



Match Day Child & Young Person Safeguarding Policy

Rangers Football Club welcomes and encourages the attendance of young supporters at our home ground and we are fully committed to our responsibility to safeguard and protect children and young people; so that they can enjoy the fabulous experience that Ibrox Stadium has to offer, whilst creating new memories as an individual or as a family.

Vulnerable adults may be supported under this policy but it is important to note that the Match Day Safeguarding Team do not have any specific relevant training.

Match Day Safeguarding Stewards

The Match Day Safeguarding Stewards (the MDS Team) have an individual and unique function on match day; they will have responsibility of all safeguarding and wellbeing matters for children and young people on the stadium footprint during matchdays. They are competent in child wellbeing and protection and children's rights.

The MDS Team is fully committed to apply all policies and procedures related to safeguarding and will respond effectively and in a timely manner to all concerns raised.

MDS Team can be found throughout the stadium and are easily identifiable by marked jackets "SAFEGUARDING TEAM". **Please ask a Stand Manager or steward if you need the support of MDS.*

Stadium Safe Place(s)

This refers to designated place(s) within the stadium designed to ensure the safety and offer refuge for vulnerable children/young people, if required. Ibrox Stadium safe place(s) include Broxi's Den, the concourse areas, medical rooms and/or any other area that may be deemed appropriate.

Rangers staff and equip fully operational medical rooms and have First Aid Responders throughout the stadium on match day, to provide immediate care for all spectators including babies, children and young people.

Babes in Arms and Infants

Rangers FC recognises that the stadium is not an ideal environment for particularly young children and/or babies, due to the high noise level, large crowds and the potential for boisterous behaviour. Whilst Rangers seek to strike a balance of inclusivity, this requires careful consideration and evaluation by parents/carers when deciding whether to bring their baby/infant to a match.

Babes in arms attending on matchday, should be in a front baby carrier/sling for safe and comfortable carrying. Parents/accompanying adults should be aware that buggies, prams and car seats are not permitted within the stadium on matchday and baby



essentials contained within a large bag, will be subject to search upon entry to the stadium.

Please also note that baby feeding facilities are unavailable at Ibrox Stadium.

Baby changing facilities can be located within various female and/or access toilets in each stand. Visitors to the stadium should check upon arrival with a steward for the nearest changing facility to their seat(s).

Rangers FC highly recommend that ear defenders specifically designed for babies and/or infants are used. **These must be supplied by the parent/ accompanying adult.*

Seating in high-risk areas i.e. behind the goal should be avoided, if possible, in case of a ball entering the crowd. **Please check your location when purchasing your ticket(s) as we may not be able to change these on match day.*

Accompanied child at Ibrox Stadium

To ensure a positive and safe matchday experience for all, children under 14 years must be accompanied by a parent/responsible adult and;

- Ideally the child should sit with their parent/accompanying adult but we appreciate that due to season ticket allocations, this may not always be possible. Where this is not possible the parent/accompanying adult must always be in the same stand seating block with clear visibility of the child and;
- The parent/adult must accompany the child to the toilet and;
- The catering stands/food zones of the concourse and;
- Keep the child close by when entering & exiting the stadium and;
- Plan in case they are separated from each other at any time during their visit

Unaccompanied Young Person (14 years and over) at Ibrox Stadium

No young person under the age of 14 years will be admitted to Ibrox Stadium without a responsible accompanying adult (over 18 years).

A young person, 14 years and above but below 18 years, found to be distressed or in a situation causing concern, should be dealt with respectfully and with the best interest of the young person as paramount consideration. The MDS Team must be informed immediately for support and;

- The parent/carers should be contacted and asked to collect their child from the stadium, if appropriate to do so;



- The young person should be placed at a Stadium Safe Place until collection by the parent/carer (or agreed responsible adult). **Young people under the influence of alcohol will not be taken to Broxi's Den but an alternative safe space should be used i.e. concourse, stadium entry/exit, medical room or another appropriate place*
- No unaccompanied child under 16 years, will be ejected from the stadium unless the parent has been informed. **Note – ejection from the stadium is a last resort action and must be done in collaboration with stadium police and the MDS Team*
- Should a parent/accompanying adult (of a child/young person under 14 year) be ejected from the stadium, the child will be required to leave with the adult, if it is safe to do so. Police Scotland or Social work services may be contacted for advice.

Searching of U18's

A child/young person may be subject to a search of their clothing and/or bag, if there is reasonable suspicion that they may be concealing something that is not permitted within the stadium, under the stadium regulations. It is good practice for 2 (two) stewards to be present for the search and where possible, a member of the MDS team should be present for support. Searches must be conducted by, or in the presence of, stewards of the same sex as the child/young person. The child's parent/accompanying adult should also be present during the search (if one is available)

The steward will explain the reason for the search and advise the child/young person that they have the right to refuse but doing so may lead to non-admittance to the stadium.

The steward or MDS Steward will ask the child/young person if they have any items which are prohibited within the stadium or if they are carrying anything at the request of anyone else. They will be further asked to reveal the contents of their pockets and/or clothing/bag (as applicable) and handover any prohibited items. **Prohibited items will be confiscated to ensure the safety of all fans visiting the stadium.*

Missing/Lost Child at Ibrox Stadium

Rangers FC strongly recommend that those visiting with children on matchday, agree and confirm with their child, a familiar meeting place within the stadium, in case they become separated at any time. It is also recommended that parents and/or accompanying adults tell their child, to approach the nearest steward, police or MDS Team for help and support.

**Please tell your child not to leave the stadium if they get lost.*



If an adult and child become separated and the child is not at the agreed meeting place, the child must be reported as missing to the nearest Steward, Security Officer or member of staff who will immediately report this to the Control Room, where onsite Police Scotland officers will be informed and MDS Team will be assigned to support.

Parents/accompanying adult(s) should return to their seat and await further contact. In case the child returns. Rangers have a plan to respond to a missing child alert, in collaboration with the stadium police.

Conduct of an Adult

Any allegations of concerns relating to the conduct of an adult towards a child, should be immediately reported to a MDS Steward, who will contact the Safeguarding Manager or police for advice and guidance. A written report must be submitted including who, what, where and when the alleged incident occurred.

All allegations of concern will be responded to in line with Rangers FC Responding to Concerns Procedure and reported to the Control Room, where relevant.

***IF THERE IS CONCERN FOR THE IMMEDIATE SAFETY OF A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON, THE STADIUM POLICE MUST BE ALERTED IMMEDIATELY.**