

Omonia Youth Football Club



HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY 2023/24

Rationale

Omonia Youth Football Club is committed to a safe environment for all players, volunteers and coaches. It will promote standards of health, safety and welfare within football and will ensure compliance with all relevant statutory provisions. The club will ensure that suitable and sufficient risk assessments are carried out, that procedures and safe systems are implemented in accordance with all current statutory provisions and that all reasonable and practical measures are taken to avoid risk. Safe practices will be adopted and continuous improvement will be sought through regular audits and reviews.

Appropriate instruction and training will be provided together with adequate resources to ensure that the successful management of health and safety is carried out within the Club and that this policy is collectively implemented. This policy together with arrangements and procedures will be reviewed regularly and revised and updated as necessary.

Aims and Key Principles

To support our Health and Safety policy statement we are committed to the following duties:

- Undertake regular, recorded risk assessment of the club premises and activities undertaken by the club (see appendix 1)
- Create a safe environment by putting health and safety measures in place as identified by the assessment
- Ensure that all officials are given the appropriate level of training and competition by regularly assessing individual ability dependent on age, maturity and development
- Ensure that all Lead Coaches are aware of, understand and follow the club's health and safety policy and procedure
- Appoint the Football Development Officer as the competent club official to assist with health and safety responsibilities
- Ensure that emergency procedures are in place and known by all Lead Coaches
- Ensure that players have access to adequate first aid facilities, qualified first aiders and a responsible adult with a phone to contact emergency services
- Report any injuries or accidents sustained during any club activity or whilst on the club premises
- Ensure that the implementation of the policy is reviewed regularly and monitored for effectiveness

Procedures

The Lead Coach is the responsible person for the health and safety of their team or the footballing activity they are leading. This person has a duty to ensure that they hold in date a:

- FA accepted Enhanced DBS check
- FA Emergency First Aid qualification
- FA Safeguarding Children qualification

Coaches should know their FAN number, so that it is easy to disclose on request by a Football Association official. The club reserve the right to withdraw any Lead Coach that does not meet the above requirements.

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ALL Lead Coaches must carry out the guidelines in this policy every time they are present at a club-related football activity (match, training, tournament etc).

Equipment Checks

Lead coaches should undertake the following equipment checks before beginning any play. They must ensure that:

- All players wear shin pads or guards
- That the football is safe and in no wear damaged
- All equipment is undamaged and is used in accordance with manufacture's instructions
- Player's boots and the 'blades' or 'studs' on them are checked regularly for safety
- All items of jewellery is strictly forbidden and must be removed. Tape must NOT be used to cover jewellery.

Venue Checks

All venues must be checked on every occasion to ensure that:

- The playing venue is assessed for any hazards i.e. any obstacle, item or implement which may cause harm or discomfort to any player, official or spectator
- That goal posts are secure and safe
- That corner flags and 'Respect' barriers are used correctly
- All changing facilities (where applicable) are secure and safe for use

Documented Risk Assessments

The club has completed event and venue specific risk assessments. The Lead Coach and the Assistant Coach, to ensure awareness and prevention of risks/incidents, must read these. It is the responsibility of the Lead Coach to carry out a documented risk assessment where the senior committee has not already completed one. These must be sent to the Club Chairman for approval.

Visual Risk Assessments

The Lead Coach must use Appendix 1 in this document to complete a visual risk assessment of the site prior to each match, training session or football related activity. Any concerns or actions from the visual risk assessments must be reported to the senior committee immediately, so that they can be actioned at the earliest convenience.

First Aid

A qualified first aider must be present at all training and match venues with a suitable first aid kit. A fully charged mobile phone must also be available. Lead Coaches are responsible to ensure that all items within the first aid kit are within date and that replacement items for out of date or used equipment is sourced via the club secretary.

Contact Details

All managers and coaches have access to a complete and up to date emergency contacts list, which is currently available via club managers WhatsApp group.

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Goal Post Safety

Omonia Youth Football Club agrees to adhere to the FA's goal post safety guidelines. It is the responsibility of the Lead Coaches and Assistant Coaches to familiarize themselves with these guidelines and check regularly for any updates, which may change practice. Too many serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts.

Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future. Omonia Youth Football Club will play their part by:

- Ensuring goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground;
- Adhering to the manufacturer's instructions for how portable goalposts must be secured;
- Not allowing children or adults to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goalposts under no circumstances;
- Paying particular attention to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may overturn;
- Carrying out regular inspections of goalposts must to check that they are properly maintained;
- Ensuring that portable goalposts are not left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage;
- Adhering to the banned use of metal cup hooks on goals from the commencement of 2007 / 08 season. Match officials have been instructed not to commence matches where such net fixings are evident for safety reasons. Nets will always be secured by plastic hooks, net grips or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks will be removed and replaced. New goalposts will not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks
- Ensuring goalposts that are "home made" or which have been altered from their original size or construction will not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries

End of Game Procedures

All equipment should be packed away safely and securely. All rubbish should be removed from the playing area and disposed of sensibly off site. All managers and coaches should not leave the location until all players have departed. The last team should lock all premises securely, where appropriate, and keys returned to the named key holders.

Incident Reporting

In the event of a person receiving an injury, or requiring medical attention, an accident form must be completed. Once the form has been completed, the parent must view this and then a copy emailed to the club welfare officer.

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Parental Responsibility

Children remain the responsibility of their parents/carers at all times when participating in football training, matches and any other Omonia Youth Football Club activities. This is also the case when arriving or departing from venues.

Omonia Youth Football Club provides all reasonable safeguards in terms of appropriately vetting its coaches and volunteers, having a Club Child Welfare Officer and acting in accordance with Policy and Advice issued by the Middlesex FA and The Football Association in the conduct of its activities and affairs. As a club, our volunteers have a duty of care for the children in our care and membership, but this does not extend to the level of that of teachers or registered childminders and as such parents / carers are advised against dropping their younger children off and leaving the site during football training, matches or other Omonia Youth Football Club activities.

Should parents / carers make any arrangements with other adults concerning their child, including their supervision and transportation to and from Omonia Youth Football Club venues and activities, then this is at their own responsibility in their own legal capacity and not the responsibility of the football club.

The following documents were used to write this policy:

Goalpost Safety Guidelines

FA Health and Safety Guidelines and Risk Assessments

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Omonia Youth Football Club Risk Assessment Check List 2023/24 (appendix 1)

Location (venue / site):			
Activity:	Football Match or Training (delete as appropriate)		
Assessed by:			
Team:			
Date:			
No.	Key Checks	Yes	No
1	Is the area to be used free from obstruction and litter?		
2	Do all the participants and spectators know where the fire exit is?		
4	Do all spectators, visiting and home team, and coaches know where to stand to ensure correct use of the respect line/barrier?		
3	Are participants wearing appropriate clothing and have they ensured their laces are tied correctly?		
4	Have participants removed all items of jewellery, earrings, watches etc?		
5	Are all participants wearing shin pads?		
6	Have all participants been told not to chew gum during the session?		
7	Have you asked if participants have any medical conditions you need to be aware of?		
8	Do you have all participants' emergency contact numbers?		
9	Do you have access to a telephone or mobile phone in case of an emergency?		
10	Do you have access to a first aid kit?		
11	Is every item in your first aid kit in date and usable?		
12	Are there suitably qualified first aiders on site?		
13	Is all equipment, including goal posts, balls and training aids in an appropriate state of repair?		
14	Are you satisfied that the activity can be conducted in reasonable safety?		

Lead Coaches are expected to complete this risk assessment in a **visual way** prior to any football activity taking place.

If there are any concerns or actions that are needed from the visual risk assessment a copy of this risk assessment should be photographed and sent to a senior committee member at the earliest opportunity. This will ensure all safety measures can be actioned as soon as possible.

Additional comments – where items may need to be actioned:

Signature _____ Date _____