

TRAINING AND GAMES

Unfortunately the facilities for football games and training are very poorly maintained in Scotland. Public Pitches can be subjected to dog mess and litter such as broken glass. It is therefore advisable for the coaches and parents to walk the pitch prior to game. Each team could take a half each. Any offending material can be safely removed with gloves and plastic bags before the game starts. Any potential problems such as rabbit holes can be brought to the attention of the referee and suitable repairs made.

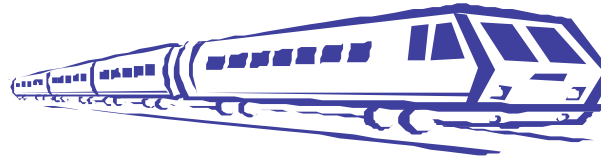
TRAFFIC

Training areas present greater problems as they are very often waste areas of grass. Where necessary you can cone off areas that are no go because of dangers. All training areas should be well away from roads where there is a danger of the ball being kicked in front of traffic. It is preferable if you can be behind an enclosed fenced area. Even then you should ensure that a responsible adult who will take care when crossing the road is sent for any loose balls.

WATER

If you play or train near a stretch of water unaccompanied players should not be sent to retrieve the ball. This includes substitutes. Again a mature responsible adult should be sent to assess the accessibility of the ball. Under no circumstances should risks be taken in trying to get hold of a ball.

Whilst footballs may be expensive they are nothing compared to the cost of a life. You have no way of knowing the depth or currents involved. In Scottish mid winter water can be icy cold and if someone falls into the water they can die of shock in literally minutes.



RAILWAY LINES

Similarly with railways lines no attempt should be made to go onto the railway line to retrieve the ball. A lot of lines are now electrified so it is very dangerous to go anywhere near the rails. Even if the train is a good distance away you could force the driver to make a stop which in turn could have serious consequences.

It is a better idea to mark your balls with your clubs address and contact telephone number. In this way when rail workers find the ball they can contact you to arrange for you to collect the ball.

ELECTRICITY SUBSTATIONS

These are most definitely **NO GO AREAS**.

The high voltages make them extremely dangerous. Please ensure that all your club members are aware of the dangers involved with Sub Stations.

Electricity by its very nature wants to reach the earth and its will use a human body as a conductor. The voltages involved will cause the current to arc an air gap to make contact with a body which is in contact with the earth. This will be **FATAL** for the body involved.

Again your club's name and contact phone number should be put on the ball. You can then write to electricity company and wait for the return of your ball. Whilst this may be inconvenient it is certainly less trouble than organising a funeral!



TRAVEL

Youngsters natural excitement at travelling away to play in say the Scottish Cup must be tempered with sound safety advice.

Seat belts on coaches must always be used. Walking up and down the aisles should be kept to a minimum for going to the onboard toilet for example.

You should plan your route allow sufficient time for the journey so that regular toilet/meal stops can be taken. Stops should be where the bus can safely park and the players can safely alight with no danger from passing traffic.

The players must be supervised at all times. If roads have to be crossed then one adult should safely cross first and another adult stay to ensure the players only cross when it is safe to do so. The adult who previously crossed can then supervise the players on their arrival on the other side.

Players must be told that there should be no capering. It is not unknown for youngster to run in front of traffic whilst being chased by their friends.

On arrival and departure from the ground they are playing at they should be escorted to a from by club officials. Remember a head count is important before you depart. You play as a team and you travel as a team.

On return players should only be dropped off where they can be safely met by their parents or guardians. There has been instances where players have been knocked down after being dropped off. So excited to run and tell their family of the result that they have ran in front of a car.

If you thought Health and Safety Regulations stopped at your place of work. Think again. Clubs have a legal obligation towards both their members and volunteers.

There is a duty of care placed on all clubs and individual members of the club to avoid carelessly causing accidents.

This leaflet highlights some of the more serious hazards that you can be faced with. Most of the time the risks from such hazards are small. You may be well away from these hazards. However it does not diminish your responsibility to ensure that you treat such hazards appropriately and that you make your club members aware of the risks from such hazards and the measures to be taken to reduce the risk from such hazards.

A starting point would be to issue this leaflet to your club members. Make everybody aware what would be expected from them on a regular basis. Repeating Safety advice keeps it in everybody's mind. It is one way of ensuring that all new members have been given the advice.

This is not a comprehensive list of hazards each club should carry out their own Risk Assessments.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

All clubs should have a written Health and Safety Policy. To help you to formulate your club's policy check out the SYFA website at <http://www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk> under the Club Resource Pack and look under the section Health and Safety. In the eyes of the law your club has a duty of care and is responsible for providing a safe environment for your members to enjoy the game of football.

Football
Is
fun



Make sure it is

SAFE



The

**Scottish Youth
Football Association**

**Hampden Park
Glasgow
G42 9BF**

**Tel: 0141 620 4590 Fax: 0141 620 4591
www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk**



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Football Association**

HEALTH AND SAFETY

