

Introduction

Recommendation T-S4 Rec(2021)1 on safety, security and service at football matches and other sports events is a synthesis and update of the 26 recommendations adopted since 1985 by the Standing Committee of the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events (ETS No. 120, 1985).

This recommendation complements the Saint-Denis Convention perfectly. It explains in detail how to implement the Convention and presents established good practices in the areas of safety, security and service at football matches and other sports¹ events, based on the experience of the last three decades.

Definition of the Saint-Denis Convention

■ The term "good practice" refers to measures applied in one or more countries that have proven to be highly effective in achieving the aims or objectives of the Saint-Denis Convention (Article 3).

Recommendation T-S4 Rec(2021)1: an operational tool for States

■ The recommendation is the ideal complement for interpreting and implementing the policy articles of the Saint-Denis Convention. It consists of the body of the recommendation and **four interrelated annexes**, each relating to a specific area:

- ▶ Annex A: Safety – Recommended Good Practices;
- ▶ Annex B: Security – Recommended Good Practices;
- ▶ Annex C: Service – Recommended Good Practice; and
- ▶ Annex D: Checklists.

” The Recommendation consolidates more than three decades of good practices in the field of safety, security and service at sports events

■ These annexes allow each State to assess the effectiveness of their own safety, security and service arrangements at football matches and other sporting events and to check that they comply with the good practices set out in the recommendation.

■ The recommendation focuses on the recognised need to develop and implement an integrated multi-agency approach to safety, security and service² at sports events. To this end, the recommendation specifies the importance of establishing comprehensive national, regional and local co-ordination structures, as well as effective partnerships at international level.



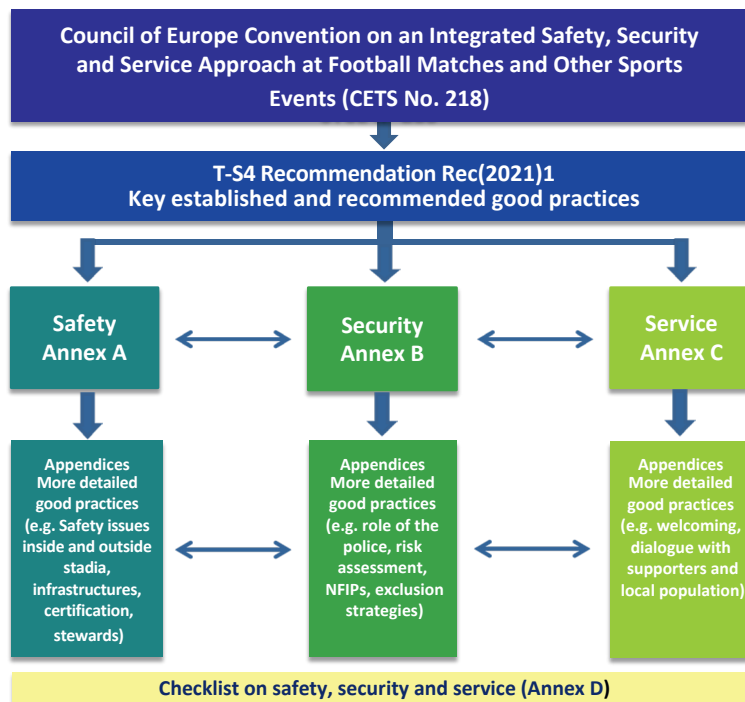
The use of horses as part of a policing strategy can be an effective tool in specific circumstances

1. The text of this factsheet refers specifically to football matches but may, where appropriate, also be applied in relation to other sporting events where national authorities deem it necessary or appropriate

2. For more information on this subject, please refer to Factsheet 2: *An integrated multi-agency approach – what is it?*



National good practices are shared and adapted to other countries' specific context, like stewarding activities



Architecture of the Saint-Denis Convention and Recommendation T-S4 Rec(2021)1

A recommendation that can be tailored to national needs

■ The good practices detailed in the various annexes of the recommendation are not intended to be prescriptive. The organisation of strategies and operations related to safety, security and service is left to the discretion of each State Party. The good practices set out in the recommendation are not intended to undermine this fundamental principle. Rather, they are intended to encourage States to take it into account in their process of developing and implementing a multi-agency and integrated approach.

■ In general, there is a wide variety of constitutional, judicial, police, cultural and historical circumstances that characterise different countries. The nature and severity of incidents that may occur at a sporting event are also extremely varied. It is therefore impossible, nor desirable, to propose strict and definitive models of application.

■ For example, in the field of stadium safety, it would be inappropriate to impose fixed models of application, as infrastructures differ from one country to another in terms of size, age, design and the resources available for their management.

Good practices applicable at all scales

■ The aim of recommendation T-S4 Rec(2021)1 is therefore rather to achieve the adoption of basic principles and guidelines, the good practices being frameworks that can be adapted to the specific circumstances of each country.

” The sharing of recommended good practices is essential for the implementation of the Saint-Denis Convention

■ The good practices set out are not only addressed to States. The aim of the recommendation is also to deliver a number of good practices in a form that is accessible to people and entities with a common desire to turn sports events into safe, secure and enjoyable experiences. This includes national and local/municipal public authorities and bodies, police and emergency services, stadium owners, event organisers, stadium safety managers and field teams involved in safety management arrangements.



Monitoring visits of the Saint-Denis Committee and technical assistance missions also aim at identifying and replicating national good practices

A recommendation in constant evolution

— This recommendation is intended to be regularly updated and, where necessary, supplemented by other recommendations on specific topics, with the aim of ensuring that the range of standards, good practices and feedback from different sports competitions in Europe and around the world is kept up to date.

A little background on the 2021 Recommendation

The feature of this recommendation is that it supersedes all recommendations, resolutions and declarations adopted by the Standing Committee since its creation in 1985, following the signing of the European Convention on Spectator Violence. For almost four decades, these texts had progressively complemented the 1985 Convention. In successive stages, the approach centred on the response to spectator violence has given way to an integrated approach based on three interdependent pillars: safety, security and service.

Over three decades, each pillar of this new approach has been successively developed in the different texts adopted by the Standing Committee of the 1985 Convention.

Between 1985 and 1990, security measures were mainly developed, with a focus on combating bystander violence, law enforcement measures and international police co-operation arrangements.

The decade 1990/2000 saw the emergence of recommendations focused on safety measures, with the problems linked to the improvement of stadium infrastructures, as well as the development of stewarding measures.

Finally, it was during the decade 2000/2010 that the "service" component was integrated and developed in order to improve the issues of welcoming and well-being at the stadia, dialogue and better communication with the fans, as well as socio-educational prevention measures for fans.

Recommendation Rec(2015)1 of the Standing Committee of the 1985 Convention on Spectator Violence has synthesised all these texts and has become the essential practical tool to consult and reference on these issues. It has been revised in 2019 and adopted by this Committee in early 2020.

The Saint-Denis Convention Committee, by adopting, at its first meeting in April 2021, Recommendation T-S4 Rec(2021)1, identical to that of 2015, has thus taken over under its authority the outcome of years of work by the Standing Committee.

” The 2021 Recommendation will be regularly updated and supplemented by specific recommendations



Existing European standards on stewards training and equipment are a reference for national improvements in the field of safety



” The Saint-Denis Convention is the only legally-binding international instrument on safety, security and service at sports events

The Saint-Denis Convention

The Council of Europe Convention on an integrated approach to safety, security and service at football matches and other sports events was opened for signature on 3 July 2016 in Saint-Denis (France), on the occasion of the UEFA EURO 2016 championship. It entered into force on 1st November 2017 after 3 ratifications – France, Monaco and Poland – and now has a large number of [States Parties](#).

It promotes an integrated multi-agency approach, covering three complementary and interdependent pillars: safety, security and service. It is the only legally-binding international instrument establishing institutional co-operation between all relevant stakeholders to make football matches and other sports events safer, more secure and more welcoming.

Useful links

1. **Saint-Denis Convention**
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/safety-security-and-service-approach-convention>
2. **Recommendations T-S4:**
 - i. Rec(2021)1: Recommended good practices on safety, security and service
 - ii. Rec(2022)1: Model structure of a national strategy on safety, security and service
 - iii. Rec(2022)2: Model national legislative and regulatory framework on safety, security and service<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/t-s4-recommendations>
3. To learn more about the Convention and Recommendation Rec(2021)1, you can register for the following open online courses:
 - i. MOOC on Human Rights in Sport (available in English, Russian, Slovak and Spanish)
<http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/course/index.php?categoryid=590>
 - ii. MOOC on Safety, Security and Service at Sports Events (available in English, Polish and Portuguese)
<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/security-safety-sport/pros4-e-learning-enrolment-form>