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Who are the Sports Grounds Safety Authority? (SGSA)

- The SGSA is the UK Government's advisor on safety at sports grounds and a world leader in safety.
- We have three roles:
 - Regulatory – Licence Premier League and EFL grounds, plus Wembley in England and Wales and regulate their safety certification by local government
 - Standards – Set and raise standards globally through our guidance, particularly the 'Green Guide'
 - Advisory – Provide strategic support for sports grounds, governing bodies and others in the UK and internationally
- Put simply, our purpose is to ensure everyone can enjoy sport safely

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2021 – A very busy year for the SGSA

- Moving safely from no spectators to 100% capacities - 5 key stages
- Working alongside UK Government to develop guidance relating to COVID-19: *SG02 – Planning for social distancing at sports grounds*
- Events Research Programme
- COVID passes – certification
- Licensed safe standing
- Euro 2020
- Commercial activity – UK and Global activity
- New guidance
- Regulatory oversight of clubs and LAs.

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Todays agenda

- Licensed safe standing areas at football grounds
- COVID passes – certification
- Supplementary Guidance 03: Event Safety Management

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Licensed safe standing areas at football grounds

Background

- All-seater policy been in place since 1990s
- Affects grounds who are in the Premier League or Championship, or have been for three or more seasons since 1994/95, along with Wembley and the Principality Stadium
- Fan led safe standing campaigns
- New engineering solutions available to allow for standing in seated areas
- SGSA research findings

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Early adopters

- 2019 Government manifesto commitment.
- Early adopters - 16 criteria and receive Ministerial approval to have licensed standing areas.
 - Necessary infrastructure – such as seats with barriers/independent barriers –in both home and away ends
 - Fans must be able to sit or stand in the licensed areas – the seats cannot be locked 'up' or 'down' position.
 - There must also be one seat/space per person.
 - Areas must not impact the viewing standards or other fans, particularly disabled fans.
 - There must be a Code of Conduct in place for fans in the licensed standing area.
 - The ground must consult with its Safety Advisory Group about plans for the licensed standing areas.
- Only areas in ground with infrastructure will be licensed standing – other areas remain seated

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SG01: Safe Standing in Seated Areas

- Builds on content of Chapter 12 of the Green Guide (sixth edition)
- Provides main design and safety management issues associated with seats incorporating barriers
- Includes P & S Factor indicative questions for seated areas for safe standing
- Document available on the SGSA website:
www.sgsa.org.uk/licensedstanding.

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Application and approval process

- Applications closed 6 October. Six applications received.
- SGSA reviewed and submitted advice and recommendations to DCMS and Minister
- Ministerial announcement – 8 November
- New SGSA licence issued to early adopters in December
- Licensed standing areas take effect from 1 January 2022

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And the winners are!!!!

- Cardiff City FC
- Chelsea FC
- Manchester City FC
- Manchester United FC
- Tottenham Hotspur FC

WANT00031

Presentation Skills for Managers for 25 minutes

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Next steps

- Evaluation over the rest of the season
- Report submitted to Minister
- Government decision on next steps

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COVID - What happens next?

- COVID is here to stay – how do we learn to live with it?
- How do we maintain 100% capacities?

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COVID passes – certification

- Plan A – voluntary v Plan B – mandatory
- Issues arising:
 - form of accreditation accepted
 - Devolved administrations
 - number of checks (quality v quantity)
 - resource needed (both human and Zone Ex spaces)
 - unintended consequences – terrorism, protests

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COP 26 Glasgow – Unintended consequences



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Supplementary Guidance 03: Event Safety Management



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Background

- Replaces Safety Management (Pink Guide)
- Builds on sixth edition of Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide), published in 2018
- Applicable to venue management and event organisers – not sport specific

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SG03: Event Safety Management

Underlying principle:

"for all individuals involved in the management, organisation or hosting of an event, whatever their role, whatever the nature of the event, wherever the event is staged, the safety of all people present at that event must take precedence over every other concern".

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Content overview

- Basic principles
- Management responsibilities
- Event safety personnel
- Risk management
- Contingency planning
- Operations Manual
- Event Management Plan
- Event Record, review and audit



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Event safety management planning cycle

- Planning is a dynamic process
- Planning cycle used to identify key safety considerations pre- and post-event
- Time taken by each stage may vary considerably



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Zone Ex

- Builds on concept introduced in Green Guide
- Importance of co-ordination
- Zone Ex personnel
- Zone Ex Co-ordination Plan

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Annexes

- Supporting the concepts of Event Safety Management document:
 - Annex SG03 A – Safety Officer continuing professional development
 - Annex SG03 B – Exercise planning
 - Annex SG03 C – Control points
 - Annex SG03 D – Recording of tests and inspections templates
 - Annex SG03 E – Event data spreadsheet sample

www.sgsa.org.uk/safetymanagement

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Thanks for listening

www.sgsa.org.uk

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