



# MATCH DAY SAFEGUARDING ADVICE

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

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# INTRODUCTION



## **Are you bringing a child/children/vulnerable person to a match?**

We want everyone to enjoy their visit to Molineux and we know children are keen football supporters too, but we want to ensure that every child or adult at risk has a right to enjoy their visit without experiencing any discomfort or harm because of a visit to us.

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## Getting Lost

Football stadiums are very big and busy places. It can be extra confusing because for some people they may feel all areas can look the same, so its really easy to get confused.

Please make sure you:

- always keep anyone you are responsible for close by.
- have a meeting point organised on arrival in case you get separated (this can easily happen).
- show them who the staff are (say hello to us!) and tell them that they should go to a member of staff if they are lost or worried.

## Weather Conditions

Through the football season visitors are likely to experience all weather types:

- Early and late season may mean high temperatures and strong sunshine
- Mid-winter games, especially at night, may mean sub-zero temperatures, rain, wind, and snow.
- Frost and ice underfoot may also be an extra hazard for those carrying or walking with small children. Be very careful in cold and wet and windy conditions. Babies and very small children can become very cold very quickly, even at times of the year where adults feel that it is warm outside. Remember you may be walking with, carrying, or pushing your child and keeping warm through activity whereas they will more than likely be inactive. They are also unlikely to tell you that they are cold until it's too late. Don't forget – unusually quiet with bright red (and cold) skin doesn't necessarily mean they are warm and happy; this could be a sign of hypothermia.

If you do choose to bring your child to a match, remember to clothe them with layers, at least one more than you are likely to be wearing and they should really have an outer coat, hat, and gloves.

Check the weather forecast before you leave and be prepared for it to be colder or wetter than predicted. If in doubt they should wear extra clothes – you can always take a layer off!

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[Click this link](#) to see the 24hr forecast & 5 day forecast from the BBC.

## **Football matches are noisy events!**

The noise levels go up and down throughout a match. Small children have thinner skulls and more sensitive hearing and thus are more prone to hearing damage than adults; Whilst long term damage from the noise at football grounds is unlikely, the peak sounds can reach the same levels experienced in a nightclub; Ear defenders, plugs or muffs may help to protect their hearing and ear muffs may also help to keep them a little bit warmer; Ear defenders are the most suitable for protecting hearing and should:

- have a protection level of SNR=27dB, which means they reduce the volume level by up to 27 decibels.
- be tested and CE approved against the European Standard EN352- 1:1993.

Some people may also find the cheering, singing, and chanting in some parts of the stadium a little frightening. You may also find some spectators occasionally using language that is inappropriate for children and young people to hear. The Club has a Family Stand for families where such concerns are lessened. There is also a sensory room for supporters with varying neurodivergent conditions to enjoy the game in a safe environment free from crowds and the noise of the main crowds. Additional ear defenders are available on a loan basis if sitting in the main crowds.

## **Footballs are hard!**

If they hit you, they can hurt and even cause injury. In many of the lower areas of the spectator seating there is a risk of being hit by a ball from the pitch. This is even more so behind the goals or near the corner flags.

During the warmup there are multiple balls on the pitch and may come from any angle. Please ensure that you and your child stay alert to the possibility of a football heading your way whenever you are sat in your seat (and supporters tend not to concentrate on the on-pitch activities during the warmup).

## **You should also think about emergencies – could you and your child cope in one?**

Would they be safe in the crowd trying to get quickly out of the stadium all at once?  
If you had to get out quickly, how would you do that safely and together?  
Where is your nearest emergency escape?  
Where is your alternative escape route?  
Where would you meet up outside the ground?

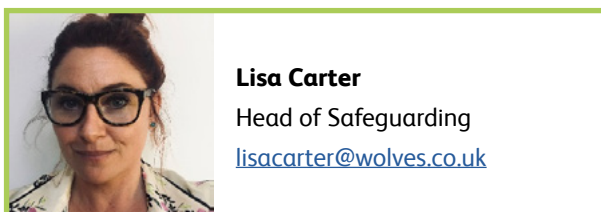


## Adults with specific needs

Please look at the club's access guide before attending to see how your visit can be enhanced by clicking [here](#). We encourage you to register with the club with any specific needs that may affect your match day, we can advise you on best places to sit and access to make the day stress free. For additional support we have accessible stewards who are on hand to guide you through the match day.

## And finally!

We want you and everyone you are responsible to enjoy your visit! Please think about all the above to make sure everyone can enjoy their visit SAFELY. During a match please do not hesitate to report a concern to one of our stewards. If we have concerns that a child may be suffering abuse or neglect, we may decide to refer our concerns to the local authority. If you have a concern about a child, then contact the Club's Safeguarding Team.



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