



COVENTRY CITY FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

Guidance for Bringing Children to Football Matches

...LET'S ALL SING TOGETHER

#PUSB 

The purpose and scope for this Policy Statement

This Policy is for use across Coventry City Football Club ("the Club") and is to be observed by all those who attend football matches with members of their family. The Policy exists to ensure that best practice is promoted and adhered to. Activities undertaken at the following locations/departments are under the remit of this policy which include:

- Coventry City Football Club and the Coventry Building Society Arena
- Coventry City First Team
- Coventry City Academy and Youth Development Teams

Introduction

The Club endeavours to ensure that attending a football match is a positive experience for everyone. When considering whether to bring your child to a match please consider their age, time of the match including both start and finish, weather conditions, crowds, and any other applicable risks.

Stadium Age Restrictions

When attending football matches at the Coventry Building Society Arena, the Club has several rules as follows:

- A Child is anyone that is under the age of 18 (they have not yet reached their 18th Birthday)
- Anyone under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an Adult (An Adult is someone over the age of 18)
- We recommend that you do not bring babies and children under 2 to matches.

Weather Conditions

Throughout the football season weather conditions change considerably and visitors are likely to experience all weather types.

Early and late season may mean high temperatures and strong sunshine. This means that parts of the Stadium may be in full sun for long periods of time.

Mid-Winter games, especially at night, may mean sub-zero temperatures, including rain, wind, and snow and you should be mindful of the following:

- Frost and ice underfoot may also be an extra hazard for those carrying or walking with small children so be very careful in cold, wet, or windy conditions.
- Babies and small children can become cold very quickly, even at times of the year where adults feel it is warm outside. They will more than likely be inactive at the stadium and get cold quickly so keep an eye on your child – Don't Forget – unusually quiet and bright red skin doesn't necessarily mean they are warm and happy; this could be a sign of hyperthermia (their skin will be cold). If you choose to bring your child to a game, remember to dress them in appropriate layers.

We want you and your Child to enjoy your visit. If you are bringing a child to the stadium, think about their needs first, if you cannot guarantee their comfort or safety then please consider other childcare options so that you can attend and enjoy the game if possible.

Noise

Football matches are noisy events, the noise levels can go up and down throughout the game.

Small children are more sensitive to noise and thus are more prone to hearing damage. Whilst long term damage from the noise at football grounds is unlikely, the peak sounds can reach the same levels experienced in a nightclub.

Ear plugs or muffs may help to protect the child's hearing and may also help to keep them a little bit warmer on cold days or evenings. Some children may also find the cheering, singing, and chanting in some parts of the stadium a little frightening and unfortunately there may also be some spectators occasionally using language that is inappropriate for young people to hear.

Racist Language

It makes no difference who hears this type of language, if the person perceives it to be of a racist or offensive nature then it is. This is a criminal offence and should be reported to a Safety Steward at the soonest opportunity. The 'Kick it Out' movement is available for reporting, and this can be done by going to the website via this link <https://www.kickitout.org> or via the Kick it Out App and reporting the incident to your nearest Steward on the day.

Stay Alert

Football is hard, being struck by a ball can hurt and even cause injury. In many areas of spectator seating there is a risk of being struck by a ball from the pitch. This risk is escalated behind the goals particularly during team warm-ups when there are multiple balls on the pitch that may come from any angle. Please ensure that you and your child stay alert to the possibility of this.

What to do if you have a concern at the match

If you have a concern about a child, young person, or vulnerable adult then contact the Safeguarding Team at the Club at any time. On a match day please do not hesitate to report a concern to one of our Safety Stewards who will notify a member of the Safeguarding Team (wearing blue Safeguarding vests), who are present on match days and report to the Head of Safeguarding at the Club.

Staff at the Club are trained and experienced in providing a safe environment for all our visitors but where there are large gatherings of people there are risks. As a result, we have developed a safeguarding code of conduct which is attached at Appendix A.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Head of Safeguarding, following learning outcomes due to a significant incident, or when legislation/statutory/regulatory guidance changes.



Coventry City Football Club Match Day Safeguarding Code of Conduct

Appendix A

- Anyone under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by an adult. An adult is anyone aged 18 or over.
- Parents or other responsible adults have primary responsibility for the safety of their child/young person who accompanies them and should always keep them close and be seated with them.
- Please be aware of where your child/young person is at all times during your visit and have a plan to meet somewhere if you get separated.
- Ensure your child/young person knows who to contact should they feel lost or worried.
- Stewards are situated around the stands in high visibility jackets for your safety and confidence.
- Our stewards are trained in how to deal with lost children, please ensure your child knows not go off with a spectator they do not know.
- Should you get separated from your child please contact a steward immediately
- In an emergency, please ensure your child is aware what to do including how to evaluate the stadium and where to meet with you.
- On a match Day a dedicated Safeguarding steward will be available to help.
- Should you see anything that causes you a concern or doesn't look right please report it to a steward.

If you have any concerns, require any further information or guidance, or wish to report a Safeguarding concern please contact: Safeguarding@ccfc.co.uk

Remember if something doesn't look or feel right, it probably isn't, Report it