



Mascot Safeguarding Policy
Ipswich Town Football Club
Updated Version 3

Date of Last Review	Next Review	Who	Signature and Date
<p>Version 1- August 2019</p> <p>Version 2- August 2020</p> <p>Version 3- January 2021</p>	<p>August 2020</p> <p>August 2021</p> <p>January 2021</p>	<p>Mark Andrews</p> <p>Lauren Fellingham</p> <p>Sian Skevington</p>	<p><i>X MA</i> <hr/> Mark Andrews Safeguarding Manager</p> <p><i>X Lauren Fellingham</i> <hr/> Lauren Fellingham Safeguarding Officer</p> <p><i>X Sian Skevington</i> <hr/> Sian Skevington</p>

Mascot Policy.

Ipswich Town is committed to ensuring that all children who carry out the role of Mascot, whilst in the care of the club, can do so in a safe and enjoyable environment through adherence to the club's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and Safer Recruitment Policy and process.

The following guidance will be applied to all children visiting Ipswich Town as a Match Day mascot:

- Child mascots must be aged minimum 5 years old to maximum 15 years old. (Documentary proof of age will be required).
- All staff escorting match day child mascots must be subject of an enhanced DBS check and must have completed the ITFC Safeguarding Children Induction.
- Child mascots must be accompanied by a parent/carer at all times, other than when in secure areas e.g. the tunnel, when the mascot will be supervised by suitably qualified ITFC chaperones.
- Parents will be advised to bring their child to Portman Road already wearing their Mascot Football strip (worn under warm clothing if appropriate) thereby avoiding the need for the child to change into their strip whilst on club premises as the club is unable to offer designated changing areas for Mascots.
- If a mascot requires help with dressing this will be done by the parent/carer.
- If an injured or disabled child is used as a mascot a risk assessment will be carried out to establish if that child can safely participate in the Match Day Mascot itinerary and to identify what additional safety measures may need to be put in place to allow the child to safely participate. The club Safety Officer will be notified of the risk assessment, who will then advise the paramedics of any issues.
- Every effort should be made to achieve correct staffing ratios and the best level of supervision of Match Day Mascots at all times. An individual member of suitably DBS checked ITFC Staff will be allocated as chaperone to each child with a disability or injury, if they are assessed as requiring additional support.

- Male and Female chaperones, wherever possible, will be used to supervise mixed gender groups of Mascots.
- Staff should avoid any situation where they may be left alone with a mascot e.g. do not use a lift alone with a child mascot.
- Parents/carers will be informed of the club's Images Policy in information sent to them prior to the game; together with the appropriate Mascot Itinerary and details of the club's Safeguarding Manager.
- Should a mascot be subject to a Court Order special reference must be made to the Image Permission form