



## **Hartlepool United Football Club**

### **Matchday Mascots**

Hartlepool United is committed to ensuring that all children who carry out the role of Mascot, whilst in the care of the club, can do so in a safe and enjoyable environment through adherence to the Club's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and Safer Recruitment Policy and process.

The following guidance will be applied to all children visiting the Club as a Match Day Mascot:

- Child mascots must be aged minimum 18 month's old to maximum 16 years old.
- All colleagues escorting match day child mascots must be subject of an enhanced DBS check and must have completed the Club's induction..
- In cases of a special match where the number of mascots may exceed the recommended number then authorisation from Club's Head of Safeguarding to include additional mascots will be required.
- Child mascots must be accompanied by a parent/carer at all times, other than when in secure areas e.g. the tunnel, when the mascot will be supervised by suitably qualified Club chaperones.
- Parents will be advised to bring their child to the Stadium already wearing their Mascot Football strip (worn under warm clothing if appropriate) thereby avoiding the need for the child to change into their strip whilst on Club premises as the Club maybe unable to offer designated changing areas for Mascots, if a mascot requires help with dressing this will be done by the parent/carer.
- If an injured or disabled child is used as a mascot a risk assessment will be carried out to establish if that child can safely participate in the Match Day Mascot itinerary and to identify what additional safety measures may need to be put in place to allow the child to safely participate.
- The Operations Manager will be notified of the risk assessment, who will then advise the paramedics of any issues. Every effort should be made to achieve correct staffing ratios and the best level of supervision of Match Day Mascots at all times. (An individual member of suitably DBS checked employees will be allocated as

chaperone to each child with a disability or injury, if they are assessed as requiring additional support).

- Male and Female chaperones, wherever possible, will be used to supervise mixed gender groups of Mascots.
- Colleagues should avoid any situation where they may be left alone with a mascot.
- Parents/carers will be informed of the Club's Images Policy in information sent to them prior to the game; together with the appropriate Mascot Itinerary and details of the Club's Head of Safeguarding.
- Consent to be obtained by parents/carer prior to the day for the use of the child's information/photo in the Matchday Programme.