

Crowd Safety Policy

1. Introduction

Bristol Academy Women's Football Club will abide at all times by the in-stadia safety and security legislative framework

- Safety at Sports Ground Act 1975 (as amended)
- Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987
- Football Spectators Act 1989 (as amended)
- Police Act 1996

2. Managing Crowds Safely

It is clearly desirable to attract as many spectators as possible to our events, both to generate revenue and create atmosphere. Spectators will also provide the seed-bed for new participants in your sport. However, it is vital to be able to deal with these crowds in a safe and efficient manner and not to exceed prescribed capacities.

Excessive crowding and poor crowd management, in a worst case scenario, can lead to injury and death from crushing. Even minor problems with crowd control can create stress and anxiety amongst spectators, causing them to choose not to attend such an event again, or not to take part in your sport.

A detailed, HSE study of crowd behaviour, together with resultant recommendations, was published in 1991, entitled *Managing Crowd Safety in Public Venues: A Study to Generate Guidance for Venue Owners and Enforcing Authority Inspectors*.

Venues are large and complicated spaces, and thus the management of crowds within them requires excellent teamwork, clear communication, and co-ordination between those responsible for the overall organisation and those dealing with the crowds face-to-face.

The Management must provide a positive and pro-active safety culture to ensure that staff at all levels are aware of the importance of crowd safety.

We must have:

- clear roles and responsibilities;
- written arrangements for regular analysis, planning, inspection, operation, and review of crowd safety systems;
- undertaken adequate and appropriate training.

Crown Safety Policy cont.

As well as the maintenance of good management systems, further measures to ensure crowd safety can also be taken. Members of our safety team should:

- research the type of visitor that is expected and anticipate likely crowd behavior;
- collate and assess information (if available) about the health and safety record of previous events at the same venue;

- liaise with outside organisations such as the police and emergency services who have extensive knowledge and experience;
- conduct a risk assessment to determine the adequacy of arrangements for controlling crowds, and change them if necessary;
- inspect the venue and review crowd safety arrangements at regular intervals;
- set targets for crowd management (for example, if queues extend past a particular point, specify that another service point should be opened).

The following measures can often be effective means of reducing the dangers of overcrowding, at both indoor and outdoor venues:

- sufficient numbers of trained and competent stewards and marshals must satisfy legal minimum requirements;
- turnstiles (limiting the number and position of turnstiles can control the flow and build-up of spectators, but too few can lead to a corresponding build-up on the other side);
- barriers for directing movement;
- adequate, evenly-spaced facilities, e.g. toilets, refreshment areas
- clear signposts
- a simple and audible public address system
- proper space allowance for access/egress.

Conversely, the following are examples of physical features of a venue, which are likely to lead to overcrowding or injury:

steep slopes;

- dead ends, locked gates, blocked escape routes;
- several routes converging into one;
- uneven or slippery flooring or steps;
- poor signage/no signage.

The Crowd Safety policy will be reviewed annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Football Club to ensure the actions remain appropriate and effective.