



## PITCHSIDE CARE POLICY - JANUARY 2026

### 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. Home Matches and Training at Hurlingham

Priority will be given to ensuring that appropriate medical cover is provided for home matches and training at Hurlingham and South Park over away matches at other clubs.

#### b. 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).

#### c. 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 endeavour to provide the necessary appropriate emergency cover to visiting teams.

#### d. Adult Away matches

##### i. Men's teams

The Club will endeavour to provide a Medic for the away matches played by the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XV, Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and the Men's Vets XV

##### ii. Women's matches

The Club will endeavour to provide a Medic for the away matches played by the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV's.

##### iii. Other

The Club may 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. The Club will ensure that all Medics know the location of the defibrillator and how to use it.

#### 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 on an annual basis
- 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 HCPC which is evidence that they are covered by professional insurance for the actions whilst on Club duty.
  - ii. Other qualified medical personnel must demonstrate to the Club's satisfaction that they have professional medical cover.
- b. **Identification & Communication**
  - i. Whilst on duty, all Medics will be clearly identifiable. The Club will provide bibs or other clothing to ensure that so that they can be readily identified.
  - ii. At Youth training sessions and home matches, Medics 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 2026**.

#### 10. **ADOPTED**

This policy was adopted in **January 2026**