

SGSA Conference 2022

Tuesday 24 May 2022

Etihad Stadium, Manchester

Conference Sponsor



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Conference programme

9.00am – 10.00am	Event registration, refreshments and exhibition
10.00am – 11.15am	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary One – What's changed in the last two years?</p> <p>Discussions will include the impact of the last two years on the sports safety sector, including the implementation of licensed standing areas.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Clemmit, Conference Chair• Derek Wilson, Chair, Sports Grounds Safety Authority• Ken Scott, Head of Inspectorate, Sports Grounds Safety Authority• Tony Smallman, Senior Event Safety and Policy Manager, Manchester City FC• Dr Jo Welford, Senior Research Manager, CFE Research• Stephen Hollingworth, Assistant Director Leisure, Sport and Culture, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham• Football Supporters' Association (invited)• Nigel Huddleston MP, Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Civil Society (via video)
11.15am – 11.45am	Refreshment break and exhibition

11.45am – 12.30pm	Breakout sessions		
	Event safety management – Testing and exercising	Transparency and diversity	Anti-social behaviour and pyrotechnics
	<p>As we come out of the pandemic, it is likely that operational, crisis management and multi-agency plans have not been tested as frequently as previously.</p> <p>This session will explore how to prioritise the plans which may need testing and how to structure any exercises for maximum benefit and learning.</p>	<p>Is there enough transparency in the way hate crimes are recorded and dealt with at sports grounds? How can diversity be improved in sports safety both in terms of safety teams and tackling incidents with fans?</p> <p>An expert panel will consider these questions.</p>	<p>Is anti-social behaviour and the use of pyrotechnics at sports grounds on the rise? How can these issues be addressed?</p> <p>An expert panel will consider these questions.</p>
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch break and exhibition		
1.30pm – 2.30pm	Plenary Two – Planning for major events and the challenges of this summer		
	<p>Discussions will include what lessons can learnt from the events at the Euro 2020 final in Wembley last July, and how can sports grounds and local authorities safely manage the ‘big reopening’ this summer with multiple sporting and entertainment events taking place.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Geoff Pearson, University of Manchester • Claire McColgan, Director Culture Liverpool and Interim Strategic Neighbourhoods Director, Liverpool City Council • Martin Girvan, Inspector, Sports Grounds Safety Authority 		

2.30pm – 3.15pm	Breakout sessions		
	Safe standing in seated areas – practical advice	Accessible Stadia, Second Edition, Access for Disabled Sports Fans	Fan engagement and safety governance
	<p>Hear from the author of SG01: Safe Standing in Seated Areas document, Ken Scott, and the lead researcher evaluating early adopters, Dr Jo Welford, on the practicalities and lessons that can be learnt for safe/licensed standing in seated areas.</p>	<p>This session, led by Level Playing Field, will introduce the second edition of the Accessible Stadia guidance document currently being drafted.</p> <p>A panel of specialists will outline the document and answer questions ahead of its consultation.</p>	<p>How can fans be effectively included in safety governance, particularly Safety Advisory Groups? Why is it important for the fan voice to be heard?</p> <p>These questions will be considered by an expert panel.</p>
3.15pm – 3.45pm	Refreshment break and exhibition		
3.45pm – 5.00pm	<p>Plenary Three – What does the future hold for the sector?</p> <p>Discussions will include some of the major challenges facing the sports safety sector in the next few years, in particular the Protect Duty, sustainability and the economic outlook for the sector.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martyn Henderson, Chief Executive, Sports Grounds Safety Authority • Paul Greaney QC, Counsel to the Manchester Arena Inquiry • Gary Thomas, Sustainability Lead, Green Britain Group including Forest Green Rovers FC • Professor James Reade, Head of Department of Economics, University of Reading 		
5.00pm	Close of conference		