and what happens on the playing field. In these cases the involuntary exit of the technical area can occur, and then the regulation has a regime of sanctions that can affect the occupants of the bench undeservedly.

[0004] On the other hand, the current delimitation of the technical area by means of lines in the ground is not able to provide additional functionalities, such as for example being used as an advertising medium or support.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

[0005] The device of the invention has a constitution which optimally remedies the drawbacks described.

[0006] According to the invention, the device comprises placement means on the ground, at least, one marker extension and an energy absorbing element in the event of impact with a player or occupant of the bench or the sideline.

[0007] As a marker extension is understood that it extends or rises from the ground, which allows its visualization without directing the view to the ground. By placing a plurality of these devices, ideally one in each vertex of said technical area, the same will be perfectly delimited, although they could also be put in intermediate positions between such vertices, on the boundary lines.

[0008] In addition, it has been envisaged that the device incorporates areas or elements capable of carrying advertising, so that the collection by this end can cover all or part of the installation of the device of the invention.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS****[0009]**

Fig. 1 shows a view of a football stadium with its benches and technical areas.

Fig. 2 shows a detail of one of the technical areas of a bench, where the placement of the device of the invention is appreciated.

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 show three variants of the device of the invention.

**PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION**

[0010] The device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) of the invention comprises placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10), at least, one marker extension (7) and an energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c).

[0011] The marker extension (7) can take any form that improves its appreciation by persons occupying the bench (3), such that any exit from the technical area (2) is evidently voluntary. Therefore, such marker extension (7) by way of non-limiting examples can take the form of post, box, barrier, etc. In the examples shown in Figs. 3 to 5, it mainly takes the form of a post.

[0012] Placing a plurality of devices (1), each of which in one of the four vertices (5) of the technical area (2), is therefore optimally marked the same.

[0013] The placement means in the ground (10) may comprise, in a first preferred variant of embodiment, an insertable point (6a) on the ground (10) (see Figs. 3 and 4). In these variants, the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b) is located between the point (6a) and the marker extension 7, so that in the event of a knock-down of the device (1) by a player, not shown, no part of the point (6a) is on the ground and the energy absorbing element is the one that dissipates the energy of the collision. In these cases, the energy absorbing element may be a recoverable flexible member (9a) (see Fig. 3) and/or a removable coupling (9b) (see Fig. 4). Therefore, the recoverable flexible member (9a) and the removable coupling (9b) can also be combined in a single energy absorbing element, although this combined variant is not shown in the figures.

[0014] Another variant of embodiment envisages that the placement means in the ground (10) comprise a simple support base (6b) in the ground (10). In this case, the energy absorbing element would comprise the simple support (9c) on the ground (10), arranged on the support base (6b) (see Fig. 5), that in the event of a knock-down of the device (1) would not make a retention in the same that could be harmful to the player who has collided with it.

[0015] Additionally, the invention provides that the device (1) comprises advertising surfaces (12, 12a, 12b), which may be arranged in visible portions of the place-

ment means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10), and/or of the marker extension (7) and/or of the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c).

The advertising surfaces may comprise the contour (12) of the placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10) and/or the marker extension (7) and/or the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c). Fig. 3 shows how they comprise the contour (12) of the marker extension (7) in this particular example.

**[0016]** Alternatively or in addition, the advertising surfaces may comprise enlargements (12a) performed in the placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10) and/or in the marker extension (7) and/or in the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c). In Fig. 4, there are appreciated such enlargements (12a) equally performed in the marker extension (7).

**[0017]** A further alternative or complementary embodiment to the foregoing advertising surfaces comprises rigid or flexible portions (12b) attached to the placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10) and/or of the marker extension (7) and/or the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c). Specifically in Fig. 5, these portions (12b) are appreciated attached to hooks (17) provided in the marker extension (7).

**[0018]** Having sufficiently described the nature of the invention, as well as the manner in which is realized in the practice, it should be noted that the provisions indicated and represented above in the accompanying drawings are susceptible to modifications of detail insofar as they do not alter the fundamental principle.

## Claims

1. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30), **characterized in that** it comprises placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10), at least, one marker extension (7), and an energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c) in case of impact.
2. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the placement means in the ground (10) comprise an insertable point (6a) in the ground (10).
3. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b) is located between the point (6a) and the marker extension (7).
4. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to claim 3, **characterized in that** the energy absorbing element is selected from:

a recoverable flexible member (9a) and/or  
a removable coupling (9b).

5. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the placement means in the ground (10) comprise a support base (6b) in the ground (10).
6. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to claim 5, **characterized in that** the energy absorbing element comprise a simple support (9c) on the ground (10), arranged on the support base (6b).
7. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to any of preceding claims, **characterized in that** it further comprises advertising surfaces (12, 12a, 12b), which are arranged in visible parts of the placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10) and/or the marker extension (7) and/or the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c).
8. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to claim 7, **characterized in that** the advertising surfaces comprise the contour (12) of the placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10) and/or of the marker extension (7) and/or the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c).
9. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to any of claims 7 or 8, **characterized in that** the advertising surfaces comprise enlargements (12a) performed in the placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10) and/or in the marker extension (7) and/or in the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c).
10. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to any of claims 7 to 9, **characterized in that** the advertising surfaces comprise portions (12b) attached to the placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10) and/or to the marker extension (7) and/or the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c).
11. Device (1) for marking the technical area (2) of a bench (3) in a football stadium (30) according to claim 10, **characterized in that** the placement means (6a, 6b) in the ground (10) and/or to the marker extension (7) and/or the energy absorbing element (9a, 9b, 9c) comprise hooks (17) for attachment of portions (12b) constituting the advertising surfaces.

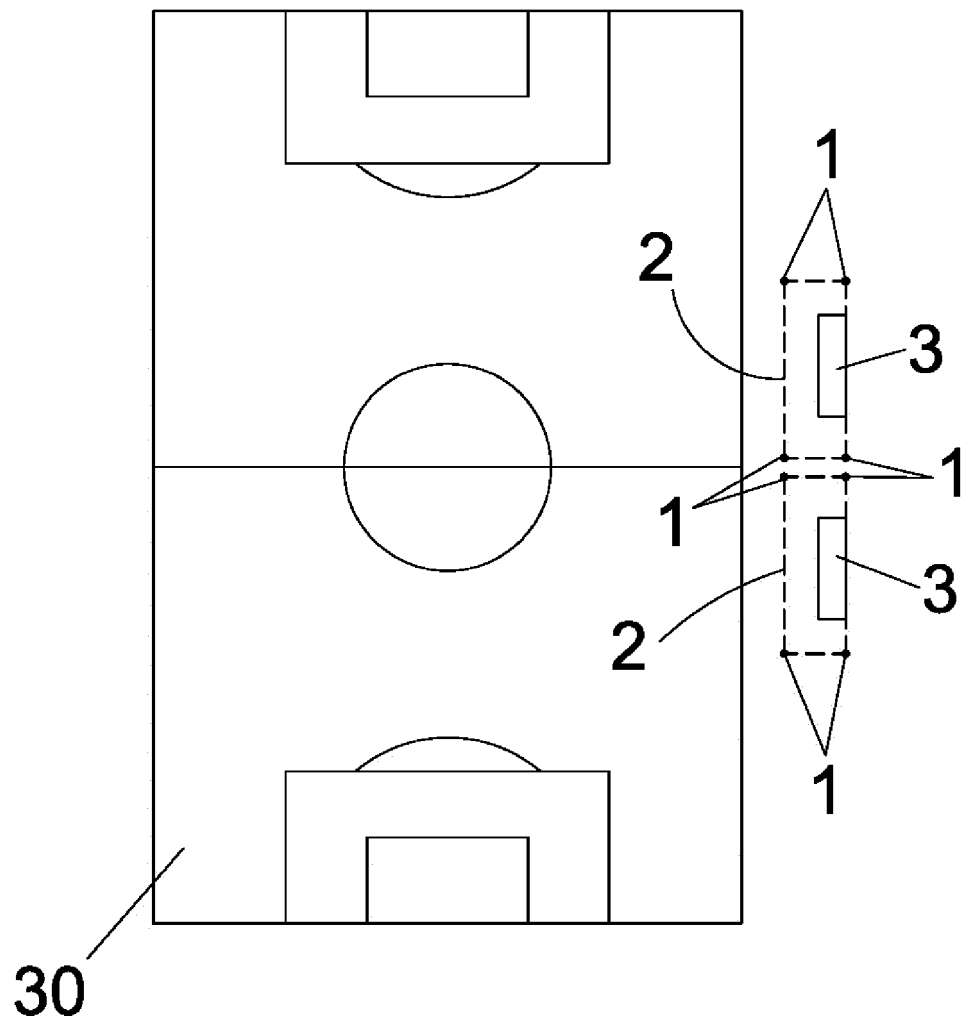


Fig 1

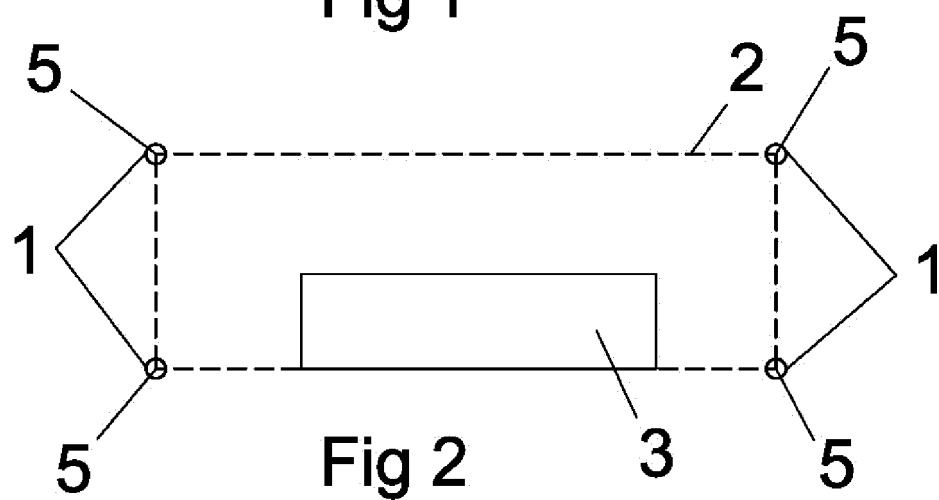
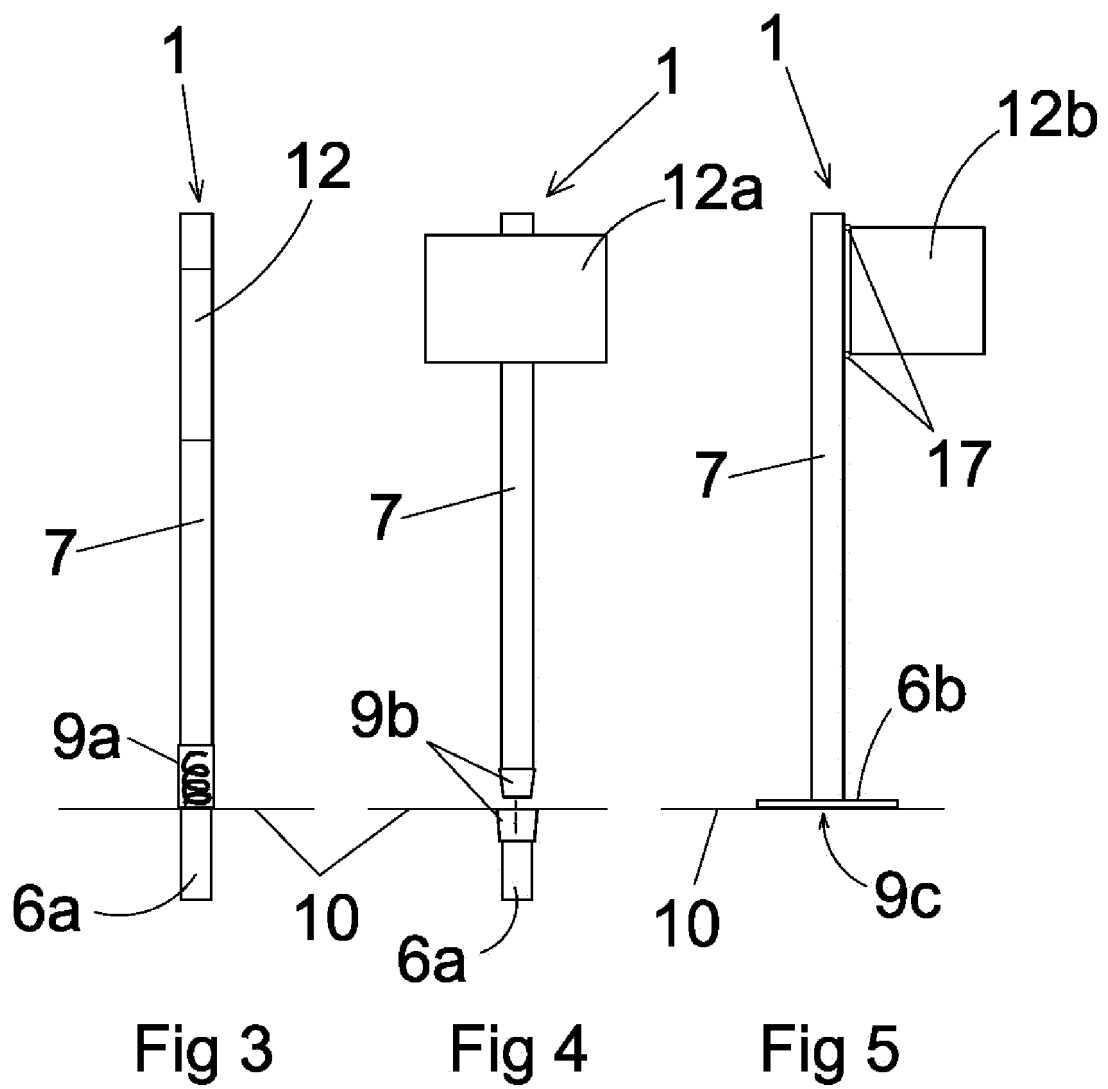


Fig 2



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/ES2015/070786

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

**A63B71/06** (2006.01)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

**A63B**

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

**EPODOC, INVENES, WPI**

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3067717 A (IMPARATO EDWARD T) 11/12/1962, column 1, lines 8 - 10; column 1, line 55 - column 2, line 54; figures 1 - 5.	1-11
X	US 5040478 A (HUGHES ROBERT K) 20/08/1991, column 2, line 55 - column 6, line 43; figures 1, 2.	1-4, 7-11
X	CN 201558495U (XINYU FENG) 25/08/2010, Abstract from WPI DataBase, retrieved from EPOQUE (AN: 2010-L79975); figure 1.	1-4
A	JP 2000259107 A (VENEER SHOTEN KK) 22/09/2000, Abstract from WPI DataBase, retrieved from EPOQUE (AN: 2000-616589); figures.	7-11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.	
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure use, exhibition, or other means.	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/ES2015/070786

C (continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of documents, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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International application No.

Information on patent family members

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