

Mawdesley Juniors Football Club

Risk Assessment – Training Sessions and Match Day Fixtures

Club	Mawdesley Juniors Football Club
Document title	Risk Assessment – Training Sessions and Match Day Fixtures
Activities covered	Junior team training (3G/4G) and home/away match fixtures
Venues covered	Bishop Rawstorne School, Croston (3G); Burscough FC (4G); various home and away match venues
Assessed by	Christopher Glover - Vice Chair
Date of assessment	01/08/26
Review date	01/08/27
Approved by	Tom Poole - Chair

1. Introduction and Scope

This risk assessment covers routine junior football training sessions and match day fixtures organised by Mawdesley Juniors Football Club. It is intended to identify the main hazards associated with these activities, the people who could be affected, the control measures already in place, and any further action needed to reduce risk so far as is reasonably practicable.

It covers training at the two regular venues used by the club – the 3G pitch at Bishop Rawstorne School, Croston, and the 4G pitch at Burscough FC – as well as home and away match fixtures played at a range of other venues. Section 4 (match days) is written to apply generally, since specific away venues vary by fixture.

2. Risk Rating Key

Risk levels below reflect the residual risk remaining once existing control measures are applied.

Risk Level	Meaning	Typical Response	Example
Low	Acceptable with existing controls in place	Monitor and maintain current controls	Minor trip hazard, controlled by pre-session pitch check
Medium	Acceptable but should be reduced further where reasonably practicable	Add further controls where practical; keep under regular review	Collision injury risk in contact drills, managed by age-appropriate coaching
High	Not acceptable as it stands	Activity must not proceed until further controls reduce the risk	Unsecured/unanchored goalposts

3. General Hazards – All Training Sessions and Matches

These hazards apply across both training venues and all match fixtures.

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed & How	Existing Control Measures	Risk	Further Action Required	Owner / Review
Slips, trips and falls on the playing surface (uneven ground, litter, standing water, ice or frost)	All players, coaches and officials – cuts, bruising, sprains, fractures	Surface visually checked before every session/match; session moved or cancelled if unsafe; players wear footwear suited to the surface	Low	Coach to complete a quick visual check on arrival and note any concerns	Session coach / ongoing
Collision between players during drills or match play	Players – bruising, sprains, fractures, head injury	Age-appropriate coaching, correct group sizes and adequate space between activities in line with FA guidance	Medium	Coaches to brief players on safe, fair play before any contact-based practice	Team coach / every session
Head injury or suspected	Players	Coaches follow FA 'if in doubt, sit them out'	Medium	Ensure all coaches complete FA concussion	Club Welfare Officer /

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed & How	Existing Control Measures	Risk	Further Action Required	Owner / Review
concussion		concussion guidance; no same-day return to play if a head injury is suspected		awareness training; record and inform parent/carer of any incident	annually
Adverse weather – heat, cold, high wind, lightning	Players, coaches, spectators	Sessions shortened, adapted or cancelled in extreme conditions; water breaks in hot weather; 30/30 lightning rule applied	Medium	Nominated coach checks the forecast before each session; cancellation communicated to parents in good time	Team manager / each session
Equipment hazards – goalposts, cones, poles, kit bags	Players – trips, and crush injury from unsecured goals	Goals only used when correctly anchored/weighted; never climbed on; equipment stored away from the playing area	Medium	Visually check goals are anchored before every use; report damaged or unsecured equipment to the venue immediately and do not use	Session coach / every session
Undisclosed medical conditions (e.g. asthma, allergies, epilepsy, diabetes)	Individual players	Medical and emergency contact/consent form held for every player and brought to every session and fixture	Medium	Team manager reviews medical forms each season and flags any conditions to all coaches	Team manager / start of season
Safeguarding – lone working, unauthorised collection of a child, inappropriate photography	Players (children)	Club follows FA safeguarding policy; minimum two DBS-checked adults present at every session; children released only to a known parent/carer; photography consent held on file	Medium	All coaches to hold a current FA safeguarding certificate and enhanced DBS check; welfare officer contact details displayed to parents	Club Welfare Officer / ongoing
Traffic in the car park or drop-off area	Children, parents, coaches	Players dropped off and collected within a designated area; coaches supervise children until handed to a parent/carer	Medium	Remind parents of drop-off/pick-up etiquette each season	Team manager / ongoing
Hygiene and cross-infection (shared equipment, first aid contact with blood or bodily fluids)	Players, coaches	Personal water bottles only, no sharing; first aider uses gloves	Low	Check and restock first aid kit, including gloves, each season	Club Welfare Officer / termly
Child goes missing during a session or after collection time	Individual player	Register taken at the start and end of every session; children not released until collected by a known parent/carer	Low	Ensure all coaches know the missing-child procedure (Section 6)	Team manager / ongoing

4. Venue-Specific Hazards – Bishop Rawstorne School, Croston (3G Training)

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed & How	Existing Control Measures	Risk	Further Action Required	Owner / Review
Shared school site – other pupils, staff, vehicles or events on site during club sessions	Players, coaches	Sessions run only within agreed hire times; club group kept away from areas in school use; site hire rules followed	Medium	Confirm access route and any site-specific restrictions with the school ahead of each season	Club Secretary / annually
Vehicle/pedestrian conflict in the school car park at drop-off and pick-up	Children, parents	Players and parents directed to a designated pedestrian route; coaches supervise children walking from the car park to the pitch	Medium	Reinforce parking discipline and speed reminders to parents on school site	Team manager / ongoing
Artificial 3G surface – turf burn/abrasion, infill irritation, surface slippery when wet or frosted	Players	Footwear suited to 3G worn; players advised to cover grazes; session adapted or moved if the surface is icy or waterlogged	Medium	Report any surface damage (loose seams, worn patches) to the school facilities contact promptly	Session coach / each session
Floodlighting failure or poor lighting during evening sessions	Players, coaches	Lights checked at the start of the session; session paused or ended early if lighting fails or is inadequate	Low	Keep the school caretaker/site contact number with the team manager for reporting faults	Team manager / ongoing
Limited or shared changing/toilet facilities	Players	Adult supervision arranged in line with club safeguarding policy (no lone adult with a child); facilities checked before use	Low	Confirm facility access arrangements with the school ahead of each season	Club Welfare Officer / annually

5. Venue-Specific Hazards – Burscough FC (4G Training)

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed & How	Existing Control Measures	Risk	Further Action Required	Owner / Review
Multiple concurrent bookings on adjacent 4G pitches	Players, coaches	Session kept within the booked pitch/area; coaches aware of neighbouring activity and stray balls from other pitches	Medium	Liaise with the Burscough FC booking contact if pitch boundaries or timings are unclear	Team manager / each session
4G surface hazards – turf burn, heat build-up in direct sun, slippery when wet	Players	Suitable footwear worn; water breaks in warm weather; session adapted if the surface is hazardous	Medium	Report surface faults to Burscough FC facilities staff	Session coach / each session
Clubhouse, dugouts, perimeter fencing and advertising boards as trip/collision hazards	Players, coaches	Warm-ups and drills kept clear of fixed structures; players briefed on pitch boundaries	Low	No further action beyond standard pitch briefing	Session coach / ongoing
Other club users, spectators or vehicles present on site during the session	Players, coaches	Session group supervised at all times; children not permitted to move to other areas of the site unaccompanied	Medium	Confirm fire evacuation meeting point and site rules with Burscough FC ahead of each season	Team manager / annually

6. Match Days – Home and Away Fixtures at Various Venues

Because fixtures are played at a range of home and away grounds, this section sets out generic controls to be applied at every venue, alongside a brief on-arrival check by the team manager or coach.

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed & How	Existing Control Measures	Risk	Further Action Required	Owner / Review
Unfamiliar venue with hazards not previously assessed	Players, coaches, spectators	Team manager/coach walks the pitch and immediate area before kick-off, checking goal stability, surface condition and fencing	Medium	Keep a brief record of any issues found and report them to the host club or league	Team manager / each fixture
Travel to away fixtures	Players	Parents/carers are responsible for their own child's safe transport; the club does not organise transport unless separately risk assessed	Low	Share venue address and parking information with parents in advance	Team manager / each fixture
Host club's equipment (goals, nets, pitch markings) outside the club's control	Players	Team manager/coach checks goals are secured before warm-up; match not played on a pitch with unsecured goals or a major surface hazard	Medium	Escalate any serious concern to the match referee or league before kick-off	Team manager / each fixture
Spectator behaviour and touchline encroachment	Players, officials	Club follows the FA Respect programme; spectators kept back from the touchline; team manager addresses any breach of the Respect code	Low	Use Respect barrier/signage where available at the venue	Team manager / ongoing
Limited first aid provision at away venues	Players	Club brings its own first aid kit and a nominated first aider (or trained coach) to every fixture, home and away	Low	Check first aid kit contents before each fixture	Team manager / each fixture
Match abandonment due to weather (waterlogged pitch, lightning, extreme cold)	Players, spectators	Pre-match pitch inspection by the host club/referee; club follows league guidance on postponements; 30/30 lightning rule applied	Medium	Team manager checks league/host club communications on the morning of the fixture	Team manager / each fixture

7. Emergency Action Plan

To be completed by the club and shared with all coaches and team managers:

- Nominated first aider for each session/fixture: the coach present holding a current FA Emergency First Aid in Football qualification, confirmed by the team manager before the session starts. Where no qualified coach is present, the session does not proceed without alternative first aid cover being arranged.
- Nearest hospital with A&E to Bishop Rawstorne School, Croston: Royal Preston Hospital, Sharoe Green Lane, Preston PR2 9HT (full 24-hour A&E). Chorley & South Ribble Hospital, Preston Road, Chorley PR7 1PP is closer but its Emergency Department only operates 8am–8pm daily — outside those hours go to Royal Preston.
- Nearest hospital with A&E to Burscough FC: Southport Hospital (adult A&E), Town Lane, Southport PR8 6PN. Ormskirk District General Hospital, Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AZ is closer and has Children's A&E, but no adult A&E — for an adult emergency go to Southport.
- Nearest public defibrillator to each regular venue (if known): Croston — two defibrillators are registered on-site at Bishop Rawstorne CE Academy (Learning Support and Reception), but both are listed as restricted access, available only during variable school hours — NOT guaranteed to be accessible during club training or matches. Confirm the nearest publicly accessible unit via The Circuit / defibfinder.uk before each season. Burscough — registered defibrillators at Richmond Avenue (L40 7RD), Manor Road (L40 7TN) and Purely Pizza, 41 Liverpool Road North (L40 0SA); confirm the closest to Bobby Langton Way via The Circuit / defibfinder.uk. In a real emergency, always call 999 first — the dispatcher has direct access to The Circuit and can direct you to the nearest usable unit.
- Club Welfare Officer contact: Wes Knowles / Kathryn Price — 07912 222522
- Club Secretary/Chair contact: Mike Boyd (Secretary) – 07951 096798 / Tom Poole (Chair) – 07976 898944

In the event of a serious injury:

- Stop the session or match immediately.
- Do not move a casualty with a suspected serious injury (e.g. head, neck or back injury).
- Call 999 if the injury appears serious or you are in any doubt.
- Contact the player's parent/carers as soon as possible.
- Complete an incident report form and pass it to the Club Welfare Officer.

If a child cannot be found:

- Check the immediate area, changing rooms and toilets first, keeping the rest of the group together and supervised.
- Inform the venue (school/club) contact and, if not located promptly, contact the parent/carers and, if necessary, the police.

8. Review and Sign-Off

This risk assessment should be reviewed at least annually, and immediately after any reportable incident, change of training venue, or change in FA/league safeguarding or safety guidance.

Role	Name	Date
Prepared by	Christopher Glover	01/08/26

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Approved by (Committee)	Tom Poole	01/08/26
Club Welfare Officer	Wes Knowles	01/08/26