



**Wick Academy Football Club  
Harmsworth Park Wick  
Medical Risk Assessment  
WAFC-D-010**



**Version 3.7 – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

## **Introduction**

Wick Academy Football Club is a member of the Scottish Highland Football League and is recognised as being Britain's most northerly senior football club.

It is the policy of Wick Academy Football Club to take all reasonable and practicable steps to safeguard the Health, Safety and welfare of all employees at work and to protect all other persons against hazards to Health or Safety arising out of the Clubs activities. This document details the Club's Medical Risk Assessment. The Club's First Aid Plan ref WAFC-D-008, Health and Safety Policy ref WAFC-P-002, and the Spectator Safety Policy document ref WAFC-P-001, should be read in conjunction with this document.

## **Purpose**

This Medical Risk Assessment is a report that shows Wick Academy Football Club's medical vulnerabilities, to provide a summary of defensive measures, and assess the amount of risk Wick Academy Football Club is willing to accept (the risk tolerance).

There is also an attached plan of the Harmsworth Park which highlights the exit\entry points, the secretaries' office and the entrance to the medical room.

## MEDICAL RISK ASSESSMENT

**Location:** Harmsworth Park, Wick

**Name of Assessor:** Richard Hughes -



**Date of Assessment:** Reviewed 04\07\23

Activity / Element (Step 1)	Hazards Identified (Step 2)	Existing Controls (Step 3)	Is the residual risk acceptable? Yes/No (Step 4)	Additional Controls Required (step 5)	Is the residual risk acceptable ? Yes/No (step 6)	Recommended minimum medical attendance * (actual agreed attendance in brackets)
1. Medical illness	Spectators and staff may suffer from a medical emergency when in attendance at the stadium.	<p>Certified First Aid personnel will be in attendance at every home game in a ratio of 1:1,000 up to the approved 2,412 capacity.</p> <p>A club doctor will be present for attendances expected to be over 2,000.</p> <p>There is a first aid room located within the Harmsworth Park which is equipped with a suitable first aid kit.</p> <p>Wick Academy FC has a contingency plan, ref WAFC-D-003, which confirms the roles of all agencies in the event of a major incident.</p> <p>Caithness General Hospital is approximately 3 minutes away by car, and if necessary an ambulance will be called to attend to any medical emergency. The telephone number of the Hospital is 01955 605050.</p>	Yes	Nil		<p><u>Crowd up to 1,000</u> 1 First aider present.</p> <p><u>Crowds from 1,000 to 1,999</u> 2 first aiders present.</p> <p><u>Crowd from 2,000 to 2,412</u> 2 first aiders present 1 doctor present.</p> <p>The Ambulance service does not attend games but will be summoned in the event of a major incident if necessary.</p>

<b>Activity / Element (Step 1)</b>	<b>Hazards Identified (Step 2)</b>	<b>Existing Controls (Step 3)</b>	<b>Is the residual Risk Acceptable? Yes/No (Step 4)</b>	<b>Additional Controls Required (step 5)</b>	<b>Is the Residual Risk Acceptable ? Yes/No (step 6)</b>	<b>Recommended minimum medical attendance (actual agreed attendance in brackets)</b>
<b>2.</b> Injury from slip/trip/fall	Spectators and staff may suffer from an injury as a result of a slip, trip or fall in the stadium.	As above in row 1.	Yes	Nil		As above
<b>3.</b> Fire in the stadium	A fire in the stadium may result in burns injuries & smoke inhalation to spectators & staff. Crush injuries may occur as a result of crowd surging if evacuation is not properly controlled.	As above in row 1. A Fire Risk assessment has been completed by the Club Safety Officer.	Yes	Nil		As above
<b>4.</b> Explosion in the stadium	As above	As above in row 1.	Yes	Nil		As above

Activity / Element (Step 1)	Hazards Identified (Step 2)	Existing Controls (Step 3)	Is the residual Risk Acceptable? Yes/No (Step 4)	Additional Controls Required (step 5)	Is the Residual Risk Acceptable ? Yes/No (step 6)	Recommended minimum medical attendance (actual agreed attendance in brackets)
5. Structural collapse	A collapse of any part of the stadium may result in injuries to staff and spectators.	As above in row 1. A structural survey has been completed by a qualified structural engineer on both stands within the Harmsworth Park. Some remedial work was recommended as a result of the survey and this work has been completed and re-certified by the structural engineer.	Yes	Nil		As above
6. Crowd surge or crushing	Spectators and staff may suffer from crush injuries.	As above in row 1. The Harmsworth Park is inspected by officers of Highland Council's Environmental Health services and a safety Letter of Compliance has been issued by this authority. This is renewed every three years. This states that the Harmsworth Park is compliant with the necessary standards. This certificate also states the maximum ground capacity and that the stadium complies with all relevant building control standards. The inspection also checked and confirmed the ground's emergency exit capacity.	Yes	Nil		As above

Activity / Element (Step 1)	Hazards Identified (Step 2)	Existing Controls (Step 3)	Is the residual Risk Acceptable? Yes/No (Step 4)	Additional Controls Required (step 5)	Is the Residual Risk Acceptable ? Yes/No (step 6)	Recommended minimum medical attendance (actual agreed attendance in brackets)
7. Evacuation	If an evacuation of the stadium is required this must be properly controlled. Spectators or staff may be injured if the evacuation is not properly controlled and crowd surges occur.	As above in row 1. Wick Academy FC has a contingency plan, ref WAFC-D-003, which states controls to be followed in the event of a stadium evacuation. The safety Letter of Compliance issued by Highland Council states that the emergency exit capacity for the Harmsworth Park is adequate for crowd attendances up to the maximum of 2,412.	Yes	Nil		As above

The situation regarding COVID-19 is fluid and guidance from the Scottish Government and the Scottish Football Association regarding it is subject to change, sometimes at relatively short notice. As such no specific information regarding COVID-19 is contained in this document. Any COVID-19 documentation, policies, risk assessments or other such related items will be produced and controlled separately.

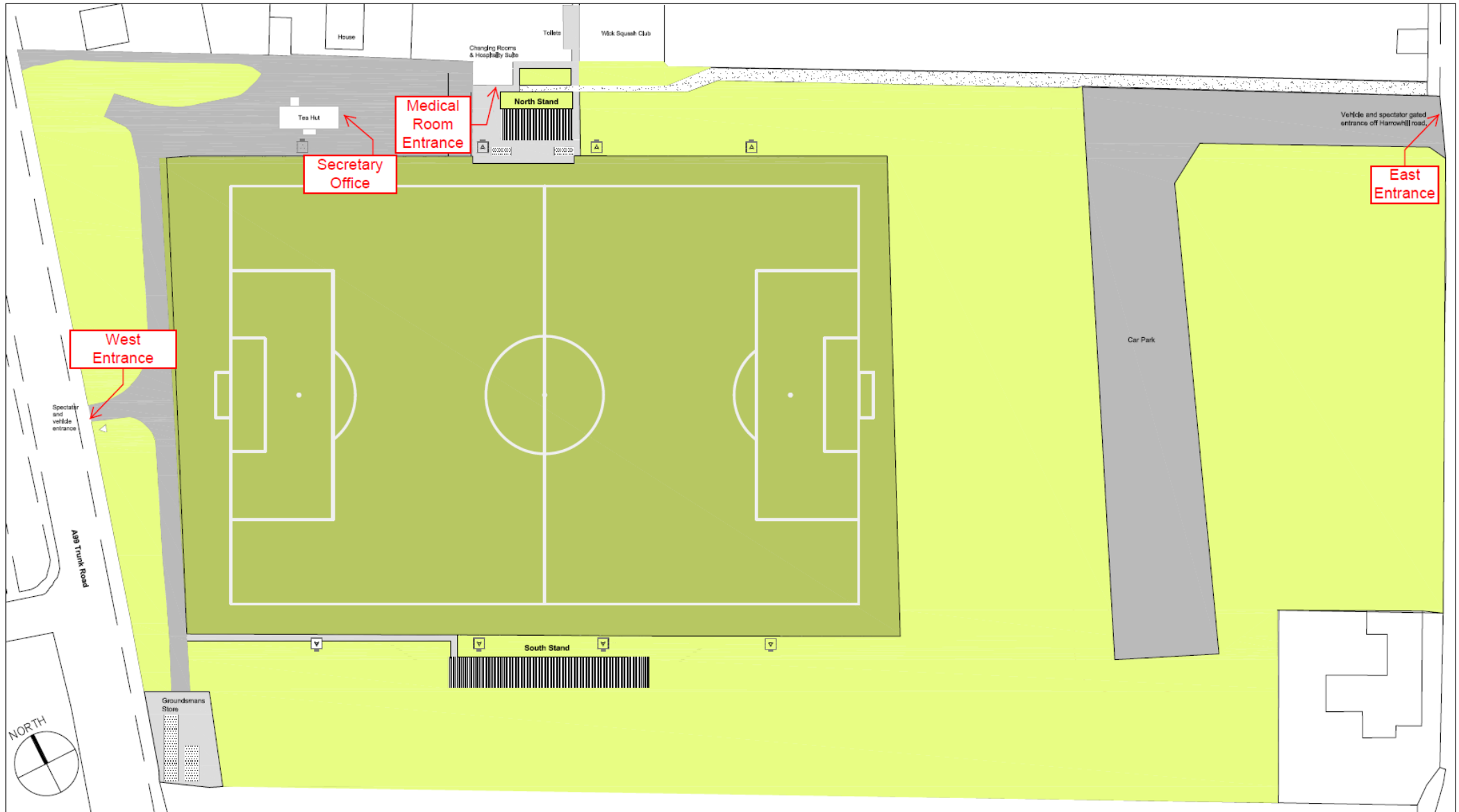
This risk assessment was completed taking into consideration the following factors:

PHYSICAL FACTORS	
i. Physical layout (roads, car parks)	<p>The Harmsworth Park is located at the south side of Wick on the South Road, A99. It is located opposite the Retail Park housing, Argos, and Lidl's. Its National Grid Square Reference is ND3649.</p> <p>The stadium is enclosed by a stone wall and the boundaries of the stadium are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South: Harrow Road and cemetery.</li> <li>• East: Elevated car park leading onto Harrow Hill\Harrow Road – Secondary entry\exit.</li> <li>• North: Recreation ground – Bignold Park.</li> <li>• West: South Road – Primary entry\exit.</li> </ul> <p>The main access\exit points are to the West and East. The West access is off the South Road through a set of double-gates leading into the stadium. Access through a double gate is permitted for cars prior to kick-off and spectators during normal match access periods. A single spectator access gate is also available for use if required.</p> <p>The East access comes off Harrow Hill\Harrow Road through a set of double gates onto an elevated car park that over-looks the pitch. This allows access for cars and spectators.</p> <p>There is easy access for emergency service vehicles through either the west or east access points and an ambulance can get almost to the main door leading to the first aid room.</p> <p>A detailed plan of the Harmsworth Park is attached as appendix 1 of this document.</p>
ii. Design of ground, areas of high risk	<p>The main grandstand is located on the North (also referred to as the Clair Harper Stand, Home Stand, Main Stand, or North Stand). This was constructed in 1995 (refurbished in 2008) of brick, steel and sheet cladding. This stand has UVPC and steel “flip” seating with a capacity of 102.</p> <p>A further spectator stand is located directly opposite the Main Stand to the South. This was constructed in 1996 of brick, steel, timber rafters and sheet cladding. This stand has limited seating, and is mainly for standing spectators. It has a capacity of 195. It is referred to as the South Stand, or terraced stand.</p> <p>The total approved capacity for football matches as defined by Highland Council is 2,412.</p>
iii. Location of control points, first aid posts & key locations	<p>The secretary's office in the north quadrant of the park acts as a control room. This office has a telephone and portable first aid kit. On match days a portable microphone is available to the secretary or other Wick Academy FC nominated personnel for making announcements over the ground's public address system. A first aid room is also situated in the north quadrant of the park which contains a first aid kit, stretcher as well as a physiotherapist bench. This room also has its own toilet and hot and cold running water.</p>
iv. Nature & location of radio & communications	<p>The Safety Officer, first aid personnel and Stewards carry radios and/or mobile telephones for communicating with each other on match days. A landline telephone is available in the secretaries' office. In instances where Police or Ambulance services are in attendance, these personnel will have their own radios and means of communication.</p>

SAFETY MANAGEMENT FACTORS	
i. Safety management structure & lines of communication	The Safety Management Structure and Lines of communication for football matches is as follows – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safety Officer</li> <li>2. Chairman</li> <li>3. Stewards</li> <li>4. First aiders</li> <li>5. Ambulance\Police personnel if called upon</li> </ol>
ii. Ground contingency plans & emergency procedures	Wick Academy FC has a contingency and ground safety plan which have been inspected by Highland Council.
iii. Staff training	First aiders and stewards are trained to the level appropriate to their responsibility.
iv. Hazards & risks posed by event to spectators	Specific hazards posed by the event of a football match include severe weather, and\or crowd disturbance.
v. Composition & behaviour of crowd	The Wick Academy FC Safety Officer, stewards, or committee member will take appropriate action depending on dynamics and actions of match-day crowds.
vi. Historical data of injuries/treatment etc	An accident incident book is kept in the secretary's office. There is no current history of any significant spectator injuries or administered treatment within the boundaries of Harmsworth Park, but any such activities that are recorded will be analysed and any lessons learned taken on-board.
vii. Requirements of governing bodies	For football matches, Harmsworth Park must comply with the requirements to obtain a safety letter of compliance issued by the Highland Council's Environmental Health services. Wick Academy FC may also have to comply with SHFL and SFL requirements as appropriate.



**Appendix 1 – Plan of Harmsworth Park Wick – Entry/Exit points, Secretary’s Office and Entrance to Medical Room highlighted**



## **Document Control**

**Mandatory Review Date (To be reviewed and published annually).**

Review Date:        \_4<sup>th</sup> July 2024\_  

---