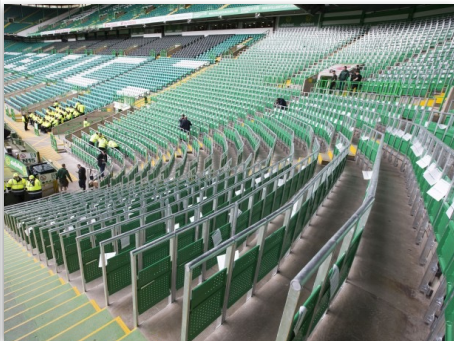


New Green Guide to include advice about 'safe standing'



seats with a standing spot and flip-up seat. The system is already successfully used at Celtic and Borussia Dortmund, among other clubs outside England.

Ken Scott, Chief Inspector of the Sports Ground Safety Authority, said: "We have written guidance on dual purpose seating and standing for the first time, because it is one of the solutions that people are looking for but there are no definitive standards. What you don't want is clubs introducing lots of differing standards and methods, because that causes problems."

Almost three decades since Hillsborough, the issue of safe standing remains as contentious as ever. Several major clubs are looking into the issue closely, backed by demands of fans, and the constant safety threat they currently face of thousands of fans standing in areas designated purely for seating. But the Government appears to be steadfast in its opinion that all-seater stadiums are the safest.

Similarly to the FSOA, which works to promote the best practices in stadium safety, the SGSA was formed in 1992 in the wake of the Hillsborough tragedy. And, despite its role initially being to oversee and regulate the all-seater stadium legislation, its latest Green Guide does include guidance on the installation of 'safe standing'.

Mr Scott said: "The Green Guide concludes that it is possible to design safe standing areas – by definition we couldn't have it in there if we didn't think that was the case.

"Having said that, and while there isn't any panacea to create safe sports grounds, if there is one factor that makes the biggest contribution to safe sports grounds, it is having seats.

"People have their own environment and their own space, sight lines are good and it removes the inconsistencies of standing, where you have small people mixed with large people in the crowd. That encourages people to move around, to move sideways, jump up and down and other things to see, all of which can create difficulties.

"The problem is that in providing seated accommodation, there is always the expectation that people will sit on the seats. Since the mid-90s and beyond, an increasing number of people prefer to stand in seated accommodation.

"And if there is an area of standing that has a risk attached to it, then it's standing in seated accommodation, because you don't have the benefit of barriers. We are seeing increasing cases where injury or crowd collapse is occurring because of this.

"As well as safety issues of potentially falling over seats and people at a steep angle, there is the customer care angle because if one person stands, everyone else behind has to stand and so on. And if you don't want to or can't, you end up not seeing the game.

"The third key aspect is that when people stand they take more room; they tend to spill out into aisles which has safety risks as stewards and first aid cannot get by.

"So in all, persistent standing in seated areas is something we are giving a lot of attention to. There hasn't been enough effort to tackle this over the last 20 years and now we're at a point where it's a major problem. We have to find a way to resolve it".

John Newsham, FSOA Business Development Manager, said: "Following years of outright dismissal to entertain the idea of any reintroduction of standing in any form, the issue of safe standing is now one that is getting serious consideration at a number of major clubs.

"The horrors of Hillsborough will haunt the football world forever and there are still serious discussions to be had but we see this inclusion in the Green Guide as a step forward in the management of this important issue."

The latest definitive guide to stadium safety, to be published next year, will provide guidance on installing 'safe standing' areas at EPL and Championship grounds for the first time since the Hillsborough disaster, it has been announced.

Standing terraces were banned in the top two levels of English football following the tragedy in 1989, which claimed the lives of 96 supporters.

But there has been growing calls from fans over recent years for the laws to change to allow dual-purpose areas where supporters can sit and stand safely.

The Sports Ground Safety Authority has now revealed that the sixth edition of the Green Guide - the Government-funded 'bible' of sports ground safety - will break new ground and include details on rail seating, which effectively replaces existing

Venue unveiled for Spring Conference & Exhibition

The FSOA is delighted to announce the venue for the organisation's upcoming Spring Conference & Exhibition 2018 - Stratford Manor Hotel.

It is the third time the event has been held at the venue, in Stratford-upon-Avon, and places are already going fast.

Preparations are well under way for the event, with a number of speakers confirmed and 12 exhibitors lined up.

The AGM Conference & Exhibition will take place on March 20th and 21st 2018, giving organisations in the events, safety and security industries the chance to showcase their products and services whilst networking with experts.

It will also feature a packed programme of talks, Q&A sessions and interactive activities focusing on a range of topical issues such as national terrorism threats and crowd control. Among the speakers already lined up are Dr Aoife Hunt, a mathematician and specialist in pedestrian and evacuation modelling and Claire Worley, from the Counter Terrorism Unit. FSOA partner, ID Resilience, will be carrying out an interactive tabletop exercise with guests.

An evening dinner will take place following the conference, compered by Andy Ashworth and featuring a special guest speaker, who is still to be confirmed.

John Newsham, FSOA Business Development Manager, said: "We are delighted to confirm the venue for our next Conference & Exhibition in March. Stratford Manor has been a wonderful host to us in the past and we are looking forward to returning for another great event.

"Preparations are going really well, with some brilliant guest speakers announced and a number of exhibitors already confirmed.

"Places are already going fast so I would recommend anyone who wishes to come along to book early to avoid any disappointment."

Booking forms are available from the FSOA website, www.fsoa.org.uk, under the 'corporate' section and then 'corporate events' tab.

The event is once again being sponsored by long-term supporters, Showsec and Dallmeier.

Sporting fixtures postponed due to snow

Several sporting fixtures were postponed due to snow and ice across large parts of the UK.

Bury against AFC Wimbledon in League One was postponed as a result of snow on December 9th while Accrington Stanley v Swindon in League Two was called off because of a frozen pitch. Matches in Scotland were also affected.

But racing at Aintree, Wolverhampton, Sandown and Chepstow went ahead, despite the adverse weather.

In the Scottish Championship, Inverness Caledonian Thistle v Falkirk was postponed on Friday, December 8th because of snow, while Dumbarton v Livingston fell victim to a frozen pitch.

In rugby union, Edinburgh v London Irish in the European Challenge Cup has been moved to Murrayfield.

The match was supposed to be played at Myreside, but was switched to Scotland's national stadium as it has under-soil heating.

FSOA adverse weather checklist

- Not all clubs have the luxury of under-soil heating to assist them in keeping the pitch playable in cold weather conditions. Some clubs still use ground sheets to help keep the pitch from freezing. Whatever method you use it is important to keep up to-date with current weather conditions for your area ahead of match day
- Ground staff are usually responsible for the pitch area but liaison with the stadium manager regarding the pitch is vital at this time of the year. They can assist by ensuring under-soil heating systems are serviced at least once per year, in particular before the winter season sets in. Tests on the system should be undertaken as a matter of course and a log kept
- Those that use ground sheets should always make sure that the sheets are in position and ready to be rolled/pulled out as and when they are needed
- Ground staff should ensure the grass coverage is at its best before the winter season sets in as bare patches will freeze up much more quickly than those with grass cover
- If the game is to be policed, early discussions with all emergency services should take place
- Consideration must be given early to supporters travelling any distance if a game could be cancelled as well as press/photographers
- Referees and the football authorities/leagues also need to be given advance warning if the game is in doubt so make sure they are kept informed throughout the decision-making process
- Not all games are called off because of the pitch. During heavy snow, the pitch may well be playable but the conditions in the terraces and around the ground, including car parks and footpaths, may mean it is unsafe for spectators to approach or get into the ground. This alone may be reason to call off a match - regardless of the pitch
- Road conditions must be considered. Communication with local councils and Highways agencies are paramount to determine if it is safe for fans to travel to the match
- Think about all of the staff working the fixture if it goes ahead. They may also have difficulty getting to the ground in adverse weather. Ask yourself if you would you have enough staff to manage the fixture if it went ahead
- Consider whether the visiting team is staying in a hotel local to the ground or are they travelling on the day? Is it safe for them to do so?
- Make the most of local radio or club radio to keep supporters informed throughout the day about the decision and the reasons why the decision is being made.

Cyber crime: A threat that can't be ignored

The threats facing football stadiums are many. But the biggest may be the one we can't see, says FSOA Business Development Manager, John Newsham

Picture the scene. It's the second half in a high-tension derby match and the home team have just scored to take the lead. Thousands of people are on their feet celebrating. And then the stadium power goes out.

In an instant, the atmosphere changes. Event staff, unsure of what has happened, struggle to keep the crowds calm. The public address system is down and confusion and panic takes over. Restless and worried, fans start piling towards exits and get caught up in a stampede. A fire breaks out amid the chaos but the sprinkler system fails to operate. Within minutes, the joy of the occasion has been replaced with chaos.

Thankfully, this horror story is purely fiction. There has not yet been a cyber attack that has caused such devastation at a large sporting event. But with the number of cyber attacks rising, the threat they pose to football stadia cannot be ignored or underestimated.



Safety Officers and Stadium Managers are fully aware of the many threats they must prepare for in their duty to protect the tens of thousands of football fans who flock to games each week. From terrorism to drones, drunken fans, aggressive behaviour and even adverse weather, the risks that threaten safety at sports stadia are vast and wide-ranging.

But it is vital that just as much care and attention is ploughed into protecting stadia against the risk we can't see as is put into those that are staring us in the face.

In recent years, large sporting events and international tournaments have been targeted by thousands of cyber attacks and waves of criminal cyber activity that has caused technical malfunctions.

During the 2014 FIFA World Cup held in Brazil, there was a drastic increase in malicious cyber activity. In a period of 30 days, starting three weeks before the tournament and during its first week, more than 90,000 attacks were launched against related organisations. During the 2012 London Olympics, 11,000 malicious requests per second were received and 212 million malicious connection attempts blocked. During the 2016 Wimbledon tournament, technology partner IBM saw a 302 percent year-to-year increase of security events and attacks on the official website for the tournament.

And as IT and Operational Technology at stadia continues to merge together into centralised systems, there is an increasing potential for widespread disruption. Similar to smart buildings and structures, large-scale sports complexes utilise computer-based systems that monitor, manage and control various electrical and electromechanical functions, such as security and surveillance cameras, lighting, plumbing, communications, building access and fire safety systems.

Hackers who manage to penetrate systems that control these critical functions have the potential to inflict much damage to key operations.

One major cyber risk that is gaining more attention is malicious software that enables an attacker to access stadium control computers, seize sensitive data and then demand some form of payment to release it. Earlier this year, the NHS was crippled by this malicious software as part of a global attack that affected more than 200,000 victims globally, and several cyber experts assess that more and more of these attacks will be directed towards arenas and stadia in the future.

In today's precarious and vulnerable landscape, sports stadia and arenas now face a new kind of threat, one which is exacerbated by the interconnectedness of critical functions at stadia.

It is vital that cyber security is now thrust firmly to the top of the agenda when it comes to discussions about stadium safety. This is a threat that cannot be ignored.

Action counters terrorism

By Lorraine Hennessy, NCTP Communications Manager

Counter terrorism Policing has been working closely with football clubs across the country to help strengthen safety and security for supporters and staff attending games and other events.

Officers have hosted a series of table top exercises where clubs and officials from the Premier League and EFL have been able to discuss issues and share best practice.

The threat level from terrorism currently stands at Severe but, as we have seen this year, can quickly move to critical.

Capturing some of the best advice available, CT Policing has produced a leaflet (opposite) which outlines actions clubs can take in advance of an increase in the threat level that will make the transition easier to implement. This is also available from the FSOA website and the FSOA office.

The leaflet then explains what specific actions need to be taken in the event of a Critical threat level being declared.

Also this month, police are asking clubs to use their media channels to run vigilance messaging asking supporters and staff to stay alert and report suspicious activity.


Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi, National Counter Terrorism Policing lead for Protective Security, says: "Over recent months we have been working with the Premier League and EFL to ensure we are doing everything we can to help keep supporters and stadia staff safe.

"Attacks remain rare but sadly we have seen that terrorists will target crowded places and this includes sports events.

"We are approaching one of the busiest periods of the year for important fixtures and, while there is no specific increase in the threat to clubs, it is timely that we remind everyone to play their part, be vigilant and ACT to report anything of concern.

"The cooperation CT Policing has received from football/rugby clubs up and down the country has been tremendous. We have been able to learn a great deal from each other which is helping to improve measures we take to keep everyone safe."

More information about how to report suspicious activity can be found at gov.uk/ACT



**COUNTER
TERRORISM
POLICING**

When the threat level goes to

Critical

Key advice for
stadium security managers

Counter Terrorism Policing, in partnership with the Premier League, EFL and SGSA has produced this list of suggested actions so you can prepare NOW in case the threat from international terrorism is increased to CRITICAL

Before going to critical:

Stadium considerations

- ▶ Review your 'buffer zone' (see chapter 6 of the Green Guide) is this place of emergency sufficient to cope with a large volume of fans? This zone should not cause a dense crowded place. If that is the case, consideration should be given to a wider dispersal of supporters.
- ▶ Consider limiting the size of bag you allow into your stadium to laptop/handbag/gym size bags as a maximum.

Anything else shouldn't be allowed as searching bags that are larger could cause issues and slow your search regime which could in-turn cause it to fail. Supporters should be advised to store any larger bags/luggage at a suitable location(s) away from the ground, this could be a train station that has a luggage hold service or hotel.

Any change to bag entry should be advertised everywhere possible and in good time (club social media, posters, tickets, audio messaging at the ground in advance etc.).

Consider giving your stewards a leaflet/flyer detailing where supporters can drop their bags off if they have brought oversized bags to reduce the chance of issues arising.

- ▶ Create a procedure so that you can lock-down your stadium as quickly as possible. This would be required to help deal with a marauding terrorism attack, whether that be with knives, explosives, firearms or using other methodologies.

By locking down your stadium in a very prompt fashion you could save lives.

- ▶ Have a plan to vary/stagger your dispersals away from the ground to reduce crowd density and add to the unpredictability of crowd movement.

- ▶ Supplement your steward handbook/aide memoire with the **counter terrorism 'Z' card** that can fit inside a wallet.
- ▶ Contact your local CTSA (Counter Terrorism Security Advisor) for further advice or assistance with any points made above.

What the threat levels mean

LOW - an attack is unlikely
MODERATE - an attack is possible, but not likely
SUBSTANTIAL - an attack is a strong possibility
SEVERE - an attack is highly likely
CRITICAL - an attack is expected imminently

ACT
ACTION
COUNTERS
TERRORISM

How stewards can deter attacks

Get stewards talking. Terrorists wishing to carry out attacks do not want to be spoken to by any sort of official for fear of being reported and then detected. Therefore it is important that stewards feel empowered to speak to people and report any concerns or suspicious behaviour. To help the stewards engage with supporters consider giving them a few short lines that you would like them to say. These can be as simple as:

- ▶ "We are here to help keep you safe, I hope you enjoy the match."
- ▶ "Please report any suspicious activity or left items to either a steward or a police officer."
- ▶ "Can I help guide you to the right entrance gate?"

Guest Blog:



Smart Stadiums need Smart Accreditation

Peder Berg, CEO and Founder of Accredit Solutions reflects on the need for smart stadiums to have smart accreditation

New technology is set to transform venues with the smart stadium market estimated to be worth US\$17 billion by 2021

From smart phones to AR, venues are using data, apps, beacons and digital innovation to enhance the fan experience. A top priority is to bring fans to stadiums, put them in the centre of the action and create experiences that keeps them coming back.

As the biggest football stadium in the UK, Wembley is a worldwide sports icon and hosts many major football events, music concerts and other major sports events. To make the stadium even better they have partnered with EE, and aim to make Wembley the most connected stadium with mobile ticketing solutions, free WiFi and an app which includes a feed of the latest news, images, video and audio clips.

Twickenham, the home of English rugby has signed a partnership with Sports Revolution to make Twickenham stadium one of the most digitally advanced stadiums in Europe. An LED fan engagement and advertising system stretches around the stadium at pitch side and middle tier levels. The stadium has an app which allows fans to pre-order food, drinks and merchandise through their smart phones. Fans can then pick up food at special express lines located in six bars around the stadium and West Fan Village.

The new home of the National Football League's Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Stadium, will provide a game-changing fan experience, with new technology embedded throughout the venue. A 360-degree, 63,000-square foot HD Video Halo Board surrounds the stadium and more than 2,000 video displays will bring fans closer to the action than ever before.

With the accolade of the most high tech stadium in the world, Levi's Stadium, located in Santa Clara, California, is the new home of the San Francisco 49ers and has truly embraced the concept of smart technology. Sony, Intel, SAP and Yahoo! have partnered with the stadium to help deliver free high speed WiFi as well as the best stadium smart phone app available now.

A smart stadium needs to be a secure stadium

Smart stadiums need to be more than improving experiences for fans. A smart stadium needs to be a secure stadium. Sporting venues and stadiums present a unique collection of vulnerabilities and challenges. Recent attacks and threats against stadiums and other large public venues in Manchester, Paris and Madrid are a clear indication that terrorists are focusing on places where they can inflict as much damage as possible to as many people as possible.

A smart stadium needs to know who is in the venue at all times and whether they have the right to be there. This isn't limited to fans but includes everyone who needs access – venue staff, contractors, catering vendors, security stewards, press, guests and VIPs. However smart your stadium, people generally are the weakest link. Only last month, a USB was found by the side of the road which caused one of the world's busiest airports to launch an internal investigation as the USB drive contained confidential information posing a risk to national security. With the most robust security planning, heavy investment in the strongest technologies and a real focus on smart business, it's still likely to be the people inside your organisation who are your biggest threat.

Using accreditation to make you smart

Protecting venues of this scale is complex. Security standards are not always what they should be and in some cases are in serious danger of being breached. For venue operations managers, safety and security managers, it can just be yet another issue that needs to be addressed, perceived as difficult to manage and fraught with additional complications of the unique needs of each stadium or event.

For event and stadia, there is no way of avoiding employing contractors and temporary staff. Venues and stadia need background check options on all staff including caterers and cleaners. Photos and right to work permits need to be standard across the board. Systems need to be in place so venues know if a staff member had lost their right to work or been convicted of serious offence. It has never been more important to understand who has access to your venue and to make sure all necessary documents are collected and kept up to date, as well as controlling where the individual can access once approved. Venues need to allow legitimate access to some of their most sensitive assets and information to a significant number of workers who are not company employees. The potential damage to an organisation is well documented with businesses suffering significant financial and reputational losses.

A robust and efficient accreditation system can help, delivering best practice, time and cost savings but not at the cost of reducing quality standards.

Accredit offers a self-managed platform which provides all the tools required to easily and effectively 'accredit' everyone who needs access to a venue or stadium every day of the year and not just on match days. Born out of our experience of providing registration and event accreditation services for high-security events, Accredit has evolved rapidly to confront and stay ahead of the latest security threats and is now the preferred choice for major premier league clubs, national and international rugby and cricket organisations, and major events who are using our platform to turn their venues into real smart stadiums and event spaces.

Accredit gives stadium management, security, IT, and accreditation teams the tools they need to ensure the legality, security, and safety of their events against insider threats, reputational risk, corporate espionage and undocumented employment as well as providing operational efficiency. Accredit supports multiple users and provides an end-to-end solution to identify and register all persons requiring access to stadiums in an efficient and practical manner.

Smart stadiums enhance the fan experience and can also improve stadium security

The growing popularity of sports and events globally is expected to push the demand for stadiums and fuel the demand for smart stadiums, sports venues, and arenas who all want to provide the best live experience for fans whilst at the same time, ensuring the smartest security. A stadium that integrates smart accreditation as part of its offering will be a winning stadium.

Cheltenham exclusion zone plans to clamp down on ticket touts

A crackdown is being launched on Cheltenham Festival ticket touts after council bosses proposed bringing in control orders for next year's meeting.

Cheltenham Borough Council wants touts to be covered by anti-social behaviour laws during the National Hunt Festival in March and two major meetings in the Autumn.

The council has announced a public consultation on its plans to vary its current Public Spaces Protection Order to include prohibiting people selling tickets for horse racing events at the Prestbury Park course.

Public Spaces Protection Orders are designed to prevent individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public area where the behaviour is, or is likely to have, "a detrimental effect on the quality of life of others in the locality; and is also persistent or continuing in nature, and unreasonable".

Councillor Andrew McKinlay, the borough council's cabinet member for development and safety, said: "We are asking residents, visitors and partners' views on a proposal to ban ticket touting during key horse racing events in certain part of the town.

"With horse racing events at the racecourse growing in popularity, the problems associated with ticket touting are increasing too.

"In order for the council and its partners to address this, we are proposing to vary the current Public Spaces Protection Order to include a 'ban' on this type of activity so that we can ensure people who visit or live in Cheltenham can do so in an enjoyable and safe way."

The current PSPO came into force on April 26, 2017. It restricts the public consumption of alcohol in certain parts of the town and places a number of obligations on dog owners.

Now the proposed amendment is to include a new prohibition on "ticket touting" during the National Hunt Festival in mid March, The Showcase in October and The November Meeting.

A six-week consultation into the proposals will close on January 5th, 2018.

John Newsham, FSOA Business Development Manager, said: "The issue of ticket touts is one that affects all sporting venues and the wider events industry. It will be interesting to see the outcome of this consultation and to see how it is enforced, and by whom, if it is approved."

SecuraSeal

Security Accreditation and
Event Passes Materials

Protecting your Football Club

On Budget
On Time
Every Time

Accreditation
consultancy
and pass
security
advice.

will.duggins@securaseal.co.uk
t. 07718 582825
www.securaseal.co.uk



Chaotic scenes at Belgrade football derby

The Belgrade football derby descended into chaos when a pyrotechnic brawl erupted between rival factions of the same set of supporters.

Red Star against Partizan Belgrade is always circled on the calendar as one of the most brutal football rivalries in the world.

But the match on December 13th didn't even need the animosity between the two teams to produce bloodied fans and police officers as Partizan crowd turned on themselves.

One sub-group of supporters tried to enter another's territory on the terraces, but it ended badly with them getting battered, stripped, burned and kicked out of the ground half-naked.

Photographers at Partizan's Stadion Partizana said the fight broke out in a section of the stadium housing home fans and lasted around 10 minutes.

Police were forced to intervene to end the scuffles while several fans, some with bloodied faces, were evacuated from the stadium.

It is understood the fight occurred in the area reserved for an organised group of Partizan fans called the Grobari, which translates to Gravediggers.

A number of supporters from the Young Boys clan, also Partizan supporters, tried to take control of the south stand of the stadium.

Grobari ultras stood their ground and battered the trespassers, burning them with flares, before stripping them and kicking them out of the terraces naked.

Police managed to rescue the Young Boys while the match, which incidentally finished 1-1, was temporarily halted.

Since the break up of the former Yugoslavia, the Belgrade derby has often been beset by hooligan problems.

Article courtesy of Mail Online

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome new members

Steve Neil, Sunderland FC; Phillip Jacklin, Sunderland FC; Charlie Ward, Hednesford Town FC; Lee Black, Brentford FC; Dave Gregg, Brentford FC

Please join us in welcoming our new Corporate Partners: Glencoe Radon Gas Centre Ltd



Our best wishes for the future go to Paul Weir, who has left Sunderland FC, and Carl Cooper, who has left Hednesford Town FC but remains an independent member of the FSOA.

Upcoming regional meetings:

NE region: December 19th Sheffield Wednesday

SW region: January 17th, Swindon Town (Please contact Dave Parker from Bristol Rovers or James Hillier from Yeovil Town for attendance)

NW region: February 26th, Manchester City FC



MERRY CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

