

PROUD
TO BE
TOWN



Guidance for Bringing Children to Matches

Introduction

Harrogate Town Football Club endeavours to ensure that attending a Football match is a positive and safe experience for everyone

Stadium Age Restrictions (Senior Football Matches)

Harrogate Town have several rules relating to children visiting the Stadium

- All Children attending a match must purchase a ticket regardless of age
- Anyone under the age of **12** must be accompanied
- Anyone accompanying someone under the age of 12 must be 18 or over

Please note: these rules may be amended where a third party use the stadium for non - football events such as other sporting events etc

Staying Together

Staff at Harrogate Town are well trained and experienced in providing a safe environment for all our visitors but wherever there is a large gathering of people there are risks. Within Harrogate Town Football club we aim to have a Family - friendly environment. Parents or other chaperones have a primary responsibility for the safety of the children they bring and should **always keep them close.**

Please be aware of where your child is at all times during your visit and have a plan to meet somewhere if you get separated (one point inside and one point outside the stadium).

Ensure they know who to contact should they feel lost or worried, **Harrogate Town Stewards** are situated around the stands in high visibility Jackets.

Harrogate Town Stewards are trained in how to deal with lost children, please educate and inform your child not go with a spectator they do not know.

Should you get separated from your child please contact a HT Steward immediately and also listen to the announcements over the stadium loudspeakers

Emergencies

Please ensure your child is aware what to do in case of an emergency including how to evacuate the stadium in an emergency and where to meet up with you

Weather Conditions

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

- Early and late season may mean high temperatures with strong sunshine meaning that parts of the stadium may be in full sun for long periods of time.

- Mid-winter games, especially at night, may mean sub-zero temperatures, rain, wind, 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 it's warm outside, they will more than likely be inactive within the stadium and will get cold quickly.

If you do choose to bring your child to a match considering an extra layer of clothing when the weather is inclement, warm coat, hat and gloves.

Noise

Football Matches are noisy events:

- The noise levels go up and down throughout a match
- Small children are more sensitive to noise
- Whilst long term damage from noise at football grounds is unlikely ear plugs or muffs may help to protect their hearing and earmuffs may also help to keep them warmer

Balls

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

Please ensure you and your child stay alert to the possibility of a ball coming your way whenever sat in your seating area or stood on the terrace as well as passing along a walkway.

We all at Harrogate Town Football Club want you and your child to enjoy your visit. If you're bringing a child to the stadium think about their needs first. If you can't guarantee their comfort or safety then please think about getting a babysitter so you can relax and enjoy the game.

If you have any concerns about a child then contact the club safeguarding team at any time.

During the match please do not hesitate to contact one of our stewards if you have any concerns.

Safeguarding

The club has Safeguarding support officers on site at all matches. Should you have a concern about a child or a vulnerable adult whilst at a match then please contact the steward immediately who will put you in contact with a safeguarding support person.