



# Auchinleck Talbot Football Club

## Beechwood Park Auchinleck

### Ground and Spectator Safety Rules

Introduction .....	2
Section 1 – General Policy .....	3
Section 2 – Allocation of Responsibility within the Club .....	4
2. Persons with Safety Responsibilities .....	4
2.1. Communication and monitoring of Safety Policy .....	4
2.2. Safety Policy review .....	4
Section 3 – Safety Statement .....	4
3. Organisation/Structure for Implementing Safety .....	4
3.1 Arrangements for Monitoring the Policy .....	4
3.2. Spectator Management .....	5
3.2.1. Segregation .....	5
3.2.2. Entry of Spectators and Ground Rules .....	5
3.2.3. Management of Spectators in the Ground .....	7
3.2.4. Exit of Spectators .....	7
3.2.5. Persons with a Disability .....	7
3.3. Committee members acting as Stewarding .....	8
3.4. Inspections .....	8
3.5. Contractors .....	8
3.6. Communications with the Public .....	8
3.7. Communications with staff .....	8
3.8. Fire Precautions .....	8
3.9. First aid/medical provision .....	9
3.10. Crowd Doctor .....	9
3.11. Club Contingency Plans .....	9
3.12. Maintenance of records .....	9

## Introduction

Auchinleck Talbot Football Club is a member of the West of Scotland Football League and full members of the Scottish Football Association. The Club Stadium is Beechwood Park, Beechwood Avenue, Auchinleck KA18 2AR

This document details the Clubs Ground and Spectator Safety Policy for Beechwood Park, Auchinleck ("The Stadium" or "The Ground"). For avoidance of doubt Auchinleck Talbot Football Club is referred to in this document as ("The Club").

The Policy consists of three sections:

**Section 1** – General Policy

**Section 2** – Allocation of responsibility with the Club

**Section 3** – Safety Statement



## **Section 1 – General Policy**

### **1. Final Responsibility**

The Committee members of Auchinleck Talbot Football Club bear ultimate responsibility for the safe operation of Beechwood Park football ground. The Committee members adopted this safety policy on

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

The day-to-day responsibility for implementation of the policy is delegated to the undernoted:

Responsible Person: **Henry Dumigan**

Position: **Club Secretary**

#### **1.1. Safe Facilities**

The Club undertakes to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable that, events at Beechwood Park are staged in such a way, that the safety of everybody at Beechwood Park is guaranteed.

#### **1.2. Safety and Systems**

The Club, through all Committee Members will ensure the reasonable safety of those attending events at Beechwood Park. The Club will ensure that systems exist for the safe admission, accommodation and exit of spectators- please refer to the Event Safety Management Plan/Match day Risk Assessment for further safety details.

#### **1.3. Risk Assessment**

The Club will undertake and maintain a process of risk assessment as required by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, 1999 and will have regard to this assessment in formulating and updating this policy. These Risk Assessments will also form the basis of the Clubs Contingency Plan.

## **Section 2 – Allocation of Responsibility within the Club**

### **2. Persons with Safety Responsibilities**

Person with overall Safety responsibility:

Responsible Person: Henry Dumigan

Position: Club Secretary

Person with day-today responsibility:

Responsible Person: Campbell Peden

Position: Safety /Covid19 Officer

In the absence of either person identified above the match day committee member on duty will assume match day responsibility for safety.

#### **2.1. Communication and monitoring of Safety Policy**

Each committee member will be advised of the policy of the Club towards the safety of spectators. Anyone engaged on match day duties will be provided with more detailed information relating to their duties. Everyone will receive regular reports on the operation and implementation of the policy.

#### **2.2. Safety Policy review**

This policy will be reviewed and amended as appropriate, following any incident involving spectators, in the light of findings of investigations. Likewise, if changes to operations or facilities lead to significant changes in working practices, the policy will come under review and amendment, as necessary.

## **Section 3 – Safety Statement**

### **3. Organisation/Structure for Implementing Safety**

Auchinleck Talbot Committee members have the responsibility for ensuring that the policy is observed and that club personnel who are engaged in safety duties, clearly understand the requirements of the policy.

#### **3.1 Arrangements for Monitoring the Policy**

Auchinleck Talbot Committee members will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the policy and report on a regular basis to everyone involved with this club.

### **3.2. Spectator Management**

Spectator management will be controlled as follows:

#### **3.2.1. Segregation**

Segregation will be implemented within Beechwood Park only when deemed necessary. In instances where this is required an appropriately sized area will be allocated within the ground. This will be split from the rest of the stand through the provision of a line of barriers, and will be stewarded as appropriate. Please refer to the Event Safety Management Plan and Match Day Risk Assessment for additional control measures.

#### **3.2.2. Entry of Spectators and Ground Rules**

Spectators will be admitted to the ground in an orderly, safe manner through the four main turnstiles. Club Officials will be in attendance, as deemed appropriate, to ensure the safety of spectators. People who are clearly under the influence of alcohol or other substances or are in possession of unauthorised objects (including bottles) will not be allowed into the ground, more details are contained in the undernoted Ground Rules.

The Club will ensure that an effective system for counting spectators as they enter the ground is in place so that club officials can ascertain the number of spectators in the ground at any time. The capacity for Beechwood Park has been set as being 3404 and is clearly shown within the Event Safety Management Plan for Beechwood Park.

If necessary, appropriate information can be relayed to spectators over the Clubs public address system which can be heard in all areas of the ground.

#### **Ground Rules:**

All persons entering Beechwood Park are admitted subject to the following Ground Rules and to the Rules and Regulations of the SFA and SPFL. Entry to the Ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations.

All persons entering the Ground are admitted subject to the condition that they may be required to submit to a search to prevent dangerous articles being brought into the Ground which might be used to cause injury or damage to persons or property.

Spectators are asked, in the interests of public safety and good order, to comply with all instructions issued by Police and the Club.

All matches are played in accordance with the Rules of the Scottish Football Association, the Scottish Professional Football League, and, where applicable, the Regulations of U.E.F.A. competitions.

Play cannot be guaranteed to take place on any particular day or at any particular time and the Club reserves the right to change its advertised fixtures without prior notice and without liability.

On no account will admission be granted to a person who is subject of a current Football Banning Order.

Tickets allocated by this Club are issued on the express condition that no holder shall sell or transfer the ticket for a larger price than face value. In the event of any breach of this condition Auchinleck Talbot Football Club reserves the right to cancel the ticket and retain the money paid.

At all times, the right of admission and allocation of viewing position is reserved by the Club Management and spectators found in an area amid opposing supporters may be ejected.

When a match is abandoned before the expiry of the first half, admission vouchers for the rearranged fixture will be issued to spectators. That arrangement does not however preclude spectators from seeking a cash refund from the Club on presentation of that voucher. The arrangements in cases where the match is abandoned after the expiry of the first half shall be a matter for the reasonable discretion of the Club.

In the event of an all-ticket match being postponed for any reason, the ticket can be retained and will be valid for the rescheduled fixture. Alternatively, spectators will be entitled to a refund.

All children entering the Ground, must pay for admission or hold a valid ticket.

Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play or the perimeter section.

Failure to comply may result in arrest or removal from the Ground, application of a stadium ban and/or Instigation of Football Banning Order procedures.

It is an offence under the terms of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995, as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 to make any remarks of a racist nature. Any breach of this may result in arrest and Instigation of Football Banning Order procedures.

The use of threatening behaviour, foul or abusive language is strictly forbidden. Racial, sectarian, homophobic or discriminatory abuse or chanting is also forbidden and is considered as unacceptable conduct and may result in arrest and instigation of Football Banning Order procedures.

It is an offence under the Public Order Act 1986 for any person to enter or attempt to enter the Ground: Whilst in possession of any article or substance which is a firework or whose main function is the emission of a flare for the purposes of illuminating or signalling (as opposed to igniting or heating) or the emission of smoke or visible gas, and includes distress flares, fog signals and pellets and capsules intended to be used as fumigators or for testing pipes.

It is an offence under the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 to enter or attempt to enter the Ground: Whilst in possession of a controlled container which is or could hold liquid and which, if thrown would be capable of causing injury to another person, or whilst drunk or in the possession of alcohol.

Persistent standing is forbidden in seated viewing areas. Anyone who continues to stand after having been requested not to may be removed from the Ground and be subject to a ban. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any objects whether on to the pitch, track or any other area.

Club flags and banners, as well as any official national flag are permissible, provided they do not carry any additional religious, racist or other derogatory messages. Flags/banners must not interfere with the viewing capabilities or safety of other Spectators. In addition, flags and banners must not be allowed to obstruct advertising boards or directional signage. Small flags can be mounted on garden canes provided the canes measure less than 100cms in length. Unnecessary noise such as from the use of radio sets and behaviour likely to cause confusion, annoyance, or nuisance of any kind, is not permitted in any part of the Ground.

Except for authorised Media representatives holding accreditation issued by the club/event organiser, the taking of photographs or filming by any means inside the Ground is prohibited. In addition, no transmission or reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise is permitted save with a special authorisation in writing by the club/event organiser and, where appropriate, the prior consent of the Scottish Football Association, the Scottish Professional Football League, the or appropriate body.

### **3.2.3. Management of Spectators in the Ground**

Club Officials will monitor the safety of spectators in the ground, as appropriate, and report any potential problems. Committee members will be responsible for ensuring that the "No Smoking" policy, for the stand, is implemented. The public address system will be used to relay safety related information to spectators.

Spectators can enter the stand and standing enclosure from either end but club officials will ensure access / exit walkways are kept clear at all times. All raised steps / uneven areas on spectator walkways will be highlighted with high visibility markings.

The ground capacity has been calculated as 3500 and this has been verified by East Ayrshire Council Events and Resilience Management Officer.

### **3.2.4. Exit of Spectators**

Spectators will be allowed to leave the ground at the appropriate exits and all gates/turnstiles will be open to ensure safe egress. Club Officials will ensure that exit gates are opened before the end of the game and that spectators leave in an orderly manner, with particular consideration given to children and persons with a disability. Exits and emergency escape routes will be kept clear of obstructions at all times.

### **3.2.5. Persons with a Disability**

There is suitable covered accommodation in place for persons with a disability within the ground and they will be assisted to this designated area, or to another area if they wish, by Committee Members as appropriate.

Committee members will assist persons with a disability to enter or leave the ground if such assistance is required. Likewise, if requested they will assist any person with a disability in accessing public amenities e.g., toilets, or refreshment facilities.

### **3.3. Committee members acting as Stewarding**

The club will ensure that an appropriate number of Committee members are in attendance for each home game. Committee members will be identifiable by always wearing high visibility vests or jackets.

### **3.4. Inspections**

The club objective is that spectators can attend Beechwood Park in the knowledge that they are in a safe environment and certain periodic checks will be carried out in line with this. Inspections by the local authority are also periodically carried out

General, periodic inspections will be carried out by the Auchinleck Talbot Committee members and will cover the following areas:

- Exits to ensure that there are no trip hazards and surfaces are not slippery
- Signage, where appropriate, is in place
- Park exits are kept clear of obstructions
- Combustible or flammable material is not in evidence
- Firefighting equipment, as appropriate, in place and available for use
- All stadium lighting is in working order

### **3.5. Contractors**

If contractors are working at the ground Auchinleck Talbot Committee members will ensure that they are made aware of the club's policy with regard to safety matters.

### **3.6. Communications with the Public**

Matters relating to the safety policy will be relayed to the public as appropriate, through the public address system, match day programme if applicable, or on the Clubs official web site <https://www.auchinlecktalbot.com> In the event of the normal public address system failing a loud hailer will be available for use.

### **3.7. Communications with staff**

Club Officials will be issued with a copy of the Safety Policy. Problems experienced or potential problems will be discussed at regular Committee meetings.

### **3.8. Fire Precautions**

The Club recognises risk from fire. To mitigate this risk, the Club will enforce a strict no smoking policy in all areas within the ground and checks are made to ensure there is no build-up of combustible materials in any area.



### **3.9. First aid/medical provision**

Club Personnel with Sports Injury training will be available on match days. These first aiders will have access to medical equipment if required.

### **3.10. Crowd Doctor**

If an attendance of over 2,000 is anticipated, arrangements will be made to have a suitably trained crowd doctor in attendance. The whereabouts of the doctor in the ground will be made known to first aid personnel and key members of the club committee. The doctor will normally be situated in the main stand or dug-out area. Ambulances are stationed at the local Ambulance depot and can normally be at the ground if called as part of an emergency within 25 minutes.

For crowds under 2,000 the provision of a doctor at the ground will not be possible, but the nearest hospital is less than 25 minutes away should a situation arise- The Ayr Hospital, Dalmellington Road, Ayr KA6 6PT. Phone: 01292 886666.

### **3.11. Club Contingency Plans**

The club has drawn up a Contingency Plan to deal with emergencies and incidents, which might occur during a match or when spectators are queuing to enter the ground.

Controlled copies of the Contingency Plan are available to the Clubs Committee members, and a copy issued to the Emergency Services. A controlled copy will be kept in the Secretaries office at the park should it be required.

The Club Committee will continually review the Contingency Plan and revise it in the light of lessons learned from any incidents that may take place and in consultation with the Emergency Services.

### **3.12. Maintenance of records**

A record will be kept by Auchinleck Talbot Committee of any accident or incident which causes injury, other than a playing injury, which:

- a) Is brought to the notice of the Club Committee
- b) Occurs whilst the Stadium is in use for a specified event, and
- b) Has safety implications

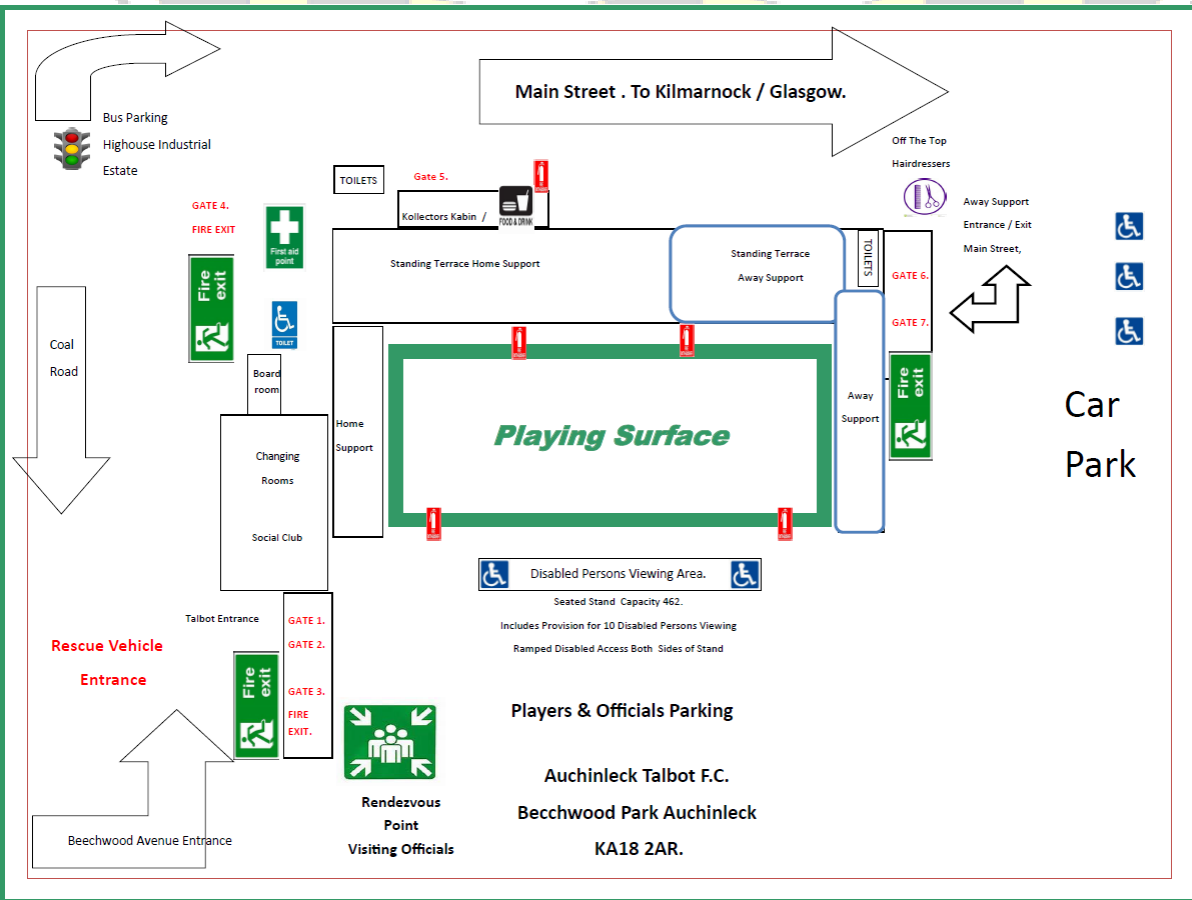
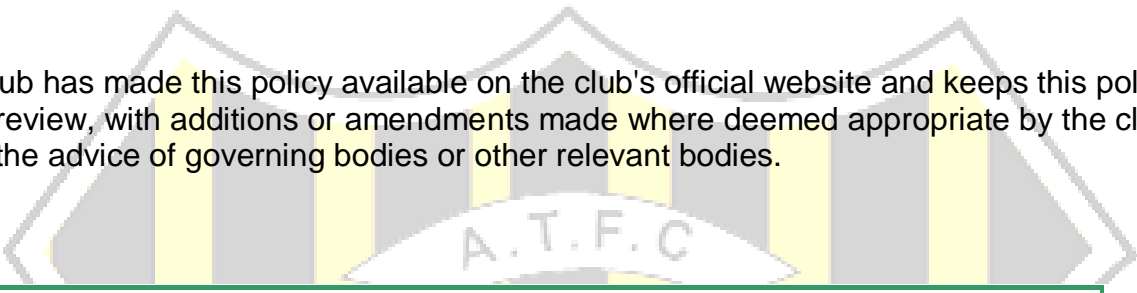
Other records that will be maintained by the Committee are as follows:

- A record of all first aid and medical treatment provided during or in connection with a specified event.
- A record of inspections and tests of firefighting equipment. (12 monthly).
- A record of tests on the public address system (6 monthly).
- A record in Defects Logbook of any defect relating to the Safety of the ground, howsoever discovered, together with a record of when such a defect was remedied.
- A record of the following certificates:

- A certificate of inspection of the firefighting equipment. This is supplied with new fire extinguishers and covers a lifespan of 10 years.
- A letter of compliance issued by the local authority (24 monthly).

This policy is in respect of spectator safety for Auchinleck Talbot Football Club Beechwood Park Auchinleck.KA18 2AR.

The Club has made this policy available on the club's official website and keeps this policy under review, with additions or amendments made where deemed appropriate by the club, or under the advice of governing bodies or other relevant bodies.



Signed by. *Morton Wright Sr* Club President  
*Henry Dumigan* Club Secretary

On behalf of Auchinleck Talbot Football Club Committee members 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.