



HARROGATE STRAYS WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

Members should note that health and safety law does not generally apply to Harrogate Strays Walking Football Club (HSWFC), as we are volunteers running a club with no employees and we have no responsibility for premises like a clubhouse or playing fields. Health and safety law also does not cover safety matters arising out of the sport or activity itself e.g. damaging a wrist saving a shot or being injured following a bad tackle during football training.

Nevertheless, a duty of care under the common (civil) law may apply and the Club recognises its duty of care to all members to do all it can to prevent avoidable injuries. We therefore endeavour to:

- Ensure the chosen sporting environments are safe and fit for purpose
- Promote good practice in health and safety
- Ensure compliance with all relevant guidance of facility providers
- Carry out suitable and proportionate risk assessments
- Conduct reviews of our practices in the event of any changes affecting the premises used or the Club itself

As a Club we will seek to provide and maintain a healthy sporting environment at all times and treat the safety and personal security considerations seriously, as follows:

- Provide adequate training, information, instruction, and supervision to enable all members to participate safely
- Safeguard the health, safety and well-being of visitors, officials and spectators who may attend our activities
- Check that all equipment we use is suitable and fit for the purpose intended and properly maintained and used in a safe manner.

Risk Assessments

The Club must take reasonable steps to identify and correct anything that has the potential to cause harm. Risk relates to the likelihood of anything causing harm and the degree of harm it could cause. Risk assessment involves evaluating risks and putting practicable measures in place to control any risk that is unacceptable.

We will undertake proportionate visual risk assessments prior to our sports activities to minimise the possibility of risk and dangers to participants, e.g., remove potential obstacles, check goal posts are safe etc.



First Aid

Adequate equipment and competent personnel shall be available to enable first aid to be administered if there are injuries or accidents. We undertake to ensure that:

- A sufficient number of members have undertaken Emergency First Aid training
- A first aid kitbag will be available for all training/matches and will be checked regularly, and contents replaced as required

Incident Reporting

All members have a duty to report any significant injuries or accidents sustained during our sporting activities. Given the nature of our sport, minor knocks, twinges, and tumbles are to be expected, but in the event of a more significant accident resulting in injury, a report will be drawn detailing:

- The circumstances of the accident
- The nature and severity of the injury sustained
- The identity of any eyewitnesses
- The time, date, and location of the incident
- The date of the report

The completed report will then be submitted to the Club Management Committee to determine if any action should be taken to avoid a recurrence.

Responsibilities of Members

In participating in the Club's activities, all members must:

- Adhere to the health and safety policy and procedures
- Take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions, including wearing appropriate kit and protective equipment and removing jewellery, watches, and other items of that sort
- Report any significant accident or injury to the organisers as soon as practicable
- Correctly and safely use all equipment
- Report any unsafe practices and conditions to the Club Management Committee