



FORMARTINE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB POLICY FOR DISABLED SUPPORTERS

Purpose

To ensure that Formartine United Football Club complies with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and to ensure that disabled people falling within the definition of the Act are treated equally and fairly.

Policy

Formartine United Football Club are committed to treating their supporters equally, regardless of whether or not they have a disability.

For the purpose of this policy the definition of a disabled supporter is: -

"Any person who, because of their disability or impairment, is unable to use ordinary stand seating without contravening Health and Safety Regulations, guidelines or policy. Any such persons will be considered for use of the special provision areas of the stadium in line with the procedures set out in this policy."

For further information on codes of practice and other related issues please visit The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) on their website: - www.drc-gb.org

Supporters with disabilities who are located in parts of the stadium other than the special provision areas are advised to make the nearest steward aware of any special needs/ requirements.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES – VISUALLY IMPAIRED SUPPORTERS

Enquiries from visually impaired supporters will be dealt with by the Administration Office.

The Club strongly recommends that each visually impaired person attending a match should be accompanied by a person who is fully able to support their needs in the event of an emergency. Any exceptions to this must be notified to the Administration Office (Safety Officer) and appropriate arrangements will be made. Any refusals will only be on the grounds of a contravention of Health and Safety legislation.

The criteria for access to this facility requires that each person can provide a copy of their registration document which certifies they are Registered Blind or Registered Partially Sighted, or provide qualifying documentation from their optician equivalent to registration requirements.

Visually impaired people wishing to attend a match aided by their Guide Dog should contact the Administration Office for all relevant information. Due deference will be given to all aspects of safety and guidance from Guide Dogs for the Blind to ensure a persons safety within and around the ground. Measures will also be taken to ensure that the welfare of the Guide Dog is preserved.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES - WHEELCHAIR DEPENDENT SUPPORTERS

The facilities at North Lodge Park for people using wheelchairs are regarded as amongst the best in the Scottish Highland Football League and are managed on a match-to-match basis. Wheelchair access is available on ground level adjacent to the pavilion area of the stadium. Formartine United wish to make the most appropriate use of these facilities by providing them to disabled people who are unable to sit in any other part of the stadium. Access to this facility will be by those people who meet the eligibility criteria described below.

Criteria for access to the Wheelchair Platform: -

Individuals using, or wishing to apply for use of the wheelchair platform must meet the following criteria:

- 1 Wheelchair using applicants must be largely dependent on a wheelchair for mobility purposes or not capable of walking a distance further than that required to reasonably and safely access any other part of the stadium
- 2 Wheelchair dependant applicants should also be accompanied by a person who is capable of supporting the disabled person's needs in the event of an emergency. For this reason Formartine United strongly recommend that a person is sixteen years of age or over and not be infirm. Any exceptions to this must be notified to the Administration Office/Safety Officer and appropriate arrangements for their safety will be made. Any refusals will only be on the grounds of a contravention of Health and Safety legislation.
- 3 People wishing to apply for places on the Wheelchair Platform should contact the club in advance of a match day.

ENTRY FOR WHEELCHAIR AND AMBULANT SUPPORTERS

To avoid the use of turnstiles at North Lodge Park wheelchairs with carers and ambulant persons can gain access adjacent to the following Turnstiles which are all clearly marked:

Turnstiles H1 & H2

PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES – SUPPORTERS WITH LEARNING DIFFICUTIES

Supporters with learning difficulties can be accommodated in the stadium by various means but it is normally possible for them to use ordinary stand seating. If, for whatever reason, any person with a learning difficulty feels that ordinary stand seating would be unsuitable for them, they should contact the club for further information. (Please be aware that normal criteria for ticket applications will apply)

PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES – AMBULATORY DISABLED SUPPORTERS

Formartine United recognises that there are considerable numbers of people in the community who use wheelchairs mainly for outdoor mobility purposes but are not necessarily confined to their wheelchair. There are also many people suffering severe walking difficulties who may wish to watch a match. For the purposes of this policy and the administration of the facility itself both categories of people will be termed `ambulatory disabled supporters` and they will be asked to follow the procedure below in order to attend a match using the purpose built facilities at North Lodge Park:

- 1 Supporters with ambulatory disabilities of a severe nature can be considered for areas of the stadium with the easiest access. Access to the aforementioned area will be decided on an individual merit basis.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES – SUPPORTERS WITH PHYSICALLY RESTRICTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Supporters with physically restricting medical conditions can sometimes have difficulty in reaching seats in some parts of the stadium. Formartine United have therefore, instituted procedures whereby supporters suffering such conditions can apply for tickets in the most accessible areas of the stadium.

Contact should be made to the club Secretary, who will provide all the relevant information for ticket applications (Please be aware that normal criteria for ticket applications will apply).

PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES – ELDERLY SUPPORTERS WHO ARE INFIRM

Formartine United is conscious of a growing elderly population and wish to consider their needs in order for them to continue watching matches wherever possible. With this in mind it is proposed that those elderly people suffering from an infirmity which prevents them climbing large numbers of steps should be able to request a seat in the most accessible part of the stadium. (Please be aware that normal criteria for ticket applications will apply).

PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES – CAR PARKING FOR DISABLED SUPPORTERS

Formartine United have a number of disabled persons parking spaces which are allocated to disabled people with the most severe mobility difficulties. Using this criteria people attending the wheelchair platform is given priority for the available spaces. However, requests for the remaining places can be made by people with other mobility difficulties. Applications can be made to the club Secretary and each request will be judged on its individual merit. Formartine United would ask that people recognise that there are only a limited number of places available and it will not always be possible to accommodate everyone who has a Blue/Orange Badge.

WEBSITE - ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

The official Formartine United FC website is continually reviewed.

Steps have already been taken to put procedures in place to provide information in formats that are more easily accessible to disabled people.

It is hoped that the increasing use of the internet will allow more disabled people to access information which they had previously experienced difficulty in obtaining.

CATERING

Match day catering for disabled people is provided in the concourse at the opposite side of the pavilion to that of the disabled persons' facilities. A Steward shall be at hand at all times in order to assist with the provision of catering.

The other facility which comes under the general heading of Catering such is the club Hospitality Lounge and this is accessible to disabled people. Measures are being taken to provide menus in large print and braille.

GENERAL

Every reasonable adjustment is being made to all the services provided by the different departments of Formartine United and all staff and club personnel have been made aware and instructed to comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act. Access to goods and services, as well as match day facilities, are being fully assessed and measures are in place to ensure compliance with all associated legislation.

Formartine United openly welcome comments on this policy and would encourage any person to contact the club with their comments or queries.

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