

# **Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds**

**Annex A:  
(P) factor indicative questions**

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### Introduction

This Annex provides a sample list of the indicative questions that management, or their representatives, should answer when assessing (P) factors.

**The (P) factor is an assessment of the physical condition of a ground or section of a ground. It forms a fundamental part of the capacity calculation process, as explained in Chapter 2 of the *Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds*.**

Similarly, the (S) factor relates to the quality of safety management at a ground (see Annex B).

It is recommended in the *Guide* that both (P) and (S) factors are given numerical values of between 0.0 and 1.0, where 0.0 is extremely poor, and 1.0 is of a high standard.

It should be noted that, owing to the wide variation of conditions and facilities to be found at sports grounds, the *Guide* does not seek to place specific values on any of the elements likely to be considered when assessing (P) or (S) factors. This is because the assessments should not aim to create a cumulative scoring system, in which values for individual elements are simply added together. Instead, the assessment should reflect a considered and reasonable overall judgement of the physical condition, or safety management, of the area in question, taking full account of all circumstances and the wider guidance in the *Guide*.

For **seated accommodation**, for the purposes of calculating capacities the (P) factor should be applied *after* the number of usable seats has been established – that is, the actual number of seats, less those affected by seriously restricted views and those found to be inadequate or damaged.

For **standing accommodation**, for the purposes of calculating capacities the (P) factor should be applied *after* calculating the available viewing area – a calculation that takes into account the dimensions, loadings and layouts of crush barriers and the space allocated to gangways (actual or notional), less any areas offering seriously restricted views or spaces allocated to wheelchair users.

It is the responsibility of ground management to ensure that (P) and (S) factors are assessed by competent persons with knowledge and understanding of the ground concerned, its operation and the general principles of safety.

(P) factors and indicative questions should be reviewed annually, and also whenever there is any physical alteration to the ground or a change in the nature of the sport or event being staged. Where a safety certificate is in force any reassessment should be ratified by the local authority.

Worked Examples of capacity calculations, showing how (P) and (S) factors are applied, are available via [www.sgsa.org.uk](http://www.sgsa.org.uk).

**Both the *Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds* and this Annex are compiled and published by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority, Fleetbank House, 2-6 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8JX**

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### **A.1 Seated accommodation / name of stand:**

<b>indicative question</b>	<b>question considered?</b>	<b>what evidence is there that the question been considered?</b>
<b>a.</b> Are all floor surfaces, steps and gangways maintained in a serviceable/usable condition?		
<b>b.</b> Are the seating row treads maintained in a serviceable/usable condition?		
<b>c.</b> Does the design of the seating row treads and gangways allow standing water and/or ice to build up?		
<b>d.</b> Are all barriers and handrails, and their fixings, maintained, inspected and tested as per the recommendations in Chapter 11 of the <i>Guide</i> ?		
<b>e.</b> Are the seated areas sufficiently lit (using natural and/or artificial light, including emergency lighting) to enable spectators to identify hazards?		
<b>f.</b> Are any structures or parts of structures with which spectators may come into contact safe, secure and, where appropriate, non-climbable?		
<b>g.</b> Where temporary structures are installed (eg. TV camera positions) do they impede ingress, circulation or egress?		
<b>h.</b> Are there any parts of the stand where inadequate sightlines encourage spectators to stand, or to migrate to other parts of the stand?		

## A.2 Standing accommodation / name of terrace:

indicative question	question considered?	what evidence is there that the question been considered?
<b>a.</b> Have any floor surfaces deteriorated owing to age or poor maintenance?		
<b>b.</b> Are treads, risers and nosings maintained in a serviceable/usable condition?		
<b>c.</b> Are any parts of the terrace uneven due to poor construction, settlement or repair work?		
<b>d.</b> Are the surfaces of all terrace treads and gangways slip resistant?		
<b>e.</b> Does the design of terrace treads, gangways and steps allow standing water or ice to build up?		
<b>f.</b> Are the terrace tread depths or riser heights irregular?		
<b>g.</b> Are there any tread depths of less than 280mm or greater than 400mm?		
<b>h.</b> Are there any riser heights of less than 75mm or greater than 180mm?		
<b>i.</b> Is the gradient of the terrace in excess of 25 degrees?		
<b>j.</b> Are gangways clearly marked with a non slip paint of a conspicuous colour?		
<b>k.</b> Are all spectators within 12m of a gangway or exit?		
<b>l.</b> Are all barriers and crush barriers and their fixings maintained, inspected and tested as per the recommendations in Chapter 11 of the <i>Guide</i> ?		
<b>m.</b> Are the standing areas sufficiently lit (using natural and/or artificial light, including emergency lighting) to enable spectators to identify hazards?		
<b>n.</b> Are any structures or parts of structures with which standing spectators may come into contact made safe, secure and, where appropriate, non-climbable?		

### **A.3 Circulation routes**

<b>indicative question</b>	<b>question considered?</b>	<b>what evidence is there that the question been considered?</b>
<b>a.</b> From their point of entry to the ground, are spectators able to gain access to their desired viewing position via a properly maintained route?		
<b>b.</b> Are spectators able to leave, and return to, their viewing position, by a clearly defined and properly maintained route at any time during an event, eg. to access toilet, catering or other facilities?		
<b>c.</b> Are spectators able to leave the viewing area and exit from the sports ground at any time via a clearly defined and properly maintained exit route?		
<b>d.</b> Is there a consistent and co-ordinated system of signs to direct and inform spectators?		
<b>e.</b> Is there sufficient lighting (using natural and/or artificial light, including emergency lighting) in all parts of the ground to allow spectators to enter, to leave and move around the ground in safety?		
<b>f.</b> Are there any installations, temporary or permanent (such as litter bins, kiosks or parked vehicles), that impede the free flow of people at any point along circulation routes, including immediately outside exit points from the ground?		

## A.4 Maintenance and testing

indicative question	question considered?	what evidence is there that the question been considered?
<b>a.</b> Has an annual structural survey been carried out, and is there evidence that any issues identified as requiring remedial action have been satisfactorily addressed?		
<b>b.</b> Are there current test certificates in respect of all structures and installations required to be tested under the safety certificate?		
<b>c.</b> Are all control room safety systems operating fully?		
<b>d.</b> Are there test certificates for all pieces of equipment in the control room?		
<b>e.</b> Is there a fire detection/alarm system in place?		
<b>f.</b> Has the fire detection/alarm system been checked? If so, by whom and when?		
<b>g.</b> Is the fire alarm panel in the control room?		
<b>h.</b> Have all means of escape and emergency exit routes throughout the ground been checked?		
<b>i.</b> Have all exit doors and gates been checked to ensure that they open without difficulty?		
<b>j.</b> Does the signage for all exit and emergency exit routes meet best practice as outlined in Chapter 16 of the <i>Guide</i> ?		
<b>k.</b> Has the condition of all stairways been checked for their slip resistance, the presence of any trip hazards, and the adequacy of lighting?		