

# SEARCH POLICY



## Introduction

Cambridge United will only undertake personal searches if deemed appropriate and as required. All aspects of Cambridge United operations are governed by the Codes of Practice stated in Ground Regulations.

This Personal Search Policy is a generic document and will be reinforced by a specific Risk Assessment relating to the premises, venue or event where Cambridge United is operating. This policy refers to all Cambridge United operations where personal searches may be required, but the reference to Cambridge United operatives” will generally refer to Supervisors and Stewards.

## Requirements

Personal searches will only be undertaken where, as indicated that these are required. Cambridge United will allow the display of the following notice (or one similar) at each set of turnstiles, or other position deemed necessary, if personal searches are to be undertaken:

**“Cambridge United reserves the right to operate a general search policy as a condition of entry, and we ask that patrons kindly cooperate with such a request, failure to do so may result in refusal of entry.”**

The signage and search criteria will be specific as per terms and conditions however our generic policy is:

## Search Criteria

Searches may be carried out for a variety of reasons but in general terms will relate to:

- Alcohol being bought in/on to the premises.
- Illegal drugs
- Pyrotechnics
- Dangerous weapons
- Depending on requirements, either all members of the public wishing to gain entry to the premises, or a random selection of the public will be searched.
- Under no circumstances will there be any form of discrimination when deciding which members of the public should undergo a random search.

- If deemed necessary, we will operate a 100% baggage and/or personal search operation at events.
- For all such searches, proof of age will be required prior to any search. Should right of entry be refused on the grounds of age, then no body search or search of bags or belongings will take place of the person refused entry.

#### Right to Refuse

- It must be understood that any member of the public may refuse to undergo a search. This is their prerogative and Cambridge United operatives have no right to insist on either a body search or a search of belongings. If, however, any individual refuses to undergo a search when reasonably required to do so, they will be refused entry to the venue.
- Under no circumstances may Cambridge United operatives use any force or threats when asking the public to undergo a search.

#### Public Dignity

- Cambridge United operatives will, at all times, treat members of the public with courtesy and respect even if they are verbally aggressive.
- In the case of body searches, no matter how superficial, female members of the public may only be searched by female Cambridge United operatives and male members of the public may only be searched by male Cambridge United operatives.
- In the case of more comprehensive body searches the members of the public concerned have the right to ask for that search to take place in a “private” location. In such cases there must always be a witness present such as another Cambridge United operative of the same gender as the individual searched.

#### Identification of Drugs and Weapons

- If, during the course of a search, illegal drugs, or dangerous weapons are found on the person, or in the possession of, members of the public, the Cambridge United operatives will always call the police. It should be noted that the operatives have no right to detain the members of the public concerned.
- In the case of alcohol being found in the possession of a member of the public wishing to enter the venue or event, they will be refused entry until such a time that they are able to prove that they are no longer in possession of the alcohol concerned.
- Client terms and conditions will dictate the specific search policy.