

OYFC - Health & Safety Policy

Overton Youth Football Club is committed to a safe environment for all players, volunteers (all levels) and coaches. It will promote standards of health, safety and welfare within football and will ensure compliance with all relevant statutory provisions. The Club will ensure that suitable and sufficient risk assessments are carried out, that procedures and safe systems are implemented in accordance with all current statutory provisions and that all reasonable and practical measures are taken to avoid risk. Safe practices will be adopted and continuous improvement will be sought through regular audits and reviews.

Appropriate instruction and training will be provided together with adequate resources to ensure that the successful management of health and safety is carried out within the Club and that this policy is collectively implemented. This policy together with arrangements and procedures, will be reviewed regularly and revised and updated as necessary.

1. Managers / Coaches

The Manager/Coach of each team shall be demonstrably 'competent' and is our main Health and Safety control measure. The Manager/Coach is the responsible person for their 'Age Group Team' and this person has a duty to ensure that they hold current FA Emergency Aid and FA Safeguarding Children certificates. They **MUST** also hold a current, FA Accepted Enhanced CRC.

The following checks should be carried out by all Managers and Coaches before each training session or match:-

1.1. Equipment

- 1.1.1. All players must wear shin guards.
- 1.1.2. The ball must be safe (i.e. not damaged?) and of the correct size for the age group.
- 1.1.3. All equipment must be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- 1.1.4. Player's boots and the 'blades' or 'studs' on them should be checked regularly for safety. (There have been serious accidents and injuries caused by 'blades' with sharp worn edges and also 'studs' with sharp or exposed metal – players wearing such boots on concrete or gravel should therefore be actively discouraged as this can cause this problem).
- 1.1.5. All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not acceptable.

(This is all as per Law 4 The FA/ FIFA Laws of the Game concerning Equipment)

1.2. Playing and Training Venue

- 1.2.1. Check the pitch, sports hall, all weather surface or field for any obstacle, item or implement which may cause harm or discomfort to any player, official or spectator. This is known as a hazard.
- 1.2.2. Check the goal posts for security and safety
- 1.2.3. Check that the corner flags and 'Respect' barriers are used correctly in matches.
- 1.2.4. Check changing facilities for security and safety

1.3. Risk Assessment

By doing the checks in 1&2 above you are carrying out a dynamic risk assessment on all matches and venues used. Ensure that all 'control' measures to reduce both /or either the severity and probability of harm from any hazard occurring are put in place and checked.

1.4. First Aid

- 1.4.1. Make sure a qualified first aider is at all training and match venues with a suitable first aid kit.
- 1.4.2. An emergency phone should be available

1.5. Contact Details

- 1.5.1. Ensure you have either a complete and up to date 'Team Register – Emergency Contacts' or a copy of their OYFC Membership form for all players.

2. Parents

Children remain the responsibility of their parents/legal guardians at all times during football training, matches and other Overton Youth Football Club activities and when arriving and departing at them. OYFC does provide all reasonable safeguards in terms of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (CRC checks), First aid qualified volunteers and a Club Welfare Officer and acts as advised by the Hampshire Football Association and The Football Association in the conduct of its activities and affairs.

As a club of volunteers, our volunteers do have a Duty of care for the children in our membership but this does not extend to the level of that of teachers or registered childminders and as such parents/legal guardians are advised against dropping their younger age group children off and leaving the site during football training, matches and other OYFC activities. Should parents/legal guardians make any arrangements

with other adults concerning their child and supervision and transportation for OYFC activities then this is at their own responsibility in their own legal capacity and not the responsibility of OYFC.

3. Players

As a member of OYFC you have a duty to:

- 3.1.1. Take reasonable care for your own health & safety and that of others who may be affected by what you do or not do.
- 3.1.2. Co-operate with the club on health & safety issues.
- 3.1.3. Correctly use all equipment provided by the club.
- 3.1.4. Not interfere with or misuse anything provided for your health, safety or welfare.

4. Club

4.1. Goal Post Safety

- 4.1.1. Several serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future:
- 4.1.2. For safety reasons goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground or have a weighted back bar.
- 4.1.3. Portable goalposts must be secured as per the manufacturer's instructions; this is also a requirement for the Laws of the Game.
- 4.1.4. Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goalposts;
- 4.1.5. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may overturn;
- 4.1.6. Regular inspections of goalposts must be carried out to check that they are properly maintained.
- 4.1.7. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be either dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage, or placed together and suitable fixings applied to prevent unauthorised use at any time.
- 4.1.8. The use of metal cup hooks on any part of a goal frame was banned from the commencement of season 2007-08 and match officials have been instructed not to commence matches where such net fixings are evident for safety reasons. Nets may be secured by plastic fixings, arrow head shaped plastic hooks or tape but not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and

replaced. New goalposts purchased should meet the relevant British Standards.

- 4.1.9. Goalposts which are “home-made” or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used under any circumstances as they potentially pose a serious safety risk.
- 4.1.10. There is no BS/CEN standard for wooden goals and it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test. The FA recommends that wooden goals should be replaced with British Standard compliant metal, aluminium or plastic goalposts. All wooden goals previously tested by independent consultants have failed strength and stability tests.

5. Playing time

For Mini-Soccer – The maximum duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time:

- For under 7 and under 8, 20 minutes each half. The maximum playing time in any one day is 40 minutes.
- For under 9 and under 10, 25 minutes each half. The maximum playing time is 60 minutes in all competitions.

For Youth football – The maximum duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time:

- For under 11 and under 12, 30 minutes each half
- For under 13 and under 14, 35 minutes each half
- For under 15 and under 16, 40 minutes each half
- For under 17 and under 18, 45 minutes each half