

## Injuries at football grounds 2017/18

The Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) has today published the number of reported spectator injuries at football grounds in England and Wales for the 2017/18 season.

In total, 90 of the 92 clubs in the Premier League, Championship and Leagues One and Two, along with Wembley and the Principality Stadium, provided complete records for last season. These grounds are all regulated by the SGSA. Improvements are being made to the way the data is collected from clubs, so direct comparisons with previous years cannot be made. Figures for the previous two seasons are shown for information only.

### Findings

In total, there were:

- 34,557,450 spectators at matches in the Premier League (plus football matches played at Wembley and Principality Stadium), Championship and Leagues One and Two in 2017/18
- 2,062 spectators treated for injuries
- 146 spectators taken to hospital

This equates to 1 injury per 16,759 spectators across all football clubs in the 2017/18 season (shown at Table 1).

The most common cause of injury was slip/trip/fall with 614 instances (shown at Table 2).

A summary of the reported spectator injuries for the past three seasons is shown in Table 1. This is broken down by each division, as well as a cumulative number for all (Wembley and Principality Stadium are included in Premier League figures).

The increase in the number of reported injuries compared to previous years is likely largely to be due to a more accurate data collection process. Feedback from SGSA Inspectors and local Safety Advisory Groups has not reported a significant increase in injuries.

The SGSA has been collating injury data for a number of years. Since the 2016/17 season, we have provided clubs with additional guidance ahead of the collection period. This process used a more controlled format than in previous years to generate more accurate and standardised data. It also integrated the data collection into the licensing application process all clubs must go through before the start of each season. Although provision of the data is not a formal requirement, and doesn't impact on the licence decision, it is likely that these changes have led to more accurate reporting.

Reported injuries are low, and even where there are injuries they are rarely sufficiently serious to require a spectator to be taken to hospital. But we know there is no room for complacency. We have ongoing work to ensure the reporting process generates as clear and as accurate a picture as possible. This will help to inform our future regulatory activity.



**Table 1: Summary of reported injuries for 2017/18 football season by league (plus historic data for 2015/16 and 2016/17 football seasons)**

Football season	Total spectators treated for injuries	Total spectators taken to hospital	Total attendance	Injury ratio per spectator
<b>Premier League (plus International stadia)</b>				
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>17,327,023</b>	<b>1 injury per 19,252 spectators</b>
2016/17	854	30	16,314,381	1 injury per 19,103 spectators
2015/16	347	16	17,859,582	1 injury per 51,468 spectators
<b>Championship</b>				
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>10,670,158</b>	<b>1 injury per 16,803 spectators</b>
2016/17	502	25	11,015,908	1 injury per 21,944 spectators
2015/16	319	17	9,516,708	1 injury per 29,832 spectators
<b>League One</b>				
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4,006,622</b>	<b>1 injury per 12,560 spectators</b>
2016/17	222	17	4,633,424	1 injury per 20,871 spectators
2015/16	151	11	4,426,444	1 injury per 29,314 spectators
<b>League Two</b>				
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,553,647</b>	<b>1 injury per 12,277 spectators</b>
2016/17	182	14	2,761,318	1 injury per 15,172 spectators
2015/16	146	11	3,015,371	1 injury per 20,653 spectators



Total (including international stadia)				
2017/18	2,062	146	34,557,450	1 injury per 16,759 spectators
2016/17	1,865	92	35,816,919	1 injury per 19,205 spectators
2015/16	963	55	34,818,105	1 injury per 36,155 spectators

**Table 2: Detailed breakdown of cause of football spectator injuries during the 2017/18 season**

Cause of Injury (descending order)	Number	% of total
Slip / trip / fall	614	30%
Hot drink / liquid spillage	163	8%
Hit by football	100	5%
Celebration	92	4.5%
Seat injury	79	4%
Assault	60	3%
Hit by another object	51	2.5%
Insect bite / sting	36	1.5%
Pushed (accidental)	28	1%
Turnstile	27	1%
Crowd surge / crushing	21	1%
Other public order	18	>1%
Equipment malfunction	14	>1%
Smoke inhalation from flare	11	>1%
Faint resulting in injury	7	>1%
Hit by flare	3	>1%
Kitchen equipment	3	>1%
Burnt by flare	2	>1%
Fire	0	0%
Structural collapse / failure	0	0%
Other (but not stated)	245	12%



Unknown (no specific cause given)	488	24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>100%</b>