Spectator Safety Management

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Spectator Safety Management – Where?

- Public Events
  (e.g. Pop Concerts, New Years Eve, Christmas Lights Switch On, Agricultural Shows)

- Sports Grounds
  (e.g. rugby league, football, rugby union, athletics, etc.)

and?

- Shopping Malls
  (e.g. Christmas, Sales, Black Friday)

- Public Transport
  (e.g. Rail Stations, Tube Stations)

- Other
  (e.g. protest marches / meetings)
Content

• Event common issues
• Sports ground safety certificates
• The role of the Ground Safety Officer (GSO)
• Problems GSO’s face
• On the pitch issues
• IOSH Sports Grounds and Events Group
UK Legislation and Guidance

• Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (& subordinate regulations)
• Fire (Scotland) Act 2005
• Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975
• Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987
• Guide to Safety at Sports Ground (DCMS)
• HSG 154 Managing Crowds Safely
• The Purple Guide (formerly HSG 195)
• Safety Certificates
• SGSA Guidance
• NOEA / EIF / etc.
Other Legislation

- The Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol) Act 1985
- The Public Order Act (Part IV) 1986
- Licensing Act 2003
- Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (check which parts applicable in Scotland)
- Private Security Industry Act 2001
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 / Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005
Common Issues

- Staffing Levels
- Security \ Stewarding
- Barriers and Fencing
- Traffic Management
- Access and Egress – people and vehicles
- Electrical Services
- Welfare Facilities
- Site Layout and Conditions
- Contractors
- Temporary Structures
- Food Hygiene
- Passenger Carrying Amusement Devices / Bouncy Castles
- Medical Plan
- First Aid
Crowd Dynamics

- Larger than anticipated
- Late arrivals
- Congested areas
- Event specific behaviour
- Violent / Aggressive
- Surging, swaying, general movement
- Alcohol
Security and Stewarding

- Who do they report to
- Numbers required
- Competence / Training / Experience
- Communication
- What is their role
- What information do they need
- Know the location and event
- How can they be identified
- Hours of work
- Eligibility to work in the UK
Safety Certificate

- Capacity exceeds 10,000; or
- Capacity exceeds 5,000 for Scottish Football League Clubs; or
- Stand Capacity exceeds 500
- Designated a sports ground (by the Secretary of State)
- RFL requires same standard even where certificate not required
What Does The Certificate Require?

- P Factors
- S Factors
P Factors

- Standing Areas / Terracing
- Barriers, Crush Barriers and Fixings
- Structures
- Poor Sightlines
- Lighting
- Disabled Facilities
- Housekeeping
- CCTV Coverage
- Communications
- PA System
- Turnstiles
- Fire Detection / Prevention
- Signage
S Factors

• Safety Management System:
  - Written Spectator Policy
  - Management Responsibilities
  - Chain of Command
  - Risk Assessment
  - Emergency Procedures
  - General Procedures
  - Staffing (& stewarding requirements)
  - Monitoring and Records

• Competent Safety Officer
Appointing a Ground Safety Officer (GSO)

- Stadium / Club Management are responsible for appointing an occupationallly competent safety officer
- Approved by local authority
Safety Officer Requirements

• Competence
• Status
• Authority
• Accountability and access to management
• Identification and communication

(Reference: The Green Guide)
Role of the GSO

• To ensure the safety and comfort of spectators;
• To ensure the safety of match and club officials;
• To ensure the safety of Stewards;
• Comply with safety certificate requirements;
• Comply with legal requirements.
What do GSO’s do?

• Training – Supervisors & Stewards
• Planning - communication, consultation, liaison
  - research (e.g. RLGSOA web site)
  - risk assessment
  - contingencies
• Inspection of Ground / Stadium
• Brief Stewards
• Deploy Stewards
• Brief Match Officials
• Monitor, Evaluate, Respond
• Debrief Stewards
• Post Match Reports
Typical Match Day Paperwork

- RFL GSO Post Match Report form
- Club GSO Post Match Report form
- Risk Assessment
- Ground Inspection form
- Radio Control Log
- Supervisors Report forms
- Fire Stewards Report forms
- First Aid Provider Incident Summary sheet
- Other Contractor / Event forms
Problems GSO’s Face

- Chief Executives, Chairmen, etc
- Match Officials briefings - late
  - not interested
  - otherwise engaged
- Spectators - unruly, drunk, violent
  - late
  - disabled
  - other complaints
  - role of the Police
Problems GSO’s Face (continued)

• Grounds - standing, seated or a combination
  - segregated / not segregated
  - changing ends
  - empty stands
  - missing keys
  - faulty turnstiles
  - ice / snow

• Lack of Information from Clubs - pre match / half time events
  - cheer leaders
  - tickets sales
  - special offers
Problems GSO’s Face (continued)

- Ambulance / First Aid providers
- Safety Advisory Group requirements / EHO’s
- Delayed Kick Off’s / Abandonment / Evacuation (fire, bombs, structural damage, congestion, violence, etc)
- Stewards - not arriving
  - arriving late
  - arriving unfit for work
  - inappropriately dressed
  - not performing as required
and - Dealing with the Unexpected

• Dope testers
• Missing / Lost items
• Accidents
• Lost Children
• Poorly Parked Cars
• The Press
Other Issues

- Contractors
- Ground Staff
- Laundry
- Offices
- Shops
- Museums
- Warehouses
IOSH Sports Grounds and Events Group

- GSO’s not typically associated with IOSH
- Encourage development / CPD
- Credibility for individuals
- Share experiences and best practice
- Lobby Government
- Work with sports bodies
The End

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