



PITCHSIDE CARE POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy takes into account:

- a. The historical incidence of injuries to Club players during training & matches.
- b. The proximity of the Club's home ground to two major 24/7 hospitals with full trauma capability.
- c. Ambulance accessibility of all parts of the home ground through multiple access points.
- d. That all age grade training & matches at Hurlingham Park are within sight of the pavilion which contains the medical room and is the base for the medical personnel when they are on duty, meaning that emergency assistance can be provided in a timely manner.
- e. The maintenance of the pavilion, pitches & training area that the Club uses is the responsibility of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, who own the ground and are hired by the Club on a use-by-use basis.

2. ADULT TRAINING & MATCHES

a. **Adult Training**

The Club will endeavour to ensure that an appropriately qualified medical professional (medic) or someone who has completed a Pitch-side Care course is present at all training sessions (both male & female).

b. **Adult Home matches**

- i. The Club will endeavour to ensure that there is at least one medic present for all games deemed to be home matches, whether at Hurlingham or elsewhere.
- ii. The Club will if required provide the necessary appropriate emergency cover to visiting teams.

c. **Adult Away matches**

i. **Men's teams**

The Club will endeavour to provide a medic for the away matches played by the Men's 1st and 2nd XVs.

ii. **Women's matches**

The Club will endeavour to provide a medic for the away matches played by the Men's 1st and 2nd XVs.

iii. **Other**

For all other away matches the Club will rely on the host club to provide the

appropriate emergency medical cover in line with RFU Regulations.

3. AGE GRADE TRAINING & MATCHES

- a. Whenever there is age grade training or a match at Hurlingham, the Club will endeavour to ensure that there is at least one medic present.
- b. When the Club is playing at other clubs, the Club will rely on the host club to provide the appropriate necessary emergency medical cover in line with RFU Regulations.

4. AUTHORITY

The medic's decision shall be final as to whether a player is fit to resume playing or training.

5. MEDICAL FACILITIES & KIT

- a. In conjunction with the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, the Club will ensure that the medical room at Hurlingham is well maintained and appropriately stocked.
- b. The Club will endeavour to ensure that all Medics have access to a well-stocked medical bag whenever they are on Club duty.
- c. A defibrillator is present at Hurlingham Park on the outside wall of the pavilion by the car park entrance. The defibrillator is provided and maintained by the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham.

6. TRAINING

- a. All medics and coaches are encouraged to complete a Pitch-side care course.
- b. All age grade coaches are encouraged to complete the RFU e-learning safeguarding and Head Case (concussion) modules.
- c. All adult coaches and captains are encouraged to complete the RFU e-learning Head Case (concussion) course.

7. OTHER

- a. **Insurance**
 - i. All physios must be registered with the HSPC, which is evidence that they are covered by professional insurance for the actions whilst on Club duty.
 - ii. Other medical personnel must demonstrate to the Club's satisfaction that they have professional medical cover.
- b. **Identification & Communication**
 - i. Whilst on duty, all medical personnel will be clearly identifiable. The Club will provide bibs so that they can be easily identified.

- ii. At Youth training sessions and home matches, medical personnel will be provided with two-way radios to ensure that they can be alerted quickly to any injuries requiring their attention.

8. PUBLICATION

This policy will be published on the Club's website.

9. REVIEW

This policy should be reviewed no later than **SEPTEMBER 2025**.

10. ADOPTED

This policy was adopted in **September 2024**