



FIFA Safety Guidelines



Fédération Internationale de Football Association

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Explanation of terms used in these guidelines

FIFA	=	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
Associations	=	the FIFA member associations
Confederations	=	FIFA-recognised groups of associations that belong to the same continent. There are currently six (6) recognised confederations.
All-seater stadium	=	a stadium that only has seating, or a stadium in which terraced (standing) areas are closed to spectators.
Seats for spectators	=	seats that are fixed to the ground. The seats should be shaped and numbered individual seats, made out of unbreakable and inflammable material. The seats shall also have a backrest of at least 30cm.



FIFA Safety Guidelines

- For FIFA events and the Olympic Football Tournaments (qualifying and final round matches)
- For match organisers in the confederations, associations affiliated to FIFA, and in clubs / other organisations

These regulations must be used to make all match organisers aware of their duties and responsibilities before, during and after matches.

These regulations shall apply to all match organisers who organise and conduct matches in stadiums belonging to associations.

The associations, as well as the confederations, are obliged to ensure that these guidelines are followed for all matches organised under their jurisdiction.

These guidelines contain the safety measures that match organisers, associations and clubs must take to prevent spectator riots and to ensure safety and order within the confines and vicinity of the stadium. The guidelines also detail the structural, technical, organisational and operational measures that must be carried out when a football match is hosted in a stadium.

Match organisers, associations and clubs must take all reasonable measures necessary to ensure safety in and around the stadium. Associations and clubs are responsible for the behaviour of the persons entrusted with the organisation of matches.

Any violation of these guidelines in relation to competitive FIFA matches may be subject to disciplinary measures from FIFA. Violations in relation to matches within the respective confederation may be subject to disciplinary action by that confederation. Violations in relation to matches under the jurisdiction of an association may be subject to action by that association.

I. General

Article 1

Scope of application, responsibility

- ¹ These guidelines apply exclusively to FIFA associations.
- ² The rights and duties of competent authorities within private and public law (stadium operators, regulatory authorities, police, fire service) remain unaffected.
- ³ If the association or club has no legal authority to arrange the necessary safety measures, it must cooperate with the relevant bodies to ensure that they are in place. If the safety measures deemed necessary are not in place, the association must be informed immediately.

II. Structural and technical measures

Article 2

Fundamental considerations

- ¹ In principle, a stadium may only be used to host football matches if the structural and technical condition of the stadium complies with the safety requirements in force.
- ² The laws, orders and administrative directives in place for the construction and technical facilities of stadiums must be respected.

Article 3

Area outside the stadium

- ¹ Access to the stadium should be facilitated by an efficient network of routes for private transport, and if possible, by suitable links to public transport in the vicinity of the stadium.
- ² There shall be large boards with further instructions (location of sectors and entrances) within the immediate vicinity of the stadium.

Article 4

Stadium perimeter, turnstiles and checkpoints

- ¹ A wall shall enclose the area surrounding the stadium. It shall be at least 2.5 metres in height and shall not be easy to scale, penetrate, pull down or remove.
- ² Entry and exit points to the stadium itself and the concourse surrounding the stadium shall be designed in such a way that facilitates the flow of persons and vehicles in and around the stadium.
- ³ All gates must be able to be opened or closed quickly, without posing any additional or specific dangers. The gates shall be designed to withstand pressure from large crowds of people. When open, the gates must be held in place by strong bolts. A special firelock must be incorporated in the gates.

⁴ All entry points must be equipped with facilities for searching persons and objects, and for storing objects securely.

⁵ Turnstiles and checkpoint facilities must be incorporated within the perimeter wall enclosing the stadium. They must be able to withstand extreme pressure and be fire-resistant.

Article 5

Perimeter surrounding field of play, emergency entry points to field of play, players' entry point

¹ The interior of the stadium must be safe from the intrusion of unauthorised persons. To prevent unauthorised access, stadiums may have a 2.20-metre high fence (metal or safety glass etc), a suitable moat that prevents intrusion, or a combination of the two. For any other measures to reinforce security within the stadium (with a greater number of policemen, for example), prior approval must be sought from the local authorities.

² There must be emergency access points to the field of play. Emergency gates must be incorporated in the fences surrounding the field of play. If the spectator areas are separated from the field of play by a moat, crossing points (bridges) must be provided near the emergency gates. Provided that the association gives its prior approval, exceptions to the above are only permitted if there are enough suitable alternative exit routes for spectators.

³ The emergency gates must be able to be opened quickly and easily in the direction of the field of play. In principle, they shall be positioned in a direct line with the steps in the respective spectator area. The emergency evacuation points to the field of play must not be obstructed by advertising boards or any other objects. Advertising boards must be designed in such a way that they do not create an obstacle.

⁴ The emergency exit gates shall have one door, be at least two metres wide and equipped with an emergency lock. They shall be a different colour to their surroundings and easily identifiable by numbers or letters on both sides of the gate.

⁵ The gates may be opened by remote control or by hand. If a gate can only be opened by hand, it must be opened from the field of play side. If the remote-controlled systems malfunction, the gate must be able to be opened by hand immediately.

⁶ When entering and leaving the field of play, players must be protected by suitable installations against interventions from spectator areas.

Article 6

Evacuation routes

¹ Emergency evacuation routes, one inside and one outside of the stadium, must be agreed upon with the local security forces (police, police authorities, fire service, first aid and emergency services). The external evacuation route shall have two lanes and be fit to drive upon.

² The field of play within the stadium must be accessible from at least one vehicle entry point.

Article 7

Spectator areas

¹ The four major FIFA tournaments (FIFA World Cup™ including qualifying matches; Confederations Cup; Club World Championship; Olympic Football Tournaments) may only be played in all-seater stadiums. For all other FIFA tournaments, standing spectators may be admitted after seeking prior approval from the local authorities responsible for approving the respective stadium.

² The spectator areas shall be divided into sectors and identifiable as such. Sectors shall be marked in such a way that allows spectators, and particularly security forces, to identify them quickly.

³ The sectors for the fans of the two opposing teams shall be kept as far away from each other as possible. Partitions separating these sectors from other spectator areas shall be particularly strong and stable. The sector for away fans shall have its own entry point. The route to this entry point should cross as few routes as possible that are to be used by other spectators.

⁴ Safety barriers are to be constructed in the sectors of stadiums in which standing spectators are to be admitted. Partitions between the standing and seated areas and between the different sectors shall be used to prevent spectators from moving from sector to sector.

⁵ The stairways and emergency exit routes shall be clearly marked with luminous paint.

⁶ There should be easy access to public conveniences and refreshment stalls in all sectors of the stadium. Any sectors holding known “high-risk groups” should have their own public conveniences and refreshment stalls.

⁷ Individual seats with a backrest of at least 30cm should be installed in the standing areas of stadiums.

Article 8

Rooms for security forces and television surveillance

¹ The security forces and stewards shall be provided with meeting and storage rooms, as well as sufficient space for vehicles that may be required at any given point.

² The first aid and emergency services, police, stewards and fire service shall be provided with rooms for their command centres. These rooms shall offer a view of the stands – and provided this is possible in the design of the stadium – of other areas deemed to be of interest with regard to safety and security.

³ The command centres for the safety teams specified in point 2 above shall, if possible, be located in adjoining rooms (to form a central safety point). Rooms for the stadium announcer and police control shall also be located next to each other.

⁴ Holding rooms for up to 20 persons shall be located in a secure and suitable area. A room shall also be reserved for a police control point. All of these rooms shall be easily accessible.

⁵ Video cameras with a zoom facility shall be installed inside and outside the stadium and close to the entry points. The video cameras shall be controlled from the police control centre and connected to the police monitors. A freeze frame facility shall also be available to identify individuals.

Article 9

Security measures for teams, referees and VIPs

¹ In the stadium's design, approach roads and entry/exit points for teams and officials shall be kept separate from those for spectators. Special safety areas are also advisable.

² Point 1 above also applies to approach roads and entry/exit points for all VIPs.

³ For VVIPs, there shall also be rooms and areas safe from forced entry and the use of firearms or explosive devices. There shall also be secure areas in which the vehicles of these persons can be parked.

Article 10

Lighting, Emergency power supply

¹ For matches played when there is insufficient natural light, the following areas must be illuminated:

- Entry/exit points to the outer (and if applicable, inner) perimeter, turnstile areas and approaches to the entry/exit points as well as parking areas and paths leading from public transport facilities to the stadium;
- Paths/areas between the outer (and if applicable, inner) perimeter and stands;
- Spectator and media areas, stands and sectors inside the stadium.

² In the event of a power failure, there shall be emergency lighting provided by a back-up power supply.

Article 11

Public address systems

¹ The stadium shall be equipped with a public address system. The following areas, either individually or collectively, shall be covered by a suitable public address system:

- All entry/exit points, turnstiles and ticket checkpoints, and assembly points/areas in the outer/inner perimeter;
- Area between the outer and inner perimeters as well as the stands, including all entry/exit points;
- The spectator areas, distinctly divided as follows:
 - Behind the goals;
 - Other spectator sectors (in particular those of the “away” and “home” fans);
 - The playing field.

² The public address system shall ensure that all announcements are clear and audible in all conditions. It must be ensured that in emergencies, the public address system automatically broadcasts at maximum volume. The system must also be equipped with an emergency broadcast switch.

The provisions for the emergency power supply under Article 10 par. 2 also apply accordingly.

³ The police control room shall have an emergency override facility for the public address system.

Article 12

Telephone installations

¹ The control centres of the event management and security services shall be equipped with subscriber trunk dialling barred (“STD barred”) telephone lines.

² The internal telephone network shall have the following telephone connections:

- Control room;
- Control rooms of the police force, first aid services, fire service and stewards;
- Police control point;
- Police detention rooms;
- Team and referee dressing rooms;
- Team headquarters – if applicable.

The provision of additional telephone lines in other potential focal points in the stadium is also recommended.

³ It is also recommended that the telephone lines specified in point 2 above be equipped with an intercom system.

Article 13

Fire safety

¹ All hydrant terminals required by the local fire service must be installed.

² Fire extinguishers must also be provided in areas to be defined by the fire service. The fire extinguishers should be labelled in such a way that it is clear if they have been used or if they need to be replaced.

³ At all matches, the inner areas of the stadium shall be equipped with sand-filled buckets and fire-retardant gloves.

Article 14

First aid

If necessary, the medical service shall be provided with suitable rooms for the first aid treatment of spectators.

III. Organisational/operational measures

Article 15 Fundamental considerations

The confederations and associations are obliged to take all suitable organisational and operational measures against dangers to the stadium, spectators and the organisation of the match, and to eliminate any dangers that may present themselves.

Article 16 Security coordinator

¹ Each confederation and association must appoint a security coordinator. This person must have experience of working with public authorities and the police services, as well as prior knowledge of match organisation issues, spectator supervision and any other matters relating to ensuring safety and order at an event.

² The security coordinator shall also maintain contact with both the police authorities and fan representatives. He shall be responsible for evaluating and reporting back to the association (match organiser) on any extraordinary incidents before, during or after the match that in any way affect safety and security. This applies to both home and away matches. The security coordinator shall also assume responsibility for the ongoing education and training of all security officers employed by the clubs. He shall also conduct all briefings and devise a training and education programme.

Article 17 Gaining entry to the stadium, sale of tickets

¹ On match days, only persons in possession of valid authorisation shall be permitted to enter the stadium.

Valid authorisation includes:

- Match tickets;
- Work permits;
- Permits allowing right of passage.

² The identification passes of members of the security forces that allow them to carry out operational tasks shall also be regarded as valid authorisation.

³ These pieces of authorisation shall, as far as possible, be counterfeit-proof and protected against multiple usage.

⁴ Pieces of authorisation shall restrict access to specific, clearly marked areas. The number of “access all areas” passes shall be restricted to the absolute minimum.

⁵ Match tickets shall display the date of the match, and if possible, details of the teams involved.

⁶ The sale of match tickets shall be the subject of strict control for all matches. If possible, the sale of match tickets shall be organised so that the fans of the two opposing teams are allocated distinctly separate areas of the stadium. In exceptional circumstances, spectators may be allocated seats in a sector other than that specified on their valid match ticket.

⁷ The organising committee for the respective event(s) shall pass decisions regarding the number of tickets to be allocated to the participating associations and host association. The decisions of these committees are final and binding. Each association shall be responsible for ensuring that their allocation of tickets is only made available to its own supporters. The association shall also ensure that specific details are recorded during the sales process, such as the name and address of persons who have been allocated tickets.

⁸ State-of-the-art technology shall be used to protect the tickets against forgery. If there is the slightest suspicion that forged tickets may be in circulation, the police must be informed immediately. The police shall then initiate an investigation without delay.

Article 18

Security checks

¹ Security checks shall be carried out on persons at the entry/exit points of the outer and inner perimeters, as well as at entry points to areas that are not open to the general public.

² These security checks shall verify the following:

- Possession of valid authorisation to gain access to stadium;
- That the person is not in possession of weapons or any other dangerous objects that may not, for legal reasons, be taken into the stadium;
- That the person is not in possession of any alcoholic beverages;
- The condition of persons under the influence of alcohol or any other substances, to such an extent that they, in all probability, would not be able to act at their own volition, or be able to distinguish between right and wrong.

³ At the security checkpoints, persons may be subjected to a search of their person and/or possessions.

Any persons who resist such searches shall be refused entry to the stadium. Stewards may not enforce a compulsory search policy.

⁴ Should any objects be found in violation of point 2 above, they shall be handed to the police or stored on a temporary basis. If there is clear evidence of a criminal offence, the security forces may detain the person until he is handed over to the police. The person shall be handed over to the police without delay. If a person surrenders his right of ownership and possession of an object, and the person shall not be committed to police custody as no criminal offence has been committed, the confiscated object shall be held in a secure place until such a time as it can be destroyed.

⁵ If during the security checks it is established that a person is under the influence of alcohol or any other substances to such an extent that, in all probability, he would not be able to act at his own volition, he shall be refused access to the stadium.

Article 19

Ban on the sale of alcohol

¹ The sale and public distribution of alcohol shall be forbidden within the confines of the stadium before and during the match.

² If any persons inside the stadium are found to be under the influence of alcohol or any other substances that may affect their state of mind, the police and security forces shall remove them from the stadium immediately.

³ Beverages may only be served in plastic cups.

Article 20

Unobstructed emergency exits

¹ The emergency exit routes specified in Article 6 are to be kept clear at all times.

² All gates for the emergency exit routes shall be supervised by stewards at all times, from the opening to the closing of the stadium.

³ If the stadium also contains a running track, at least one side must be kept clear to allow the passage of vehicles.

Article 21

Stewards

¹ Safety and order must be guaranteed from the moment the stadium is opened. This also applies to the implementation of all responsibilities listed in these guidelines.

² In order to fulfil the duties mentioned in point 1 above, a team of stewards – consisting of male and female employees – must be employed. These stewards must have reached the full legal age and be responsible adults. They should also have prior experience of the tasks allocated to stewards, particularly at football matches.

³ The stewards shall all wear the same clothing, which shall also be reflective and easily identifiable. They shall, at least, wear the same style of jacket, which shall bear the word “steward”. The head stewards shall also be easily identifiable by wearing clothing of a different colour to that worn by the other stewards.

⁴ The steward management team (managers and deputies, head stewards, and if applicable, deputy head stewards) shall attend an annual briefing session with an experienced police officer, if possible before the start of the season. The information from this briefing session shall also be communicated to the other members of the team of stewards.

⁵ If the team concerned decides to employ an external security company as the team of stewards, a corresponding contract must be concluded. This contract shall primarily cover the following:

- Tasks (cf. point 6 below);
- Scope of tasks;
- Positions to be filled;
- Drafting of shift plans;
- Time required for tasks;
- Rights and duties of stewards in relation to stadium visitors;
- Number and breakdown of employees to be employed, as well as details of their experience and personal qualifications;
- Organisation of teams of stewards, subordinate relationships;
- Identification (clothing) of stewards.

⁶ The stewards shall primarily have the following duties:

- Conducting security checks at entry points to the outer and inner perimeters as well as to any other areas without general public access;
- Protecting security-relevant areas (e.g. turnstiles, points of sale, team and referee dressing rooms, rooms and areas for VIPs as well as the vehicles of these persons, and media representatives together with their technical equipment);
- Denying access to, or removal of any persons who cannot prove their right to be in the stadium, present a security risk on account of consumption of alcohol and/or drugs, or are banned from that particular stadium;
- Supervising and searching stadium guests and their possessions at entry points and within the stadium itself;
- Denying access to any persons who do not consent to being searched;
- Removing, storing and possibly returning any objects that are prohibited from the stadium on account of legal restrictions or the stadium regulations;
- Ensuring that the stadium sectors remain separated, in accordance with the corresponding tickets;
- Preventing fans from moving into another stadium sector for which they do not possess a valid ticket;
- Ensuring that all entry and exit points, as well as the emergency exit routes, remain unobstructed;
- Manning the entry and exit points, as well as the emergency exit points to and from the spectator sectors (particularly those with standing areas), from the opening of the stadium until it is closed;
- Preventing stadium visitors from gaining unauthorised access to areas for which they have no authorisation, and in particular, from gaining access to the pitch and immediate surroundings;

- Protecting the players and match officials when entering and leaving the field of play;
- Controlling the flow of vehicles and spectators within the confines of the stadium;
- Ensuring the implementation of the stadium regulations, provided the event organiser is responsible for this;
- Informing the police of any incidents punishable by law;
- Informing the police, first aid services, fire service and any other bodies of any incidents that may pose a threat to security, provided that the danger could not be eliminated by the security forces immediately.

⁷ The tasks and duties of the stewards shall be divided into distinct areas, and into sections and possibly subsections. Managers/leaders with suitable training shall be assigned to these areas.

⁸ The number of stewards to be employed shall primarily be based upon local factors (such as the number of entry and exit points, emergency gates, etc), the anticipated attendance and the risk assessment for the event. As a general guideline, the steward:spectator ratio shall be 1:100.

The security forces shall be consulted before any decisions are taken regarding the number of stewards to be employed.

⁹ All managers/leaders shall be equipped with radiotelephones, as shall all stewards assigned to “high-risk” areas.

¹⁰ Exact details of the positions of the radiotelephones shall be specified in a general communications overview document, which should encompass all security forces. This document shall be distributed accordingly.

IV. Other requirements

Article 22 Stadium plans

¹ Plans of the stadium shall be drawn up, detailing all of the stadium’s facilities, gates, entry and exit points, perimeters, emergency exit routes, signs, etc.

² If requested, the police, fire service, first aid services and stewards shall be provided with smaller copies of the above plans.

Article 23 Stadium regulations

¹ Stadium regulations that meet public law requirements shall be drafted for the stadium in consultation with the local security forces and the stadium proprietor.

² The stadium regulations shall specify orders and prohibitions that help to reduce the risk of spectator behaviour that may endanger safety and order. If these orders and prohibitions are violated, the offenders shall be punished accordingly.

Article 24

Stadium announcer

¹ The stadium announcer shall be trained accordingly and provided with texts written in advance for broadcasting over the public address system.

² Texts covering the following eventualities shall be drafted and readily available to both the public announcer and the police:

- Congestion in spectator area in front of entry gates;
- Spectators still outside the entry gates at kick-off;
- Referee's decision to postpone match;
- Clashes between violent groups of supporters;
- Penetration of perimeter fence by one or more spectators;
- Discovery of potentially explosive/flammable device;
- Threat of attacks with explosive/flammable devices;
- Possible danger caused by poor weather or stadium construction design faults;
- Danger posed by panic among spectators.

Article 25

Supporter liaison officer

¹ All associations shall employ a supporter liaison officer. It is recommended that a security officer also acts as a supporter liaison officer.

² The supporter liaison officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all measures are taken to ensure that the association's supporters are prevented from engaging in any behaviour that may threaten security inside or outside the stadium. The supporter liaison officer shall also make special efforts to identify and eliminate any violent tendencies, and to eradicate or at least reduce existing prejudices.

³ The supporter liaison officer shall take the following measures in particular to meet the objectives stated in point 1 above:

- Dialogue with spectators, dissemination of information;
- Mixing with spectators during home and away matches, and intervening in dangerous situations;
- Attending events with the supporter liaison officers of clubs.

Article 26

Stadium bans

¹ Associations shall impose a stadium ban upon any person whose behaviour at a football match, inside or outside the stadium, affects or poses a significant danger to security and order at that event. Depending on the severity of the offence, the stadium

ban may be restricted to the stadiums within the association's area of jurisdiction, or applied on a worldwide level.

² Worldwide stadium bans should only be enforced for cases of severe misbehaviour, particularly for offences at an event, whether inside or outside of the stadium.

³ The association concerned is responsible for issuing stadium bans. If an association, in exceptional circumstances, does not have the authority to impose a ban for an offence, it shall request the competent body to impose such a ban.

All associations shall consent to the organising association imposing a worldwide ban that shall also apply to stadiums in their own area of jurisdiction, should all the prerequisites be fulfilled.

⁴ Once an event-related offence has been established, the association shall immediately impose a stadium ban, specifying details of the offence committed and the duration of the resultant ban.

A ban from all stadiums within the association's area of jurisdiction may range from three (3) to 12 months; a ban from all stadiums worldwide may range from one (1) to five (5) years.

⁵ The FIFA general secretariat shall be responsible for maintaining all data relating to worldwide stadium bans.

The associations shall use the standard template to immediately inform the FIFA general secretariat of any worldwide stadium bans imposed. The FIFA general secretariat shall record the information specified on the standard template in a suitable database.

The FIFA general secretariat shall provide the associations with a printed list of valid stadium bans, including the following information: surname, first name, date of birth, place of birth, address of person(s) concerned, reason for and duration of ban, and the association that issued the ban. Unauthorised third parties will be prevented from gaining access to this database.

⁶ Worldwide stadium bans apply to all matches organised by associations, the confederations and FIFA. If a stadium ban is violated, the match organiser shall prosecute the offender on account of unlawful entry and remove any persons issued with a ban from the stadium.

⁷ Only the body that imposed the ban may rescind it. The FIFA general secretariat shall then be requested to delete the corresponding data from the database.

Article 27

High-risk matches

¹ It is primarily the responsibility of the host association to stipulate that a match be classed as "high-risk". However, the respective confederation and/or FIFA may also make such a decision. This decision shall be taken as soon as possible after consultation with the security forces, and in particular, with the chief police officer. The association shall inform the FIFA general secretariat of its decision immediately. The same shall apply if a corresponding proposal from a visiting association or the security forces is

not followed. In exceptional circumstances, the FIFA general secretariat or the respective confederation may, on the basis of its own information, designate the match as “high-risk”.

² The following measures shall be implemented for matches classed as “high-risk”.

- Strictly separating fans by allocating sectors not in accordance with the information on the match ticket (enforced segregation);
- Creating and reserving empty stadium sectors between “dangerous” spectator sectors;
- Increasing the number of stewards, particularly at entry and exit points to spectator sectors, around the pitch and between the groups of rival supporters;
- Ensuring that the stairways in all spectator sectors remain free and unobstructed;
- Supervising the stadium, particularly during the course of the night preceding the match;
- Informing spectators in advance that a match has sold out;
- Assigning a steward from the visiting association to accompany the fans from the airport, train station, port or bus/tram station (in both directions), before and after the match;
- Employing a stadium announcer from the visiting association;
- Retaining spectators in the stadium at the end of the match until order outside of the stadium can be guaranteed.

Article 28

Competitive FIFA matches

¹ A separate and binding document “Guidelines and Instructions Regarding Safety and Security in Stadiums” is produced for every FIFA event and Olympic football tournament (qualifying/final competitions).

² Below is a list of FIFA events:

- FIFA World Cup™
- FIFA Confederations Cup
- FIFA Club World Championship
- Olympic Football Tournaments
- FIFA World Youth Championship
- FIFA U-17 World Championship
- FIFA Women’s World Cup
- FIFA U-19 Women’s World Championship
- FIFA Futsal World Championship

V. Final provisions

Article 29 Administrative rules

If a stadium does not meet the structural, technical, organisational and operational requirements specified in these guidelines, and severe safety-related problems are to be expected as a result, a stadium may be prevented from hosting competitive FIFA matches.

Article 30 Enforcement

These safety guidelines will come into force on 1 January 2004.

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