Risk Assessment – Spencerswood Football Club

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**This risk assessment covers the playing of matches and training both at Ryeish Green Sports Hub, Swallowfield Village pitch and (mini kickers) Spencerswood Recreational ground.**

**Home matches and training will take place at Ryeish Green Sports Hub, Oakbank pitches and Swallowfield Village Pitches. Places Leisure provide risk assessments for the venue including the Parking area, general site, artificial 3G pitch, lighting and toilet facilities.**

**Details of first aid, parking, spectator procedures and venue information is provided to all players, parents and opposition teams coming to the venue to play or watch matches. Wokingham Borough Council are responsible for the maintenance of pitches and areas including Oakbank pitches, and Spencers Wood Recreation Ground. Swallowfield Parish are responsible for Swallowfield Village pitches. Places Leisure are responsible for area around the sports Hub and the all weather pitch.**

| **Area of risk** | **Persons at risk** | **Controls** | **Action** | **Responsivity and date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Medical conditions, injury illness at training or during matches. | Players, coaches and visitors | Parents / guardians provide details of any medical conditions, allergies or issues to coaches.  First aid trained coach to be present at all matches and training sessions.  All coaches to bring a first aid kit to the matches and to training. All first aid equipment is replaced or replenished at the beginning of the season. Coaches are responsible for replacing and maintaining their first aid kits.  Coaches review all medical declarations and sought additional information  from parents / guardians where appropriate.  AED provided at Sports Hub, grass pitches, Spencerswood Village Hall and at Swallowfield Village Hall for use in an emergency. | For grass pitches ensure that the AED is provided in a set location on match days and that all coaches are aware of it’s location. First team on to control the AED and pass to the next team. | Chairman to remind all teams to ensure they take the AED to their grass pitch and to pass this to the next team on. Beginning of the season and at the Christmas break. | |
| Injury at the venue during the game.  Players injured as a result of pitch conditions i.e. Ice, unfit pitch, waterlogged pitch or struck by flying objects during high winds.  Injury due to weather conditions.  Players struck by lighting  Animal faeces on the pitch | Players, coaches, officials and visitors. | Pitches checked prior to matches by coaches and referee. If there are safety concerns the match will not proceed.  Assessments of weather and pitch conditions are assessed and fixture security to provide early warning if fixtures are to be cancelled or delayed.  Pitch inspections are completed the evening before matches if there is a risk that the pitches will not be playable. Any items that could cause injury or holes are filled prior to the match. Animal faeces is removed from the pitch.  Referees and coaches to make a decision on the suitability of playing surfaces. This would identify if the pitches are frozen, waterlogged or have any identifiable hazards such as large holes or uneven parts what would cause injury. Where the weather conditions indicate there is a likelihood of cancellation. Pitches are inspected the evening before and decisions to cancel will be made early.  Goals to be inspected by the referee prior matches or training.  Where there is a risk of lighting and thunder. Coaches must take players, officials and spectators to a safe place as soon as possible.  Where it is not possible to get to safety then players should get low to the ground.  [Thunderstorm Guidance - Cumberland FA](https://www.cumberlandfa.com/news/2022/aug/12/thunderstorm-guidance) |  |  | |
| Persons injured as a result of playing the match. / training.  Collision between players, Cut or abrasion from sharpened studs. | Players. officials or visitors. | All players to wear the correct equipment including boots, shin pads and football kit during matches and training.  No jewellery to worn during the match or training.  Studs to be checked by the referee prior to matches. Players prevented from playing with these. |  |  | |
| Child Protection, bullying, verbal and physical abuse.  Including verbal and physical abuse of officials. | Players, Officials, visitors and coaches. | Safety Guarding Policy in place and all adults who in contact with children are DBS certificated and receive child protection training.  Players code of conduct is set out and all players must sign to state that they have read and understood this.  Coaches code of conduct to assist referees and show respect.  Welfare protection officer appointed for the club. All members of the club are aware of who they are and how and when to report any issues that they identify. | Regular reminders by committee about coach and player behaviour towards officials. | Chairman and Committee at the beginning of the season and during the season. | |
| Concussion during matches or training. | Players / coaches | FA Guidance is available on the management of concussion within both training and matches.  This includes recognising concussion, what to do, removing players from play and any potential returning to play.  All teams will have a trained first aider present at each game or training session who will assess players for concussion and follow the return to play standards. | [Ensure](https://www.thefa.com/learning/coaching/guidance-for-first-aid-in-football-during-covid-19?sc_src=email_501634&sc_lid=30387067&sc_uid=fYjcB0Nu2G&sc_llid=2057) that all coaches are aware of the guidance and protocols around the management of concussion. [Guidance](https://www.englandfootball.com/concussion)  Regular reminders sent to all coaches. | Chairman to remind all teams about concussion. | |

***A copy of this risk assessment must be distributed to all coaches.***

***This risk assessment does not replace any Government or PHE advice; nor does it provide any specific commentary or advice on health-related issues. Affected persons should therefore ensure that they seek independent advice from medical practitioners, or healthcare providers, prior to any return to football activity, as required.***

***SWFC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all Team Managers/Club Officials and Parents/Carers to share this commitment.***