



department for  
culture, media  
and sport

# Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds

## Summary of new guidance

The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds is published by TSO priced at £30.

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This leaflet briefly summarises or highlights some of the key areas in which this fifth edition of the *Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds* differs from the previous edition. The list is not comprehensive and in all cases reference should be made to the full text of the Guide.

## General issues

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- Greater emphasis is given to the responsibility of management to undertake its own risk assessments.
- The safety of spectators with disabilities should not be considered in isolation. Therefore the material from the chapter "Spectator accommodation – disabilities" in the previous edition has been integrated into the relevant subject chapters.

## 1: How to use the Guide

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- New chapter: emphasises how to use and apply the Guide (replaces the Introduction from the previous edition).

## 2: Calculating the safe capacity of a sports ground

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- (P)<sup>1</sup> and (S)<sup>2</sup> factors: risk assessments must be undertaken by management and taken into account when assessing the (P) and (S) factors. These should be reassessed annually or where there is a significant change to the structure, event or personnel.
- New guidance: determining the expected occupation levels of all areas including open land to which the public have access, for instance at horse racing and golf events.

## 3: Management – responsibility and planning for safety

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- Risk assessments: required for all events including ancillary activities.
- New guidance: on safety officer appointment, training and deputising, on steward numbers, on counter-terrorism and on pre-event activities.

<sup>1</sup> (P) = physical condition of a ground's viewing area.

<sup>2</sup> (S) = quality of the safety management in an area of a ground.

## 4: Management – stewarding

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- Standards and training: new guidance is provided on the training and qualifications of stewards.
- Security personnel and contract or agency stewards: new sections have been included.

## 5: Management – structures, installations and components

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- Structural appraisal: new guidance on methods to be used.

## 6: Circulation – general

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- Spectators with disabilities: acknowledgement of the dispersal of disabled spectators throughout a sports ground including upper levels.

## 7: Circulation – ingress

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- Admission policies: new guidance on the impact of electronic entry card systems.

## 8: Circulation – stairways and ramps

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- Stair risers, height and number: for new construction, a maximum number of risers of 12 and a maximum riser height of 170mm to accord with Building Regulations.
- Passenger lifts and escalators: new guidance

## 9: Circulation – concourses and vomitories

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- Concourses: new guidance on capacities and the prevention of overcrowding.

## 10: Circulation – egress and emergency evacuation

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- Rate of passage: new recommendations to accord with the British Standard BS EN13200-1:2003.
- Management of evacuation of spectators with disabilities: new guidance to reflect the inclusive nature of new sports grounds.

## 11: Barriers

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- Barrier loadings: a new recommendation for escalators.
- Barrier heights: clarification that reduced barrier heights in front of fixed seating are for seated spectators only.
- Temporary barriers: temporary barriers should be of the same height and strength as any permanent barrier in a similar position.
- Barrier test regime: the risk assessment should determine the period at which all barriers are tested.

## 12: Spectator accommodation – seating

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- Provision of seated accommodation: now includes accessible viewing areas for spectators with all kinds of disabilities.
- Seating row depth: for new construction, recommended new minimum of 800mm.
- Standing in seated areas: advice on how to respond to safety issues.

## 13: Spectator accommodation – standing

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- Crush barriers: confirmation that, to achieve the highest permitted capacity levels for a standing area, a continuous crush barrier must be provided.
- Level standing accommodation: advice on level standing areas and differing sightline requirements, for example at horse racing or concerts.
- Standing accommodation and disabled spectators: advice that standing areas should be accessible to all spectators.

## 14: Spectator accommodation – temporary demountable structures

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- References: to newly published guidance and standards on demountable and telescopic stands.

## 15: Fire safety

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- Fire risk assessment: mandatory requirement under new fire legislation.
- Places of safety: definition of places of safety and places of reasonable safety aligned with new legislation.
- New guidance: on emergency evacuation of spectators with disabilities and staff awareness and training.

## 16: Communications

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- Control points: guidance on a secondary control point.

## 17: Electrical and mechanical services

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- Planned preventative maintenance schedule: may be relevant when assessing the (S) factor.

## 18: Medical and first aid provision for spectators

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- New guidance: on risk assessment and medical plan, equipment and storage, provision of competent medical services personnel, ambulance provision, numbers of first aiders.

## 19: Media provision

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- Risk assessments: must be supplied by media companies to management and management should ensure that all media provision is included within a site specific risk assessment.

## 20: Alternative events at sports grounds

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- New emphasis: as part of the planning process for an alternative event, the capacity of the sports ground will need to be reassessed taking account of all of the chapters within the Guide.