

Caddington Youth Football Club – Health and Safety Policy

1. Policy Statement

Caddington Youth Football Club (CYFC) is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all players, coaches, volunteers, parents, and visitors. The Club recognises its duty of care to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent injury, ill health, or harm.

We aim to promote best practice in health, safety, and welfare at all times during training, matches, events, and travel.

2. Objectives

Our key health and safety objectives are to:

- Protect the welfare of all participants, particularly children and young people.
 - Ensure playing and training facilities are safe, suitable, and well-maintained.
 - Provide clear emergency and accident procedures.
 - Ensure all coaches, officials, and volunteers are aware of and follow safety procedures.
 - Encourage players and parents to act responsibly and report hazards.
 - Comply with The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy, Equality Policy and safety guidance.
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3. Responsibilities

3.1 Club Committee

The CYFC Committee is responsible for:

- Approving and reviewing this policy annually.
- Ensuring risk assessments are completed and updated for all activities and venues.
- Providing appropriate first aid equipment and trained first aiders.
- Ensuring all coaches hold valid FA qualifications, including safeguarding and first aid certification.
- Investigating and recording all accidents and incidents.

3.2 Team Managers and Coaches

Managers and coaches are responsible for:

- Conducting pre-session safety checks of pitches and equipment.
- Ensuring players wear appropriate clothing and protective gear.
- Maintaining up-to-date player medical information and emergency contacts.
- Implementing emergency procedures when necessary.
- Reporting hazards or incidents to the Club Welfare or Health & Safety Officer.

3.3 Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Informing coaches of any relevant medical conditions or injuries.
- Ensuring children arrive and leave safely from training and matches.
- Encouraging respect for safety rules and club values.

3.4 Players

Players are responsible for:

- Listening to and following coach instructions.
- Wearing suitable footwear, shin pads, and kit.
- Playing safely and respectfully towards others.
- Reporting hazards, injuries, or unsafe behaviour immediately.

4. Risk Assessment and Facilities

- Risk assessments are carried out for all pitches, venues, and club events.
 - Playing areas will be inspected before each session for hazards such as holes, litter, glass, or unsafe goalposts.
 - Equipment will be regularly checked for damage and replaced if unsafe.
 - Adequate first aid provision and emergency access will be maintained at all training and match locations.
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5. First Aid and Medical Arrangements

- A trained first aider will be present at all training sessions and matches.
 - Each team will have a stocked first aid kit.
 - Accidents or serious injuries shall be reported to the Club Secretary or Safety Officer
 - Serious injuries or incidents will be reported to The FA, County FA, and relevant authorities.
 - Emergency services contact numbers will be displayed at all venues.
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6. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Health and safety are directly linked to safeguarding. The Club fully adopts The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and ensures:

- All coaches and volunteers are DBS checked.
 - A Club Welfare Officer is in place to handle concerns confidentially.
 - Procedures exist for reporting concerns about a child's welfare.
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7. Fire, Weather, and Emergency Procedures

- Coaches will have a mobile phone available for emergencies.
 - In the event of severe weather (lightning, heat, heavy rain, or ice), sessions may be postponed.
 - In case of fire or other emergencies at indoor facilities, participants must follow the venue's evacuation plan.
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8. COVID-19 and Public Health Considerations

- The Club will follow current FA and Government guidance on infectious diseases.
- Hygiene measures (e.g., hand sanitising, equipment cleaning) will be maintained.
- Players or staff showing symptoms of illness should not attend training or matches.

9. Review and Communication

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Committee or following any significant incident or change in legislation.

It will be communicated to all members via the club website, welcome packs and team briefings.

10. Key Contacts

Club Chairperson	Colin O'Brien	colin.obrien2@btinternet.com
Club Treasurer	Dave Adams	davecaddingtonyouthfc@gmail.com
Club Secretary	Maria Carmichael	maria.carmichael1972@gmail.com
Club Safety Officer	Stuart Carmichael	stuart.carmichael1980@gmail.com