

# WHITLETTS VICTORIA FOOTBALL CLUB



## MEDICAL RISK ASSESSMENT & MEDICAL PLAN

## **Introduction**

This document combines the Medical Risk Assessment and Medical Plan. It addresses:

- ◆ Organisation and infrastructure relating to medical matters
- ◆ Identifiable risks and how these are controlled
- ◆ General provisions for medical care.

## **Infrastructure and Organisation**

### *Access for Emergency Vehicles*

New Voluntary Park is accessible via the Ground's car park through double gate entry, therefore would permit direct access for emergency vehicles to the pitch and ground.

### *First Aid Facilities*

The principal first aid room is within the modular building or the team changing room where there is hot and cold running water and a toilet

A new First Aid Room is currently under construction within the re-development of the Clubhouse and will contain basic first aid equipment, a medical couch and hot and cold running water. There will be adequate storage in the room. There will be a toilet within the dressing room area. This facility will meet the requirements of the Scottish FA National Club Licensing.

### *Match Officials Room*

The match officials' room is currently situated in the modular building within the ground. It will contain a toilet, sink with running water, shower and changing space for 3 persons.

Once redeveloped, this facility will be situated within the Clubhouse and have all the space and facilities required of the Scottish FA National Club License.

### *Organisation and Personnel*

Whitletts Victoria Football Club ("the club") has an association with a Doctor for advice and guidance on all medical matters. The Doctor would be in attendance for major matches (where attendance is greater than 500 is anticipated). The club also ensures that there is at least one qualified First Aid staff member present at all matches.

There is an announcer present at every home match. This person will be located in the covered area next to the catering kiosk and is the focal point for co-ordination of messages during the match. He/she will make any safety announcements and will have immediate access to a telephone to communicate with others including the emergency services to ensure expedited management of any health and safety issues.

## **IDENTIFIABLE MEDICAL RISKS**

### *Injury to players*

#### *i. Description*

The most likely source of a medical issue is the injury to players during the normal course of the match. This can cover the spectrum of minor injury which is treated pitch side before the player returns to the game to serious injury requiring immediate intervention and hospitalisation.

*ii. Current arrangements*

The club will ensure that there is a qualified sports first-aider present at all matches. A stretcher is available in the Medical Room which will allow removal of players from the pitch to the first aid room if the player requires assistance to leave the pitch.

The nearest accident department is at the Ayr Hospital, which is 10 minutes from the ground under normal traffic conditions. The first aider looking after an injured player will make arrangements through the Ground Co-ordinator either to arrange transport for a player to the infirmary for further assessment or to call the emergency services if immediate medical care is required.

The risk of injury to players does not vary significantly between normal and major matches and this assessment applies to all matches.

*iii. Assessment*

The current arrangements are satisfactory, but it is recommended that the procedure for removal of the player from the pitch and making arrangements for onward transport are rehearsed annually.

Actions required: Annual rehearsal of arrangements as above

## **INJURY TO SPECTATORS**

*iv. Description*

The following risk factors can be considered collectively for assessment purposes:

- ◆ Fire - there is identifiable risk in the Changing Rooms, Medical Room and Referees Room. The risk as assessed is small for these areas and negligible for open areas of the ground.
- ◆ Structural Failure - the identifiable source of risk is Clubhouse. This is a derelict structure but is scheduled for renovation by Spring 2025 and is regularly inspected. The building is wind and watertight and the risk is considered negligible under normal circumstances to slight in high winds.
- ◆ Evacuation - There is negligible risk under normal operating conditions rising to moderate in a "panic" situation in a match with a maximal capacity. This risk is mitigated because (a) unplanned evacuation is extremely unlikely (b) planned, orderly evacuation reduces the risk.
- ◆ General- there is a general risk to spectators from slips, or other accidents. This is controlled by the maintenance of the ground in good condition. The risk is proportional to the number of spectators.

v. *Current Arrangements*

Direct injury from fire and structural failure has been reduced to acceptable levels by the inspection and maintenance required by the local authorities. In the event that there was a risk of structural failure this would be controlled by closing off the affected area of the ground or cancellation of the match.

Other risks are proportional to the attendance. The club will ensure that there are additional first aid staff present for matches where more than 400 spectators are expected. The precise arrangements will be agreed in discussions with the police, NHS and first aid suppliers.

vi. *Assessment*

Arrangements are considered adequate for all foreseeable risks.

Actions Required: None.

## **ILLNESS**

vii. *Description*

There is general risk of illness whenever there are gatherings of people. There are no identifiable risk factors which suggest that players and spectators at a match are at greater risk of illness except the established risks that can be associated with any situation in which there is potential stress (e.g., heart attacks in those with pre-existing risk factors). A defibrillator will be present at all games home and away.

viii. *Current Arrangements*

Immediate care is the same as for physical injury. Anyone becoming ill will be made comfortable and the condition assessed by a first aider or doctor. In an emergency an ambulance will be called – DIAL 999 - otherwise advice can be obtained from NHS 24 – DIAL 111. Current Sports First Aider is AED trained.

ix. *Assessment*

Current arrangements are satisfactory.

Actions Required: None

## **GENERAL MEDICAL PROVISIONS**

The following personnel must be present at each home match:

- At least one qualified Sports First Aider
- A ground co-ordinator to act as the single point of communication

Where there is an anticipated attendance of greater than 400, in addition to the above ;

- Attendance by a club doctor is advised
- Additional first aid provision should be provided by request from the first aid service providers.

The club doctor is responsible for advising on equipment to be present in the first aid room and in the medical bags available to sports first aiders and the sports first aiders are responsible for checking that the equipment is present and in good order.

The team must be accompanied by a sports first aider at all matches, including away matches.

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

**Mandatory Review Date (to be reviewed and published annually)**

**Reviewed on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Next Review Date 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026**