

NAIRN COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB LTD



MAIN SPONSOR
NARDEN

National Club Licensing: Provision for Disabled Spectators: SFA/NCL Section 5.15 Nairn County Football Club: Safety Management System and Contingency Plans Section 9

Set out in the following audit is the Club's objective view of the five main criteria required to be addressed to ensure disabled spectators' needs are fully recognised at Station Park. The attached separate annual access audit report highlights activities undertaken to keep abreast of current need and demand.

Introduction

- Given the domestic scale of the Station Park Stadium and operation of such within the Scottish Highland Football League, the SFA advised that in carrying out the audit the Club adapt the SFA pro-forma headings to take account of the local conditions.
- In regard to the **three** categories of **wheelchair users - ambulant, disabled and visually impaired** - the Club confirm we treat everyone (home or away supporters) equally, consequently the audit has been conducted with this fact in mind.
- Since 1999, Nairn County have operated a policy of being Disabled Person user-friendly and are recognised as such by both local supporters and visitors to Station Park.
- The Audit has been undertaken by an independent competent person, who has years of experience in dealing with the disabled and is familiar with the needs and demands attaching to the provision of care, access and making the experience at Station Park as pleasant and enjoyable as possible.
- Over the period of operation of the Club's Disabled Policy the average attendance from the three categories of Disabled People identified above, is a total of some 14 attendees out of an average overall attendance per match of some 350 persons.

Audit Findings

1.0 Disabled Person Parking at/adjoining Station Park

- 1.1** On arrival at Station Park on match days access to the Stadium Entrance is via a private tarmaced forecourt, which is separated by bollards from the adjoining public road known as Balblair Road.

- 1.2 Parking of any vehicle involved in the transport of a disabled person is thereafter located in the public parking provision adjoining – or if identified as a special needs case, in the adjoining secure enclosed Council Depot alongside the Visiting Team bus at no charge.
- 1.3 A Club representative/steward is in attendance at all times in the Stadium forecourt to oversee the arrivals and departures from the ground and will provide security supervision for the disabled person if their accompanying carer has to park or pick up their car.

2.0 Disabled Person Access to Station Park

- 2.1 The access to Station Park is level from the private entrance forecourt leading through a double width (secure) entrance door on to slab paving to ensure ease of movement leading to the stand/seating area, or alternatively the new Spectator Enclosure located opposite the Main Stand.
- 2.2 Regarding entrance payment, this is usually performed by the accompanying carer via a Club representative adjoining the turnstile. In the majority of cases entry for a disabled person is free at the Club's discretion.

3.0 Disabled Persons Positions

- 3.1 Within the stand seating area there are 6 dedicated recessed wheelchair spaces split equally between the home and away sections of the main stand, albeit within the Highland League segregation is virtually unheard of. The location of the dedicated wheelchair area is at ground level and looks straight out on to the playing surface.
- 3.2 In the case of the new Spectator Enclosure, two separate designated ramped elevated viewing areas are provided in the home and away sections to accommodate up to 10 wheelchairs in total. The layout and design of the two areas allow a direct view of the pitch, while allowing freedom of access for others using the new Enclosure without difficulty.
- 3.3 Carers in every case remain undercover beside or close to their individual charge.
- 3.4 Several disabled visitors/supporters prefer (in good weather) to view the game from the grassed western end of the pitch which is serviced by a paved boundary footpath leading from the main entrance to the new three tiered Spectator Enclosure. In addition, the Club has also utilised two former dug-outs designating them for elevated viewing by mobility operated wheelchair users which provides a unique view of the entire length of the pitch.

4.0 Disabled Persons Toilets

- 4.1 A dedicated fully equipped disabled toilet is available and adjoins the main entrance paved area and is ramp accessed. The facility is designed in such a way that a carer/parent can comfortably accompany their charge if such need is required.
- 4.2 A steward/Club representative is always available to assist as, when and if required.

5.0 Catering Facilities

- 5.1 Catering is provided via a private franchised tuck shop, again located adjoining the paved area leading to/from the stand/seating area.

5.2 Carers are encouraged (to avoid the rush) to visit the Tuck Shop for refreshments at 3.30 pm and are free to take such refreshments back to their charge for half time. Again assistance from a Club representative is available on demand.

6.0 Audit Conclusions

6.1 Given the domestic scale of the operation, with an average match attendance of 350, the management of Nairn County have a reputation for being user-friendly and especially for those who suffer any disability or handicap.

6.2 Having undertaken the Audit, I am more than satisfied that the whole Stadium is set out to be as user-friendly as possible and practicable for the disabled.

6.3 My many years being directly involved with the disabled serves me well in being able to judge how effective the provisions are to facilitate ease of access and comfort for the disabled and endorse Nairn County FC at Station Park for their attention to detail in dealing with disability.

Final Conclusion

I confirm that the Disability Audit has been undertaken by Brian Sherret and that I am completely independent from the Club and its Management Committee and confirm I was given full and free access to the facilities at Station Park to conduct the Audit.

Brian Sherret

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