



Sheppey Swifts FC - Health & Safety Policy

1. Policy Statement

Sheppey Swifts Football Club recognises its responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for all participants, including players, coaches, volunteers, officials, parents and spectators. The club is committed to taking all reasonably practicable steps to reduce risk and to promote safe participation in football.

This policy has been developed in line with FA guidance on grassroots football safety, risk management and facilities standards, and supports the club's wider safeguarding and welfare responsibilities.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all club activities, including:

- Training sessions
- Matches and tournaments
- Trips and events
- Online and off-pitch activities where club duty of care applies

It covers:

- Players (children and young people)
- Coaches, managers and volunteers
- Match officials
- Parents, carers and spectators

3. Responsibilities

Club Committee

The club committee has overall responsibility for health and safety and will:



- Ensure appropriate policies, procedures and risk assessments are in place
- Monitor compliance with FA and venue safety requirements
- Review this policy at least annually

Coaches and Team Officials

Coaches and team officials must:

- Take reasonable care of the health and safety of players in their charge
- Conduct basic visual checks of pitches and facilities before sessions
- Ensure sessions are age-appropriate and safely planned
- Follow FA guidance on safe practice and supervision ratios

Players, Parents and Spectators

All participants are expected to:

- Follow club rules and instructions given for safety reasons
- Use equipment as intended
- Behave in a respectful and responsible manner

4. Risk Assessment

Sheppey Swifts Football Club acknowledges the importance of risk assessment in managing health and safety.

The club will:

- Carry out and review risk assessments for training, matches and events
- Consider hazards relating to players, facilities, equipment and weather
- Take appropriate action to reduce identified risks

Risk assessments will be recorded and reviewed regularly, in line with FA risk-management guidance.



5. Facilities and Playing Environment

The club will take reasonable steps to ensure that:

- Pitches, goals and equipment are safe and fit for use
- Goalposts are correctly installed, anchored and maintained
- Playing surfaces are checked for hazards such as holes, debris or standing water
- Changing and welfare facilities meet basic safety standards

Where facilities are hired, the club will work with venue providers in line with England Football facilities guidance to ensure a safe playing environment.

6. Equipment Safety

Sheppey Swifts Football Club will ensure that:

- All club equipment is appropriate, maintained and stored safely
- Goals are inspected regularly and used in accordance with manufacturer and FA guidance
- Players wear suitable footwear and shin pads during play
- Any damaged or unsafe equipment is removed from use

7. First Aid and Medical Provision

The club will:

- Ensure access to basic first aid provision at training and matches where reasonably practicable
- Encourage coaches and team officials to complete basic first aid training
- Maintain emergency contact details and medical information where appropriate

In the event of an injury or medical emergency, appropriate action will be taken, including contacting emergency services when necessary.



8. Weather and Environmental Conditions

Sheppey Swifts Football Club recognises that weather conditions can affect safety.

The club may suspend or cancel activity where conditions pose a risk, including:

- Severe weather
- Waterlogged or frozen pitches
- Excessive heat or poor visibility

Decisions will be taken in the interest of player welfare and safety.

9. Accidents and Incidents

All accidents, injuries or near-miss incidents should be reported to a club official. Where appropriate, incidents will be recorded and reviewed to help prevent recurrence.

10. Policy Review

This Health and Safety Policy will be:

- Reviewed annually by the club committee
- Updated to reflect changes in FA guidance, legislation or club operations
- Communicated to coaches, volunteers and parents

The club is committed to continuous improvement in health and safety practice.