



Match Day Safeguarding Policy

Definition of a child/child age

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 age limit for unaccompanied minors 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.

Multiple junior tickets can be sold, a responsible adult is required to accompany any child under the age of 16.

Children at Match Day Events

On a match day there is often groups of children visiting the stadium with parents or other professionals in organised groups. Where Leicester Tigers PLC, to be further referred to as “the club”, are providing an event such as a tour of the stadium they are not primarily responsible for these children.

Child to adult ration at Mattioli Woods Welford Road:

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 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult at all times, The NSPCC Guidelines which states that children under the age of 12 are rarely mature enough to cope in an emergency. Please see our frequently asked questions for a detailed breakdown.

Children within hospitality

Where children are being hosted within our hospitality suites it is essential that the following code of conduct is enforced:

Children:

- should not be lifted up above balcony railings;
- should remain seated on the balconies i.e. no running or jumping;
- should not be served alcohol;
- should not be left alone without other adults within the party.

Mascots & flag bearers

The Club will only permit children to be match day mascots or flag bearer's once parental consent has been obtained. A signed image consent form is also required before any images are published in the Club's match day programme.

No photographs of mascots or flag bearers featured in Club publications will be accompanied by personal information about the child, such as their full name school, home address or local sports team.

Whilst at Mattioli Woods Welford Road, mascots and Flag bearers should be accompanied at all times by their responsible adult.

Club staff engaging in regulated activities will have a valid DBS check. Staff who lead mascots and flag bearers on match day are also required to have a good level of understanding and awareness of safeguarding children. All staff have completed Leicester Tigers bespoke safeguarding training and RFU safeguarding training.

Searching of U18's

The decision to conduct searches of U18's will be made by the Safety Officer. Where a child search is required central safety Control will be informed. A Safeguarding Officer will attend the search.

A record of any search on any U18 will be recorded on the clubs child protection online management system CPOMS. Protocols and the process of searching children should promote mutual respect between all parties. Stewards should always identify themselves and provide proof that they are an authorised event steward with the Club.

We have the right to search anyone who comes to Mattioli Woods Welford road. You may be asked to produce any item that is banned. If you refuse and the Steward still suspects you are carrying something they will ask for both you and your adult's permission to carry out a search of your person.

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.

Good Practice

1. Explain the reason for the search;
2. Ask the child for permission to undertake the search, explain that the person has a right to refuse, but doing so can lead to non-admittance. An adult should be present with the child, obtain their permission to conduct the search.
3. Ask the child if they are carrying anything which may be dangerous or prohibited that they plan to use to celebrate during the match;
4. Ask if anyone else has asked them to carry anything into the ground for them;
5. Explain what they think you may find from the search;

6. Ask the child to empty and turn out their pockets;
7. Ask the child to take off any outer jacket(s) and pass them over to the other steward for searching;
8. Ask the child to roll up their trousers to the knees and roll down their socks;
9. If wearing trousers, ask them to pull out the shirt at the waist and visually ensure there is nothing in the trouser belt area;
10. Request that they replace all clothing before moving on.
11. Only search people of the same gender;
12. Follow the correct Stadium procedure when finding unauthorised items and explain these procedures to the people involved;
13. Only keep people for as long as necessary.

Lost/Missing children

With adequate supervision it is rare for a child to become separated from the adult that they have attended with. Where Stewards have found a lost child they have been instructed to alert central control immediately who will then deploy the safeguarding lead. If parents/adults accompanying the child cannot be located after 20 minutes has passed we will inform the police.

Before Visiting Mattioli woods Welford please talk to your children about what they should do in the event that they are lost. Once inside the stadium, please reiterate the plan with the child and attempt to familiarise the child and yourself 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 policy.

Please ask the steward to provide you with one of our Tiger family wrist bands, these are bright yellow and add a further level of protection for your child. Please write your contact number and seat number on the band, this will allow us to contact you in the unlikely event your child is lost. Please act quickly to alert our stewards that your child is missing, they are best placed to support and reunite you with your child. Remember the stewards and all Leicester Tigers staff are there to help you.

The Designated safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be notified and requested to attend as soon as a missing child is identified. If the circumstances of the child being lost and/or missing raise a potential safeguarding concern the DSL should escalate their concerns through 'Control' and take further advice from either the Police or where necessary Social Services.

Some examples of this might be:

- If the parent/carer is intoxicated and the child has been lost due to the actions of the parent/carer,
- If a child is lost, U12 and no contact details for parents,
- If a child is lost and in need of urgent medical attention.

Recording Allegations or Suspicions of Abuse or Poor Practice

All Stewards should immediately report any observations, allegation or suspicions of abuse or poor practice to Control who inform the DSL. The DSL will ask for a written factual statement from the person making the report. This report will be entered onto the clubs 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.

Poor practice represents unsafe working practice and is a cause for concern and is reportable. Staff should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice.

Where poor practice is identified, in the first instance, staff should discuss with Control the DSL will be alerted. An incident report is required to be completed on CPOMS. An internal investigation will follow. All relevant information will be assessed and reviewed by the DSL and appropriate Line Manager or HR Manager.

We expect all Leicester Tigers staff to behave in an exemplary manner, our staff are highly trained and know what is expected of them. However 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 the safeguarding manager. A member of this team will be in touch with you, please email safeguarding@tigers.co.uk

If your concerns relate to the Head of Safeguarding, you should contact Sarah Allen Head of people. Please see the website for our safeguarding complaints process.

Leicester Tigers PLC want everyone who attends a match at Mattioli Woods Welford Road to have an enjoyable and safe experience.

What can I do to help?

We said safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we stand by that principle therefore we ask that you join us in having your **EYES WIDE OPEN** for any safeguarding issues. Please share your views and experiences with us @ safeguarding@tigers.co.uk

My Safeguarding concern is not about match day but another Tigers activity who do I contact?

You can still contact us using the safeguarding email.