



## Partick Thistle Football Club Policy on Disability Equality

Partick Thistle Football Club Ltd (the club) recognises its responsibility to supporters in the context of the 2010 Equality Act (EQA)

Disability as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. People who have a disability and people who had a disability but no longer have one are covered by the Act.

The essence of the legislation is that services must be made available to disabled people on the same terms as able bodied people, and that disability rights are everyone's business.

The Club's existing Anti-Discrimination Policy acknowledges that Partick Thistle Football Club is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the Club at every level. Football belongs to and should be enjoyed by everyone equally.

Our commitment is therefore to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.

Equality of opportunity at Partick Thistle Football Club means that in all our activities we will not discriminate or in any way treat anyone less favourably on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.

In the context of disability, much attention has been focused on the provision of barrier free sports, either in respect of active participation, or facilities for spectators with disabilities. As a consequence, usage of such facilities, by this section of the population, has increased dramatically.

This, in turn, has had a marked influence, in a positive way, on how the public at large views disability.

The Club endorses such societal changes and seeks to support them in any relevant and pragmatic manner.

In respect of disabled access at the Firhill Stadium, the under noted support which is publicised on the official website and available on request to anyone enquiring, is offered to wheelchair users;

Partick Thistle Football Club supporters who are wheelchair users will be required to purchase a concession rate ticket offering access to the relevant area at the front of the north end of the Colin Weir Stand or in the front section of the John Lambie Stand subject to the availability of spaces. Where a carer is required to accompany this supporter the carer will be issued with a complimentary ticket for the game. Tickets can be purchased from sellers directly outside the disabled gate situated on Firhill Road between the Colin Weir Stand and the John Lambie Stand.

Home supporters who are wheelchair users will also have access to the wheelchair platform situated in the Jackie Husband Stand. To confirm a space, season ticket holders can contact the club's Disabled Access Officer who will confirm space and car parking availability. There is no extra cost for this facility and the platform spaces will be booked on a first come first serve basis. Supporters on the platform will have access to disabled toilet facilities and a catering order will be taken by a member of kiosk staff during the match and delivered to the area.

Ambulant disabled supporters wishing to use the Jackie Husband Stand should make themselves known to staff at the ticket kiosk outside that stand. They will be issued with a concession rate ticket, including a free ticket for any accompanying carer if required.

Visiting Supporters with a similar ambulatory disorder should contact their own club who will advise PTFC of any requirements.

Visiting fans who are wheelchair users will be subject to the same terms and conditions as PTFC supporters and be located in the same area of Colin Weir Stand. This area includes disabled toilet facilities. A catering order will be taken by a member of kiosk staff during the match and delivered to the area.

Able bodied fans who require the aid of a carer to attend matches will be required to purchase a concessionary rate ticket for the match. Their carer will be issued with a complimentary ticket for the match.

More information on match day facilities and what to expect at the stadium are available on the club website.

The Club recognises that official stewards require being aware of the needs of disabled supporters and capable of dealing with same.

Consequently, future training of stewards will take cognisance of the needs of wheelchair users, ambulant fans and visually impaired supporters.

It must be recognised, that many structural and environmental barriers cannot be easily eradicated without considerable expense at a time when resources are under extreme pressure.

The Club is however currently reviewing arrangements which might require action on order that disabled fans are not disadvantaged.

Areas under review include:

- Access to catering kiosks
  
- Access to retail and commercial areas
  
- Doors, ramps and staircases
  
- Parking
  
- Sight lines
  
- Ticket outlets
  
- Toilets for disabled use
  
- Transport and access

The Club will continue to liaise with local and national bodies in developing access and facilities for disabled supporters.

The Club in addition to addressing its statutory obligations seeks to achieve and foster positive change in attitudes and an acceptance of difference.