

# LEICESTER TIGERS



## Matchday Safeguarding Policy September 2024

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## **Definition of a child**

Child as written in this policy is a child until 18. At Leicester Tigers PLC we are mindful about the language and terminology we use and therefore we have taken the stance to only refer to under 18 as children and refrain from using the term “young person”.

A child is defined as a person under 18 as stipulated in; The Children’s Act 1989. Child as written in this policy is of statutory age.

## **Unaccompanied Children**

The minimum age limit for unaccompanied children is 16 years old. No child under the age of 16 will be granted access to the stadium without a responsible adult who is over the age of 18.

Children 15 and under must be always accompanied by a responsible adult who is over the age of 18.

## **Child to Adult Ratio on Matchday**

Ages 0-4 these are babes in arms one adult per babe

Ages 4-7 is one adult to six children

Ages 8 -10 is one adult to eight children

Aged 10 and over is one adult to ten children.

General stadium policy dictates that over 16’s do not need to be accompanied by an adult however, groups of 16 and 17 year olds will require an accompanying adult.

## **Children in Hospitality**

Children being hosted within our hospitality suites and boxes, must always be accompanied by an adult.

If under 18, it’s against the law for a child to be sold alcohol. However, if a child is 16 or 17 and accompanied by an adult, they can drink (but not buy) beer, wine or cider with a meal.

It is vital that the accompanying adult closely monitors alcohol consumption of a child, and if a member of staff has concerns, these will be raised with the accompanying adult.

It is essential that children remain seated at all times during the game, as seating areas can be high up in the stadium.

## Matchday Activities

If your child has a role on matchday, e.g. flag bearer, prior to the event, please ensure that you read all joining instructions and listen carefully to our staff on the day as the stadium can be busy and loud.

Photographs are taken on matchday, but we respect that not everyone will want their child to be photographed. The club will only publish images taken on matchday, with a signed consent form from the parent/carer.

We follow safe recruitment procedures to ensure staff running matchday activities are suitably checked and trained. However, should any safeguarding concerns arise, you can talk to one of our stewards or email [safeguarding@tigers.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@tigers.co.uk).

## Searching Under 18's

The decision to conduct searches of U18's will be made by the Matchday Safety Officer.

We have the right to search anyone who comes to Mattioli Woods Welford Road. If we suspect you are carrying a prohibited item, you may be asked to hand it to a steward. If you refuse and the steward still suspects you are carrying a prohibited item, they will ask for both you and your responsible adult's permission to carry out a search of your person.

A record of any search on an U18 will be recorded on the club's child protection online management system (CPOMS).

Good practice is to have two stewards present for the search, who should both give their name and job title.

Stewards should not need to touch the child during the search, as the procedure is to guide the child to demonstrate that they are not carrying/hiding any dangerous or prohibited items.

## Lost Child

Before visiting us on matchday, please talk to your child about what they should do if they become separated from you. Once inside the stadium, please reiterate the plan with the child and attempt to familiarise them and you with your surroundings. You are welcome to introduce your child to one of our many stewards situated around the stadium. All our stewards are highly trained and aware of our lost child protocol.

On arrival, please ask a steward to provide you with one of our bright yellow wrist bands, adding a further level of protection for the child. You can write your contact and seat number on the band, allowing us to quickly contact you. All we ask is that you act quickly to alert our stewards should a child go missing.

With appropriate adult supervision it is rare for a child to become lost. Should a child become separated from their responsible adult, stewards have been instructed to alert central control immediately who will then deploy stewards and the Matchday Safeguarding Lead (MSL) to search for the child.

If the responsible adult accompanying the child cannot be located after 20 minutes has passed the police will be informed.

If the circumstances of the child being lost and/or missing raise a potential safeguarding concern, this will be escalated to Central Control with further advice taken from our matchday police officers.

## **Recording Concerns**

Stewards report any safeguarding concerns to Control and also record concerns in our matchday incident reporting system, HALO. The MSL will ask for a written factual statement from the person making the report and enter it onto the club's online management system, CPOMS.

Any statement made by a child should be reported in their own words. These reports should be confined to facts. Any opinion, interpretation or judgement should be clearly stated as this. Any questions should be kept to a minimum and they should be of an open format.

We expect all Leicester Tigers staff to behave in an exemplary manner. If you feel a Leicester tigers staff member has behaved in a way that falls short of this standard, then we want to be able to address that. Please put your concerns in writing to [safeguarding@tigers.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@tigers.co.uk).