



Medical Risk Assessment and Medical Plan

2024-25

Introduction

This document combines the Medical Risk Assessment and Medical Plan. It addresses:

- Organisation and infrastructure relating to medical matters
- Identifiable risks and how these are controlled
- General provisions for medical care.

Infrastructure and Organisation

Access for Emergency Vehicles

Newtown Park is accessible by public road from Jamieson Avenue, which would permit direct access for emergency vehicles to the pitchside.

First Aid Facilities

The principal first aid room is within the pavilion and is directly accessible from the corridor, not requiring access through either dressing room or any other room. It contains basic first aid equipment and has a running water supply.

The club has a defibrillator at hand in accordance with East of Scotland Football League rules and the stadium also has a defibrillator, located at the pitch access point of the pavilion.

Organisation and Personnel

The Club ensures that there is at least one qualified First Aid staff member present at all matches.

The Club Secretary is the focal point for co-ordination of messages during the match. He has immediate access to a mobile telephone to communicate with others including the emergency services to ensure expedited management of any health and safety issues.

Identifiable Medical Risks

1. Injury to players

The most likely source of a medical issue is the injury to players during the normal course of the match. This can cover the spectrum of minor injury which is treated pitchside before the player returns to the game, to serious injury requiring immediate intervention and hospitalisation.

Current arrangements

The club will ensure that there is a qualified sports first-aider present at all matches.

The nearest accident department is at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital, which is 13 miles (approx. 21 minutes) from the ground under normal traffic conditions. The first-aider looking after an injured player will make arrangements through the

Club Secretary either to arrange transport for a player to the infirmary for further assessment or to call the emergency services if immediate medical care is required on pitch or at pitch side.

The risk of injury to players does not vary significantly between normal and major matches and this assessment applies to all matches.

2. Injury to Spectators

The following risk factors can be considered collectively for assessment purposes:

Fire - there is identifiable risk in the pavilion and hospitality cabin. The risk assessed is small for these areas (oil filled heaters, PAT testing) and negligible for open areas of the ground.

Structural Failure - the identifiable risk is the stand structure. This is a sound structure and is inspected. The risk is considered negligible under normal circumstances to slight in high winds.

Evacuation - there is negligible risk under normal operating conditions rising to moderate in a "panic" situation in a match with a maximum capacity. This risk is mitigated because (a) unplanned evacuation is extremely unlikely (b) planned, orderly evacuation reduces the risk.

General - there is a general risk to spectators from slips, or other accidents. This is controlled by the maintenance of the ground in good condition. The risk is proportionate to the number of spectators in attendance of matches.

Current Arrangements

Direct injury from fire and structural failure has been reduced to acceptable levels by the inspection and maintenance required by the local authorities. In the event that there was a risk of structural failure this would be controlled by closing off the affected area in consultation with Newtown Park Association or cancellation of the match.

Other risks are proportionate to the attendance. The club will ensure that there are additional first aid staff present for matches where more than 500 spectators are expected. The precise arrangements will be agreed in discussions with the police, and first aid suppliers should a Multi-Agency approach be considered necessary.

Assessment

Arrangements are considered adequate for all foreseeable risks.

3. Illness

There is general risk of illness whenever there are gatherings of people. There are no identifiable risk factors which suggest that players and spectators at a match are at greater risk of illness except the established risks that can be associated with any situation in which there is potential stress (e.g., heart attacks in those with pre-existing risk factors).

Current Arrangements

Immediate care is the same as for physical injury. Anyone becoming ill will be made comfortable and the condition assessed by a first aider. In an emergency, an ambulance will be called, otherwise advice can be obtained from NHS 24.

Assessment

Current arrangements are satisfactory.

General Medical Provisions

The following personnel will be present at each home match

- At least one qualified sports first aider
- Club Secretary (or appointed substitute) to act as the single point of communication

Where there is an anticipated attendance of greater than 500, in addition to the above:

- Additional Stewards
- Additional first aid provision

The team will be accompanied by a sports first aider at all matches, including away matches.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Mandatory Review Date (to be reviewed and published annually)

Review Date – 1st July 2025