

# Match-Day Safeguarding Plan — Football Stadium

<b>Implementation Date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
<b>Agreed By:</b>	Colin Blackett/ Kevin Miles
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026

## 1. Purpose & Scope

To ensure the welfare and protection of all individuals at the stadium on match days, including spectators (especially children and vulnerable adults), staff, players, officials, and volunteers. This plan sits alongside existing *Safety Management* and *Ground Operations* policies and outlines specific safeguarding arrangements.

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## 2. Responsibilities & Governance

### Match-Day Safeguarding Leadership

- **Designated Match-Day Safeguarding Officer (MDSO)** – Overall accountability for safeguarding decisions and response.
- **Deputy MDSO** – Acts in absence of the MDSO.
- **Control Room Manager** – Coordinates reporting and communications with stewards and external agencies.
- **Head Stewards & Safety Team** – First point of contact for concerns.

All designated staff must be trained and aware of responsibilities and referral pathways.

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## 3. Pre-Match Planning

### Risk Assessment

Prior to every match, conduct a risk assessment that includes:

- Crowd dynamics and attendance forecast.
- Transport arrival patterns.
- Threat assessments (e.g., hostile vehicle risk, crime intelligence).
- Identification of vulnerable spectator groups.

### Briefings

- An operational briefing must be held with stewards, security, medical leads, and welfare staff to review safeguarding protocols, communication channels, and escalation procedures.
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## 4. Staffing & Training

Assign clear roles for:

- **Safeguarding Stewards** — visible and trained staff to support welfare concerns across stands.
- **CCTV & Control Room Operators** — monitor and support identification of safeguarding issues.
- **Medical & First Aid Teams** — trained to prioritise emergency care and referral.

All staff involved in match day must be briefed on:

- Recognising and reporting safeguarding concerns.
  - Procedures for missing/ separated children.
  - Handling disclosures of harm or abuse.
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## 5. Reporting Structure

## 1. **Concern Identified / Reported**

- Can be raised by spectators, staff, or via CCTV/incident observation.

## 2. **Report to Steward / Control Room**

## 3. **Control Room notifies MDSO**

## 4. **Appropriate action determined**

- Incident recorded and escalated to external agencies if required (police, social services)

Document all safeguarding concerns with date/time/location/staff involved.

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# 6. **Children & Vulnerable Adults**

## **Unaccompanied Minors**

- Establish minimum unaccompanied age policy (e.g., under 14s must be with an adult).

## **Supervision Standards**

- Ensure children in hospitality have adult supervision and clear behaviour expectations.

## **Lost / Separated Children**

- Provide a designated "Place of Safety" with welfare staff.
  - Contact parent/guardian immediately.
  - If necessary, coordinate with police to reunite child safely.
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# 7. **Behaviour & Incident Management**

## **Behavioural Issues**

- Steward and security teams to intervene early for disruptive behaviour.

- Extreme behaviour (violence, pyrotechnics, discriminatory chants, throwing objects) should be escalated to MDSO and local police.

## **Ejection Protocols**

- If ejection is necessary, ensure:
    - It is proportionate and safe.
    - Parent/guardian contacted for minors.
    - Accurate records kept.
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## **8. Welfare Support & Facilities**

- Clearly signpost welfare and safeguarding hubs throughout the stadium.
  - Provide:
    - Quiet spaces for distressed individuals.
    - Basic first aid and hydration points.
    - Access to transport information and help points.
  - Inform spectators how to report concerns (e.g., via text service or steward).
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## **9. Communication & Awareness**

- Publicly display safeguarding information on:
  - Tickets and match programs.
  - Stadium screens and PA announcements.
  - Club website and social media.

Key messaging should include:

- How to report concerns.
- Behaviour standards expected.

- Emergency contact procedures.
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## **10. Emergency & Contingency Arrangements**

Coordinate with:

- **Emergency services**
- **Police**
- **Local authorities**

Ensure clear plans for:

- Medical emergencies
  - Evacuation scenarios
  - Severe weather or infrastructure issues
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## **11. Review, Monitoring & Record Keeping**

- Maintain a log of all safeguarding reports and responses.
  - Review after each match to:
    - Identify patterns or training needs.
    - Update procedures and risk assessments.
  - Conduct annual audits of safeguarding practices and policies.
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## **12. Policies & Legal Framework**

Ensure alignment with:

- UK Safeguarding legislation (e.g., Children Acts, Vulnerable Groups requirements)
- Local licensing and safety certificate conditions.

- Internal club safeguarding and child protection policies.