This policy sets out how disabled supporters attending home matches will be accommodated at Halton Stadium, Lower House Lane, Widnes, WA8 7DZ for the rugby seasons and how the Club will underpin its commitment to disabled supporters.

Discrimination against disabled people, whether spectators or customers will not be tolerated. The Club have endeavoured to provide excellent facilities for disabled people but recognise that from time to time reasonable adjustments will need to be made to provide full compliance with the DDA.

*The Club will deem the Disability on the following criteria:*

* The impairment must have a ‘substantial adverse effect’ and means more than minor or trivial.
* The Effect must be ‘long term’ it must have lasted or be expected to last at least 12 months, or likely to last for the rest of the person’s life.
* The impairment must adversely affect ‘normal day to day activities’

A disabled person is defined as “any person who, because of their disability or impairment, is unable to use ordinary stand seating without contravening Health and Safety Regulations, guidelines or policy”.

Any such persons will be considered for use of the special provision areas of the stadium according to the procedures outlined in this policy.

Disabled persons may be described in the following categories:

* Largely dependent on using a wheelchair for their daily activities
* Suffering from hearing loss
* Having a visual impairment
* Having learning difficulties
* Having ambulatory disabilities (i.e. uses a walking stick, crutches etc.)
* Has a physically restricting medical condition.
* Having mental health needs.
* Older people who have reduced mobility.

All cases will be treated fairly on balance of the circumstances.

**WHEELCHAIR DEPENDENT SPECTATORS**

Wheelchair accommodation is provided around the playing area in front of all four stands. Accommodation is provided at ground level and enables a good viewing area of the pitch. Wheelchair accommodation is also available on elevated platform in the South Stands. People wishing to use these platforms must contact Widnes Vikings for availability, as PEEPS need to be prepared. Accessible toilets are provided solely for use by disabled persons throughout the stadium.

There are dedicated accessible car parking spaces which are located at the front of the car park, these are allocated on a first come first served basis, booking is not possible.

The club would ask that people recognise that there are a limited number of spaces available and it will not be possible to accommodate everyone who has a blue/orange badge.

Disabled persons may be asked by the club to provide qualifying documentation relating to their disability in order to qualify for accessible seating so that PEEPS can be prepared for any emergency evacuations. (See Ticketing for Disabled Spectators – Terms and Conditions)

Wheelchair access to the stadium with a carer or personal assistant will be via designated gates at the North, East and South West areas of the Stadium, these are clearly marked. Lifts are available to access the wheelchair accessible elevated platforms and these will be operated by dedicated stewards. PEEPS will be completed for all wheelchair users on the elevated platforms.

All supporters in wheelchairs, will be admitted to the Stadium at the rate applicable to their age range (obtainable from the ticket office on Tel. 0151 495 2250. If a disabled spectator is accompanied by a Carer or personal assistant one carer will be allocated a free ticket. Please note that not all disabled spectators attending a game require a carer/personal assistant they may simply be attending with their partner, friend or colleague and in which case they will not be entitled to a free carer ticket.

Tickets cannot be obtained via the internet and spectators must contact the Ticket Office direct.

**SPECTATORS HEARING IMPAIRMENT**

There are currently no specific provisions in place for supporters with hearing impairments and the general published ticket prices apply to supporters with hearing impairments.

**SPECTATORS VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

There are currently no specific provisions in place for supporters with visual impairments and the general published ticket prices apply to supporters with visual impairments.

**SPECTATORS – LEARNING DIFFICULTIES**
Supporters’ with learning difficulties can be accommodated in all seated areas of the stadium. The Halton Stadium is all seated. General published ticket prices apply to supporters with learning difficulties.

**SPECTATORS – AMBULATORY DISABLED**

Some people use wheelchairs for outdoor mobility purposes, but are not necessarily permanent wheelchair users and many people have severe walking difficulties. These people will be classed as ‘ambulatory disabled supporters’. The supporters with ambulatory disabilities of a severe nature can be allocated seats in the stand or pitch side. However, each case will be decided on its merits, FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SUPPORTER as all accommodation is accessed from pitch side via stepped gangways. Requests must be made well in advance to the club, so the supporters’ needs can be assessed correctly. General published ticket prices will apply to supporters with ambulatory disabilities.

**SPECTATORS – OLDER PEOPLE WITH MOBILITY REQUIREMENTS OR WITH PHYSICALLY RESTRICTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS.**

Please see relevant section in this policy that applies to your needs.

**GENERAL ACCESS INFORMATION**

Passenger Lifts are available in the South Stand, all accommodation is also accessible by stairs. Supporters, who have difficulty in reaching seating via stairs, are advised to contact the club prior to attending for advice. Stewards are available to assist and supporters with mobility difficulties should make themselves known to the nearest steward on arrival for help and assistance. The general published ticket prices will apply to supporters with restricting medical conditions and less mobility.

All spectators should be aware that there is not quite 360 degree access around the stadium, as the South Stand is divided by the Main Reception Building.

**POLICY REVIEW**

Widnes Vikings RFLC want to move this policy forward and will review it on a regular basis. Any queries over the policy should be addressed to the Supporters Liaison Officer, Widnes Vikings, Halton Stadium, Lower House lane, Widnes, WA8 7DZ. In the compilation of this policy the advice of the RFL and Rugby League Disabled Supporters Association was sought, with cognisance of the DDA and Equality Act 2010.

**TICKETING FOR DISABLED SUPPORTERS TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

A disabled person will be asked by the club to provide qualifying documentation relating to their condition in order to qualify for An accessible seat, typical evidence that the club could seek would be one of the following:

* Entitlement to the higher rate care component of the disability living allowance.
* Letter of confirmation from the Local Authority Social Services department that the person is in receipt of support services.
* Letter from the person’s General Practitioner confirming that they are a disabled person with a recognised impairment that requires extra help.

Applications for 2018 are now closed.