



DEPARTMENT	Operations / Stadium Safety / Supporter Services
POLICY/PROCEDURE	PROHIBITED ITEMS AND SEARCH POLICY
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VERSION	5

Document Control

Item	Detail
Document title	Lincoln City Football Club Prohibited Items and Search Policy
Version	Version 5 - 2026/27 website refresh
Department	Operations / Stadium Safety / Supporter Services
Policy owner	Head of Operations, supported by the Safety Officer, Supporter Services and the Disability Liaison Officer where required
Applies to	Supporters, visitors, hospitality guests, media, contractors, employees and any person entering The ProAmpac Stadium or Club-controlled stadium footprint
Review	At least annually, and sooner where required by EFL, FA, legal, policing, safety, security, accessibility or operational change

This refreshed policy updates the previous 2025/26 document for the 2026/27 season. It keeps the practical bag, search, flags, smoking and prohibited-item arrangements, while adding clearer supporter wording on unauthorised entry, accessibility exceptions, pyrotechnics, surrender of items and matchday decision-making.

Policy Statement

Lincoln City Football Club wants every supporter and visitor to enjoy their time at The ProAmpac Stadium in a safe, welcoming and respectful environment. Search procedures and prohibited-item controls are used to reduce the risk of injury, disorder, disruption and unlawful entry, while keeping entry as efficient as reasonably practicable.

- Entry searches will be carried out respectfully and proportionately by trained staff or approved security personnel.
- Supporters are encouraged to travel light and arrive in good time to allow safe entry checks to be completed.
- The Club will make reasonable adjustments for disabled supporters and those carrying essential medical or baby-care items.
- Items that are unlawful, unsafe, offensive, disruptive or contrary to Club or Ground Regulations may be refused, confiscated, surrendered or reported to the police.
- Refusal to cooperate with a search, ticket check or lawful instruction may result in refused entry or ejection from the stadium.

Before You Travel

The easiest way to get into the stadium smoothly is to bring only what you need. Some checks may take longer for high-profile fixtures, derby matches, cup matches, sold-out fixtures or matches where additional safety measures are in place.

Do	Avoid
Arrive early. Turnstiles normally open 90 minutes before kick-off and supporters	Do not arrive at the last minute with bags or items requiring

Do	Avoid
should aim to be at the correct entrance at least 30 minutes before kick-off.	extra checks. Queues can build quickly close to kick-off.
Bring a small bag only where necessary. Bags should not exceed 30cm x 30cm.	Do not bring suitcases, holdalls, large backpacks, pushchairs, large umbrellas, poles or items that cannot be safely stored.
Bring essential medication, medical equipment or baby-care items in the smallest suitable bag.	Do not hide items, refuse checks, or bring alcohol, pyrotechnics, weapons, drugs or offensive material.
Use the correct entrance shown on your ticket or as directed by stewards.	Do not tailgate, force entry, use forged accreditation or attempt to enter a restricted area.

Key message: Searches are not designed to make entry difficult. They are there to protect supporters, staff, players, officials and the wider stadium operation. Please be patient with staff carrying out checks.

Search Policy

Any person attending The ProAmpac Stadium may be asked to take part in a screening process before entering the stadium, or at any point within the stadium footprint where there is a safety, security or operational reason. Screening may include a visual check, bag search, physical search, ticket check, accreditation check or other proportionate security measure.

- Searches are voluntary, but entry may be refused where a person refuses to be searched or refuses to allow a bag or item to be checked.
- Searches will be conducted in a respectful manner and, where a more detailed search is required, staff will consider privacy, dignity and reasonable adjustments.
- Children and young people may be searched only where appropriate. Where practicable, a parent, carer or responsible adult will be present.
- The Club may use additional checks at selected fixtures based on risk assessment, police advice, competition requirements or Club safety planning.
- Supporters must follow the reasonable instructions of stewards, security staff, police officers and Club officials.

Bag Policy

Lincoln City operates a restricted bag policy at The ProAmpac Stadium. Bringing no bag, or the smallest possible bag, will help supporters enter the stadium more quickly.

Requirement	Policy position
Maximum size	Bags should not exceed 30cm x 30cm. Bags larger than this may be refused entry.
Search requirement	All bags are subject to visual and/or physical search before entry and may be searched again inside the stadium where required.
No left luggage	The Club does not operate a left-luggage or bag-storage facility. Items refused at the gate cannot be stored by the Club.
Delays	Supporters choosing to bring a permitted bag should allow additional time for screening.

Medical, Accessibility and Baby-Care Items

Exceptions to the bag policy may be made for essential medical provisions, disability-related equipment, assistance-dog items or baby-changing items that are required during the match. These items must still be presented for checking.

- Small medical items such as medication, inhalers, EpiPens or blood-sugar testing kits should be brought in the smallest suitable bag.
- Larger items, including crutches, walking aids, medical devices or equipment that may need additional awareness at the turnstile, should be raised with the Club in advance wherever possible.
- Assistance dogs are welcome. Supporters requiring assistance-dog arrangements should contact the Club in advance where practical.
- For medical, access or assistance queries, please contact the Disability Liaison Officer at dlo@theredimps.com.

Reasonable adjustments: The Club will consider reasonable adjustments on a case-by-case basis. A medical or access exception does not remove the need for safe checking, but staff will aim to complete checks sensitively and without unnecessary delay.

What You Can and Cannot Bring

The lists below are designed to help supporters plan ahead. They are not exhaustive. The Club reserves the right to refuse any item where, in the opinion of the Safety Officer, Club management, security staff or police, the item could affect public safety, security, comfort, view, access, crowd movement or the operation of the event.

Items generally permitted	Important conditions
Clear plastic bottles of water, 500ml or less	Bottle tops may be removed at the entrance. Alcohol is not permitted.
Small bags within the Club bag policy	Maximum 30cm x 30cm and subject to search.
Essential medication and medical equipment	Subject to safe checking. Bring only what is required for the event.
Crutches, walking aids and disability-related equipment	Permitted where required. Larger items should be raised with the DLO in advance where practical.
Baby-changing items	Permitted where required and subject to search.
Small bottles of hand gel	Small personal-use bottles only. Larger bottles may be refused.
Small fold-up umbrellas	Must be folded at the turnstiles and must not be used in the stadium if they obstruct views or access routes.
Non-offensive flags or banners within Club rules	Must comply with the flags and banners section of this policy.

Items Not Permitted

The following items must not be brought into The ProAmpac Stadium unless expressly approved by the Club in advance.

Category	Examples and policy position
Alcohol and controlled containers	Alcohol, glass bottles, cans, large plastic containers, containers over 500ml, or any container considered unsafe or capable of being used as a missile.

Category	Examples and policy position
Weapons and dangerous articles	Knives, blades, darts, firearms, ammunition, tools, sharp objects, batons, poles, sticks or any item that could be used as a weapon.
Pyrotechnics and explosive devices	Fireworks, flares, smoke bombs, smoke or gas canisters, distress flares, explosives, ignition devices or any pyrotechnic article.
Illegal or controlled substances	Illegal drugs, psychoactive substances, nitrous oxide canisters or paraphernalia linked to unlawful substances.
Aerosols and pressurised items	Aerosols, large sprays, gas canisters or pressurised containers, except essential medical items where approved or reasonably required.
Recording and electronic equipment	Professional cameras, camcorders, audio/visual recording equipment, laptops, tablets, tripods, monopods or similar equipment unless authorised through media or Club accreditation.
Drones and remote devices	Drones, remote-controlled aircraft or similar devices are not permitted within the stadium footprint without express written authorisation.
Disruptive or nuisance items	Air horns, laser pens, megaphones, musical instruments, large flags, large umbrellas or items that could obstruct views, access routes or safety signage.
Animals	Animals are not permitted, except recognised assistance dogs.
Large personal items	Suitcases, holdalls, large backpacks, pushchairs, buggies, prams, bicycles, scooters or other items that cannot be safely stored. Mobility aids are exempt.
Offensive or inflammatory material	Any sign, banner, clothing or article that is discriminatory, abusive, threatening, political, religiously inflammatory, obscene or otherwise likely to cause offence or disorder.

Plan ahead: When in doubt, leave the item at home or contact the Club in advance. Items refused on entry cannot be stored by the Club.

Flags, Banners and Visual Material

The Club welcomes supporters who wish to bring flags and banners to support the team, provided they are safe, respectful and do not interfere with other supporters or stadium operations.

Requirement	Policy position
Maximum size	Flags or banners should be no more than 250cm at their widest or longest section, unless expressly approved by the Club.
Flagpoles	Flagpoles must be no greater than 100cm in length and must not be sharp, rigid or capable of causing injury. Poles may be refused at the entrance.
Quantity	A maximum of one flag per supporter may be permitted, subject to safety checks and available space.
Fire safety	Flags and banners must have a fire-safety label evidencing flame retardancy where required. Items without appropriate fire safety information may be refused.

Requirement	Policy position
Location and use	Flags must not obstruct gangways, access routes, exits, entrances, stairways, safety signage, advertising boards, camera positions or another supporter's view.
Content	Flags, banners, signs and clothing must not include discriminatory, abusive, threatening, obscene, political, religiously inflammatory or otherwise offensive material.

To avoid delay at the turnstile, supporters are advised to request pre-approval by emailing Supporter Services at tickets@theredimps.com at least one week before the fixture. The Club may refuse, remove or confiscate flags and banners where they are unsafe, oversized, unauthorised, offensive or likely to create a safety or operational issue.

Away fixtures: The Club may liaise with other clubs about the application of flag and banner policies at away matches. Supporters should always check the host club rules before travelling.

Use of the stadium as a football environment: a football match should be a place to support the team first and foremost. The Club may refuse or remove material connected with political or religious affiliation, campaigns, conflicts or issues where that material could reasonably be considered inflammatory, divisive, offensive or likely to affect crowd safety and public order.

Pyrotechnics, Smoke Devices and Flares

Pyrotechnics are dangerous and have no place inside or around the stadium. This includes flares, fireworks, smoke bombs, smoke canisters, distress flares, explosive devices and any similar article.

- Possession or use of pyrotechnics may be a criminal offence and may be reported to the police.
- Anyone found with pyrotechnics may be refused entry, ejected, banned by the Club and subject to football banning-order proceedings where applicable.
- Pyrotechnics can cause burns, respiratory issues, panic, delayed kick-offs, blocked visibility and risk to players, officials, supporters and staff.
- Supporters should report concerns to the nearest steward or through the Club matchday reporting routes where available.

Do not bring pyro: Even if an item is not lit, bringing it to a football match can still create serious safety, legal and Club disciplinary consequences.

Alcohol, Smoking and Vaping

Area	Policy position
Alcohol	Alcohol must not be brought into the stadium. Any alcohol found during entry checks may be refused, surrendered, disposed of or dealt with in line with Ground Regulations and licensing requirements.
Smoking	The ProAmpac Stadium is a no-smoking stadium. Smoking is not permitted in stands, concourses, toilets, hospitality areas, offices or other internal or controlled areas.
Vaping and electronic cigarettes	Vaping and use of electronic cigarettes are treated in the same way as smoking and are not permitted inside the stadium.
Designated areas	Where designated smoking areas are provided within the wider stadium footprint, supporters must follow steward instructions. Supporters will not normally be permitted to leave and re-enter the stadium once admitted.

Unauthorised Entry, Tailgating and Ticket Checks

For the 2026/27 season, this policy includes clearer wording on unauthorised entry. Supporters must only enter the stadium with a valid ticket, pass or Club-approved accreditation and must enter through the correct route when directed.

- Do not tailgate, push through a turnstile, follow another person through a gate, force entry or attempt to enter a restricted area.
- Do not knowingly use forged tickets, passes or accreditation, and do not pose as stadium staff, Club staff, media, contractor or playing staff.
- Tickets and accreditation may be checked at entry points and inside the stadium footprint.
- Any attempted unauthorised entry may result in refused entry, ejection, police action, ticket cancellation, Club sanction or banning action.

Important legal update: From March 2026, unauthorised entry to football matches, including tailgating and use of forged tickets or accreditation, became a specific criminal offence. Conviction may lead to a fine and a Football Banning Order.

Refusal, Ejection and Club Sanctions

The Club may refuse entry, eject a person from the stadium, confiscate or require surrender of items, cancel tickets, suspend purchasing privileges or issue a Club ban where a person breaches this policy, Ground Regulations, ticket terms or reasonable instructions.

Situation	Likely Club response
Refusal to be searched or checked	Entry may be refused. Ticket terms and Ground Regulations will apply.
Possession of prohibited item	Item may be refused, surrendered, confiscated, disposed of, retained for collection where appropriate, or reported to police.
Illegal or dangerous item	Police may be contacted. Entry will normally be refused and further Club action may follow.
Offensive or discriminatory material	Item may be removed and the incident may be dealt with under Club, EFL, FA and police reporting routes.
Unauthorised entry or attempted unauthorised entry	Entry refused or ejection, police action, ticket cancellation and potential Club ban.

Surrendered, Confiscated and Refused Items

Supporters should not bring items they are not prepared to surrender or dispose of. The Club does not accept liability for prohibited, surrendered, refused, abandoned, confiscated or disposed-of items unless expressly required by law.

- Illegal, unsafe or suspicious items may be handed to police or retained as evidence.
- The Club will not normally store refused items for later collection.
- Where a low-risk item is refused, the supporter may be given the choice to return it to a vehicle or leave the queue, but re-entry to the queue is not guaranteed.
- Items left unattended may be removed and may be treated as suspicious.
- Club staff and stewards may record relevant details of incidents, searches, refusals or ejections in matchday logs.

Non-Matchdays, Staff and Contractors

This public policy focuses on supporters and visitors. Separate staff and contractor arrangements apply under Club employment terms, contractor control procedures, site rules and the staff handbook. Where reasonable suspicion arises, the Club may require proportionate search checks of employees, contractors, vehicles, bags or work areas, authorised and witnessed in line with internal procedures.

Contractor and event access: Contractors, suppliers, media and event visitors must comply with Club site rules, accreditation requirements and any additional search or screening instructions issued for their activity.

Who to Contact

Need	Contact route
Ticketing, flags, banners or general supporter query	tickets@theredimps.com
Accessibility, medical equipment or assistance-dog query	dlo@theredimps.com
Matchday safety concern	Speak to the nearest steward, supervisor or Club official as soon as possible.

2026/27 Refresh - Summary of Main Updates

This version has been rebuilt for publication on the Club website and aligned with the wider LCFC policy document style. The policy has also been refreshed to reflect current football safety expectations for the 2026/27 season.

Area updated	What has changed for this version
Document structure	Rewritten into a clearer website-facing format with plain language, supporter planning guidance and practical decision-making information.
Unauthorised entry	Added clear wording on tailgating, forced entry, forged tickets, forged accreditation and posing as stadium or Club staff, reflecting the 2026 law change.
Search and dignity	Strengthened wording on respectful searches, voluntary consent, refusal consequences, children, privacy and reasonable adjustments.
Medical and access exceptions	Added clearer guidance for disabled supporters, essential medication, medical devices, assistance dogs and baby-care items.
Prohibited items	Expanded categories to include drones, remote devices, psychoactive substances, nitrous oxide canisters, large personal items, inflammatory material and unauthorised professional recording equipment.
Flags and banners	Retained size, fire-safety and approval requirements, with clearer content restrictions and obstruction controls.
Pyrotechnics	Strengthened zero-tolerance wording and clarified potential police, Club ban and football banning-order consequences.
Protective security	Search and entry procedures will continue to be reviewed against Club risk assessments, EFL/FA expectations, policing feedback and relevant protective-security guidance.

Supporting Policies and Guidance

This policy should be read alongside the Club Supporter Charter, Stadium Health and Safety Policy, Access Statement, Ground Regulations, ticket terms and conditions, Safeguarding Policy, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion commitments, event risk assessments and the Club safety management system.

The Club may amend this policy at any time where required by law, league or competition rules, stadium safety requirements, police advice, licensing requirements, Club risk assessment or operational learning.

Review date: This policy is scheduled for review by July 2027, or sooner where there is a relevant legal, EFL, FA, safety, security, access or operational change.