



**Young People and Vulnerable Adults Matchday
Safeguarding Protection Policy.**

Ipswich Town Football Club

Updated Version 2

Date of Last Review	Next Review	Who	Signature and Date
<p>Version 1- January 2020</p> <p>Version 2- January 2021</p> <p>Version 3-</p>	<p>1: January 2021</p> <p>2: January 2022</p>	<p>Mark Andrews</p> <p>Lauren Fellingham</p> <p>Sian Skevington</p>	<p>X </p> <hr/> <p>Mark Andrews Safeguarding Manager</p> <p>X </p> <hr/> <p>Lauren Fellingham Safeguarding Officer</p> <p>X </p> <hr/> <p>Sian Skevington</p>

Policy Statement and Key Principles

Ipswich Town Football Club recognises and accepts it has a duty of care to safeguard all children, young people and vulnerable adults who enter its stadium from harm. All children, young people and adults have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account.

1.1. This Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy is compliant with the requirements and principles of The Equality Act 2010.

1.2. This policy also complements the Ipswich Town Football Club's Safeguarding Children and Adult Policy.

1.3. This Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy will be applied fairly, equally, and consistently to all persons, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or any other unjustifiable grounds.

Aim of the Policy

The aim of the policy is to ensure that children, young people and adults are provided with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club. It will also allow all full time, part time, casual and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

Categories of Young People

2.1 Ipswich Town Football Club will adopt the definition provided by HM Government and The UN, which states:

2.2 "A child "means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier". This was ratified by the UK government in 1991, which means they agree to be legally bound by it. Convention of the Rights of the Child- UN 1990.

2.3 "A child is anyone that hasn't reached their 18th birthday". Children's Act 1989.

2.4 Therefore, for the purposes of this policy, a child is deemed to be a person who has not yet attained 18 years of age and Ipswich Town Football Club will take all these categories into consideration when dealing with anyone entering the stadium. We will use the term responsible person to define a person who will accompany anyone under 13 to protect their wellbeing and safety. This has been decided upon by Ipswich Town Football Club after case reviews held at Portman Road and discussions with the EFL Safeguarding Team.

Responsible Adult

3.3 A responsible adult is someone who accepts responsibility for the welfare, safety, supervision of a young person or vulnerable adult and is over the age of 18.

Babies and Infants

2.5 The definition of a baby/infant is any child who is under the age of 5.

2.6 Due to the levels of noise and the high volume of crowds at a football match, Ipswich Town Football club doesn't recommend bringing babies into the stadium. However, the parent can choose to do this and they are then responsible for the babies' welfare and safety. For both babies and infants, the parent will need to purchase a seat for them which is adjacent to their seat in order to comply with safety compliances. The stadium manager needs to be made aware how many people there are in the stadium and by allocating a seat this allows us to work out fire safety procedures and health and safety procedures in the case of an emergency.

2.7 No under 5's are able to sit in the lower tiers of the stadium because of the increased risk of airborne footballs and injury. This will be advised at the time of ticket purchase and any under 5's found to be sitting in a lower tier will be moved to a higher tier in the stadium.

Under 13's (12 and under)

2.8 All children under 13 attending a match at Portman Road need to be accompanied by a responsible adult who is over 18 years of age. This responsible adult must remain present for the duration of the event.

2.9 If a turnstile operator suspects that a young person is under 13, they will ask for photographic ID to verify the age. If the young person is unable to provide photographic ID, they will be denied entry and a responsible adult will be contacted to arrange pick up from the stadium or the responsible adult will need to purchase a ticket to attend the match.

3.0 When tickets are purchased by a responsible person for themselves and an under 13, the tickets must be allocated next to each other in the same area of the stadium. Under no circumstances will the tickets be allocated for separate areas.

3.1 In the event that an U13 enters the stadium via a turnstile and their responsible person is refused entry, they will be reunited either inside or outside the stadium until the problem has been resolved.

3.2 Children under 13 will not be permitted in licensed hospitality bars that serve alcohol unless accompanied by a responsible adult. This responsible adult must be present for the full duration of the event.

Children under 13 are not able to sit in the Lower Tier of the Sir Bobby Robson stand due to health and safety. This is due to persistent standing which can cause injury to young children and difficulties watching the game.

Children aged 13-17

Children aged 13-17 will be allowed to enter the stadium alone but they will be monitored by stewards. Those that have travelled to the stadium alone or with friends of the same age must not be removed from the stadium. If his/her behavior becomes a concern or they

become distressed, they should be taken to the main reception (Place of Safety) and a responsible parent/carer needs to be contacted immediately to collect them. The child may then be released into the care of their responsible adult. If this isn't until after the match, the child must be accompanied at all times by a safeguarding officer (Lauren Fellingham or Stuart Hayton).

Unavailability of a responsible adult or no responsible adult present.

Ipswich Town Football Club reserves the right to refuse admission to the ground of any child under the age of 13 unless accompanied by a responsible adult over 18 years of age. In these circumstances the following steps will also apply and a responsible adult will be contacted to either attend the game with the child or the child will leave the stadium with their responsible adult. Ipswich Town Football Club's responsibility towards that child begins from the moment the child enters the ground and ends when the child leaves the stadium.

Stewards and Club staff will be trained in accordance with this policy and will always work in pairs when dealing with children, so they can corroborate what was said or heard in the event of an allegation. Stewards must show maximum tolerance when dealing with children. Physical restraint must only be used to prevent the child from harming him or herself or harming others. This should be done by those who are trained.

If a young person or vulnerable adult is left unattended at a game or is found in the stadium alone who is under 13 years of age, the welfare and safety of that young person must be protected and the Match day Safeguarding Officer needs to be alerted of the situation and the correct procedures carried out. The Matchday Safeguarding Officer is Lauren Fellingham. The following procedures need to be followed:

1. A block supervisor will be deployed to remain with the young person or vulnerable adult. The supervisor will ensure that body cam footage is captured to ensure the safeguarding of the child and supervisor. The supervisor will sit with the young person or adult to ensure their comfort and to ensure they don't become alarmed or distressed.
2. The supervisor or stand manager will radio the safety officer (Mick Warden) in the control room with as many details as possible. The supervisor must ensure this is done without the child present and a steward is present with the young person or vulnerable adult in the meantime. The supervisor will give as many details as possible from what the young person / vulnerable adult has said.
3. The safety officer will make the Matchday Safeguarding Officer (Lauren Fellingham) aware of the details and they will attend to the child to collect further details. These details need to include name, address, seat details, responsible adult details and phone numbers and any other information the child has given about the situation. The Matchday Safeguarding Officer will ask the young person/ vulnerable adult about the circumstances and get as much detail as possible

4. To ensure the child is able to communicate comfortably and privately, the child will be escorted to the main reception with one of the safety officers or a steward by the Matchday Safeguarding Officer. The Safeguarding officer should not be alone with the child in any circumstances. The Matchday Safeguarding Officer will contact the responsible adult (parents in the first instance) to update them on the situation and arrange for the responsible adult to collect the child/ vulnerable adult or attend the event with them.
5. If no contact number is available for the parents or no contact is able to be made then the child must be kept at the stadium until these arrangements are made. Contact needs to be made with social services on 0808 800 4005 or the police on 999 to seek further advice.
6. If social services or the police are unable to assist and the child is able to give you their address then the Matchday Safeguarding Officer and 2 stewards can accompany the child home. The parent/ responsible adult must be given the details of the circumstances and given advice on further games. If no parents/ responsible adult are at the address when dropping the child home then the police need to be contacted to make them aware of the situation.
7. After the incident, details need to be completed on an Ipswich Town Safeguarding Children Incident Form or Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Incident Form by all members of staff that had verbal communication with the young person/ vulnerable adult. This includes stewards, turnstile operators, supervisors and all safeguarding staff. Body cam footage will also be stored as this may be needed as evidence. If a MASH referral needs to be made then this needs to be done as soon as possible after the incident with as much detail as possible. This will be completed by the Matchday Safeguarding Officer (Lauren Fellingham).The parents must be informed of the outcome of the incident (if this will endanger the child further than MASH/ Police need to be informed of this)

All club employees, officials and stewards have a duty of care towards spectators and others attending the stadium. This duty of care must be exercised with particular vigilance when dealing with children and vulnerable adults.