Safety at Sports Grounds

Presentation to the Emergency Planning Society

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## Major crowd safety failures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Dead</th>
<th>Injured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>560+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>340+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980s</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>800+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ibrox Disaster, January 1971
Bradford 1985
Heysel 1985
Hillsborough 1989
Sports Grounds Safety Authority

• Football Licensing Authority established in 1990
• Became SGSA in 2011
• Government Body (Department of Culture Media and Sports)
• Regulators covering all Premier and Football League clubs.
• Authors of The Green Guide and Safety Management Guide.
SGSA Guidance
Alternative Uses of Sports Grounds

Sports grounds are now multi-sports or multi-use venues, hosting a range of alternative events on top of their original use. For example, London Olympic Park in the former Olympic Olympic site of the 2012 Games is an example of a multi-use venue. March 2014 Alternative uses for multi-use venues have been widespread and the variety of events that can be held on sports grounds has increased. As a result, some venues are now used for events that are not related to sports. For example, some venues are used for events that are not directly related to sports. These events can include concerts, conferences, exhibitions, and other events. This has led to a need for sports grounds to be able to accommodate a wider range of events. The Alternative Uses of Sports Grounds guide is designed to help stadium operators to understand the implications of hosting alternative events and to help them to plan for the needs of these events. The guide includes information on the design of new multi-purpose venues and the adaptation of existing venues to accommodate a range of events. The guide also includes case studies of successful multi-use projects, including those of multi-use sports grounds and venues for events that are not directly related to sports. The guide is intended to be a practical guide for stadium operators and covers issues such as planning, design, and management.
SGSA

- Statutory functions related to football (England and Wales)
- Advisory functions across all sports (Worldwide)
- Advise Government on matters of sports ground safety
- Authors of advisory documents eg Green Guide
- Operate a licensing scheme regulating spectator viewing accommodation at Premier and Football League Grounds, Wembley and the Principality Stadium, Cardiff.
- Oversee the issue of safety certificate in relation to those football stadia we license
- Provide advice to local authorities and SAGs
Local Authority

- Issue Safety Certificates
- Enforcement powers
- Convene SAG meetings
- Licensing Act 2003 - Premises Licence
- Regulatory Reform Order - Fire Safety Authority
Safety Certification Legislation

Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975
  General Safety Certificate – Designated Grounds

Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987
  Regulated Stand Safety Certificate
General Safety Certificate

- A General Safety Certificate is issued to all Designated Sports Grounds
- Capacity for 10,000 spectators, (or in the case of the Football League, 5,000)
- Only football, rugby and cricket grounds have been designated to date.
- The Certificate covers the conditions in all of the stadium
- It is issued by a Metropolitan, Unitary or County authority
- It is not time limited
Regulated Stand Certificate

- Any stand whether standing or seated which has the potential capacity for accommodating 500 or more persons
- The stand must have a roof
- The Certificate is issued under the Fire Safety and Safety at Places of Sport Act 1987
- The Certificate is issued by a Metropolitan, Unitary or County Authority
- It is not time limited
Club responsible for spectator safety

- Structure of building and facilities
- Inspections and tests of stadium
- Safe capacity calculations
- Creating safety management structure
- Employing a Safety Officer
- Trained supervisors and stewards
- Contingency plans and evacuation procedures with safe access and exit procedures
- Searching spectators on entry
Types of Safety Certificate

Prescriptive style
- Prescriptive
- Detailed schedules of requirements
- Holder had no responsibility in its preparation

Risk based style
- Based on risk assessment
- Places onus on the stadium management to take responsibility for the preparation of management plans
- Supported by an Operations Manual

See Green Guide and Safety Management
Operations Manual

Scope

• All areas to which spectators have access

• Areas over which ground management has direct or indirect control
Operations Manual Contents

• Spectator safety policy statement
• Safety management structure
• Capacity calculations
• Stewarding plan
• Medical plan
• Fire safety plan
• Contingency plans
Operations Manual Contents (continued)

- Risk Assessments for standard activities
- Ticketing strategy
- Segregation policy
- Traffic management plan
- Event management plan
- Planned preventative maintenance / tests / inspections
- Exercises
- Specific Risk Assessments
Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds
The Green Guide 5th edition

UK Government document

• How to calculate a safe capacity
• Used as a design guide around the world
• 6th Edition will consider

Crowd modelling, last mile, demountable structures, changes in British and International standards, medical provision and risk based planning.
Hot Topics

• Counter Terrosism
• Pyrotechnics
• Persistent standing in seated areas
• Drones
• Accessibility issues
Pyrotechnics

- Illegal to take into or discharge in sports grounds in the UK
- Burn up to 2000 degrees
- Risk of injury and respiratory problems
- Training and equipment
- Search, intelligence, evidence
- Education and co-operation
Drones – risks

- Loss of control of the drone over spectators
- Loss of control of the drone over or near a structure or building
- Potential disruption to the sporting event, and possible consequences of that disruption
- Potential terrorist activity
Counter Terrorism Measures

• The club/ground security policies procedures and arrangements should be reviewed.

• Where there are no procedures or policies it is recommended they are developed and implemented at the earliest opportunity.

• All external access points and openings to the ground/stadium should be secured and monitored.

• Staff should wear the appropriate club or ground identification at all times they are at work.

• Visitors should be identified and signed in according to the agreed policies and procedures.
Counter Terrorism Measures (Continued)

- The receipt of deliveries and the supply chain should be considered so that all deliveries are undertaken in a secure manner.

- The contingency planning arrangements for dealing with terrorism and other threats and incidents should be reviewed and exercised.

- Access control and screening (searching) arrangements for pedestrians and vehicles should be reviewed.

- This may include revising car parking arrangements to increase stand-off distances between cars and the premises as well as ticket checks away from the point of entry to the venue.
Counter Terrorism Measures  (Continued)

• Spectators should be requested not to bring large bags to the ground. If there is an increased searching regime this will slow down the entry of spectators.

• Staff should: Be Vigilant and Report Suspicious Behaviour

• Vigilant behaviour by staff and the public can disrupt attack planning.

• The “Stay Safe” principles (Run Hide Tell) give some simple actions to consider at an incident and the information that armed officers may need in the event of a weapons or firearms attack. Full guidance is contained on the NaCTSO website
Future fans
Sports Grounds Safety Authority

Web site  www.safetyatsportsgrounds.org.uk

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