

Introduction

The safety pillar is particularly important and detailed in the Saint-Denis Convention and in Recommendation Rec (2021) 1. The purpose of this factsheet is to present the basic principles of safety and to focus on the main actors in charge of this field, in order to shed light on their roles and responsibilities.

Definition of the Saint-Denis Convention

■ **Article 3 of the Saint-Denis Convention** provides a precise definition of safety:

“‘Safety measures’ mean any measure designed and implemented with the primary aim of **protecting the health and well-being** of individuals and groups who attend, or participate in, a football match or other sports event¹, inside or outside of the stadium, or who reside or work in the vicinity of the event.”

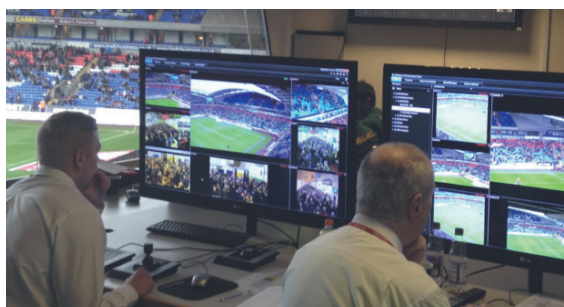
■ **The importance of the clarification provided by Recommendation Rec(2021)1:**

- ▶ Ensuring safety means **guaranteeing a reasonably safe environment** for all those involved in a sporting event. Annex A of the Recommendation sets out all the good practices in the field of safety. It provides a comprehensive set of guidelines for the police, emergency services, football authorities, clubs, stadium management and national and local authorities.
- ▶ The document also includes a significant number of thematic appendices designed, among other things, to provide accessible tools for stadium safety managers and other officials with safety-related responsibilities or functions.

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 the national authorities deem it necessary or appropriate.

- ▶ **Safety should be a top priority at every stage of the planning and delivery** of a sporting event, from the arrival of supporters in the host city to their departure after the event.

” The “safety” pillar is particularly consistent and detailed in the Saint-Denis Convention and in the 2021 Recommendation



The control room is the nerve centre of co-ordination, co-operation and communication between the relevant safety, security and service stakeholders in the sports venue

Basic safety principles

■ The safety philosophy at sporting events should always focus on protecting the health and well-being of all participants, from spectators and athletes to stadium staff, police, firefighters and health care personnel, and consideration should be made of the impact upon surrounding businesses and local population.

■ Safety measures must guard against emergency scenarios that would threaten public safety. The primary objective is to prevent and render as harmless as possible the potential consequences of safety risks.

■ In order to achieve these objectives, it is necessary to:

- ▶ identify safety risks;
- ▶ implement measures to mitigate or eliminate these risks; and
- ▶ set up response mechanisms to deal with incidents or emergency situations.

The actors and their roles

When it comes to safety, it is essential to avoid any ambiguity regarding the roles and responsibilities of each of the actors. There are many actors with responsibilities for safety and their missions are varied.

” It is essential to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each of the safety actors

Roles of the football authorities

■ The functions and responsibilities of national football governing bodies, federations, leagues and clubs are to provide safe, secure and welcoming stadiums for all participants. The roles and responsibilities of the football authorities vary across Europe, but in general these authorities are responsible for the licensing of stadiums.²

■ The governing bodies are also responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant guidelines such as:

- ▶ standard rules of procedure for sports venues setting out rules of entry, codes of conduct for spectators, prohibited objects, etc.;
- ▶ minimum safety standards and requirements to be met in the stadium; and
- ▶ standard agreements or Statements of Intent between the stadium safety officers and the police and various emergency services on their respective roles and responsibilities.

Role of the event organiser

■ The event organiser's primary responsibility is to ensure the safety and security of the sports venue. The management of the stadium's safety arrangements should then be delegated to the stadium safety officer. However, notwithstanding this delegation, the organiser remains ultimately responsible for crowd management and the safety of spectators. When an event is organised in a venue that is not owned by the organiser, the organiser must ensure that the venue for the sports event has a safety certificate

issued by an independent public authority. He must also ensure that competent safety and security personnel are present.

Role of the Stadium Safety Officer

■ The stadium safety officer is responsible for the overall safety operations of the stadium. Partner agencies should recognise that the stadium safety officer is the primary authority on safety matters. The priority must be to align the stadium safety management arrangements (S factor) to the physical infrastructure of the stadium (P factor).

■ The safety officer is in charge of numerous tasks ranging from the recruitment and training of safety personnel to the inspection and maintenance of the stadium's physical infrastructure and risk assessment.³ The safety officer must liaise with the event organiser, the public authorities, the police and the emergency services in order to develop the safety management system, and check that international and national legal obligations are respected.

■ Each club should endeavour to identify a suitable person for the role of match day safety officer. Ideally, that person should be a skilled and experienced safety professional who has demonstrated their occupational competency for the role. Whatever their background, it is essential that safety officers have the necessary character to be able to quickly assess and deal with developing situations in a calm manner and the ability to communicate clearly to their staff.



Stewards play a relevant role in ensuring safety inside sports venues and within the private perimeter around them

2. For more information on this subject, please refer to Factsheet 7: *Certification, Inspection, European Standards*.

3. For more information on this subject, please refer to Factsheet 6: *Safety: Assessment, Identification and Management of Risks at Sports Events*.



The police plays a key role in ensuring security in public spaces, but also in the private areas of sports venues when public order needs to be maintained or restored

Role of the stewards

Stewards are the key to the successful implementation of stadium safety management arrangements. They perform a wide variety of tasks to provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for the participants. Their activities are usually grouped under the name of stewarding.

The duties of stewards vary depending on the size and configuration of the stadium and the nature of the event. The main tasks of stewards include: controlling the entry, exit and movement of spectators; monitoring crowd movements; acting as a contact point for supporters; participating in service and welcoming strategies; providing first aid, if necessary; and taking emergency action when directed to do so.

Through their various tasks, stewards actively contribute to the welcoming, protection, comfort and well-being of all categories of participants. This contribution is crucial insofar as this service function, depending on whether or not it is properly performed, can have a direct impact on spectator behaviour and therefore on the associated safety and safety risks.

Role of the police

The police are responsible for preventing and combating crime, including violence and major disorder, maintaining and restoring public order, together with working in co-operation with all the actors responsible for safety.

Each safety actor has an important and complementary role to play

Effective co-operation and collaboration between the stadium safety manager and the police is essential for the implementation of safety and security arrangements.⁴

Roles of public authorities

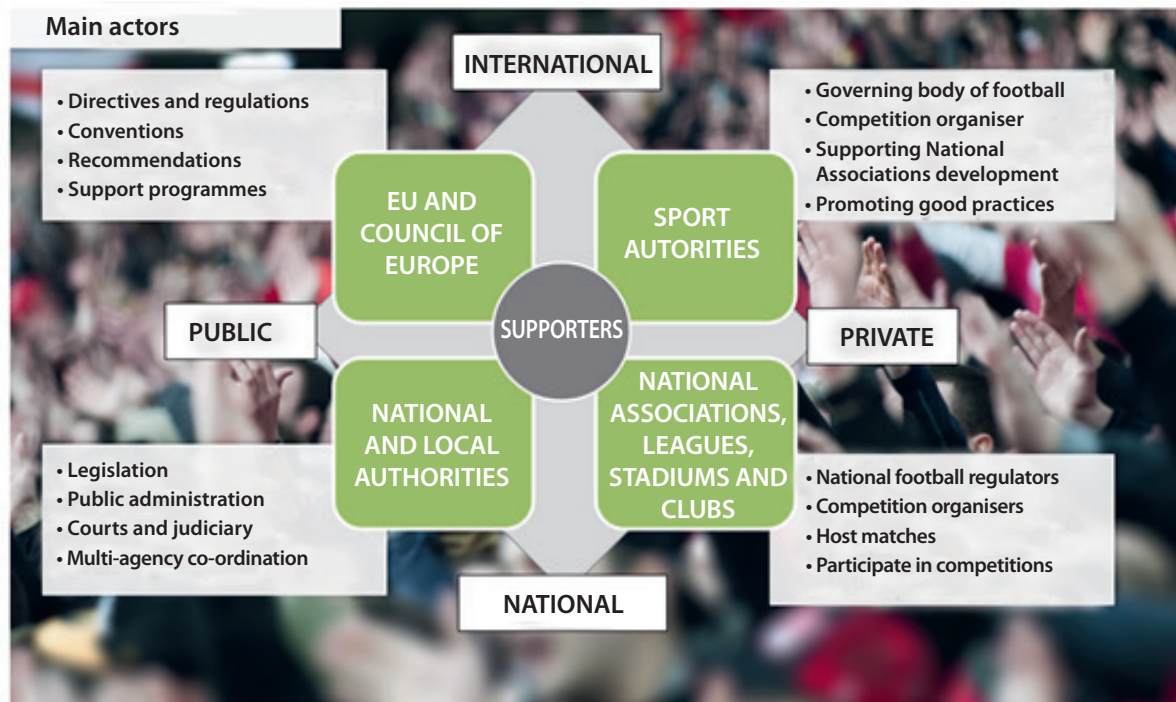
The range of public authorities responsible for safety, security and service at sporting events is broad, with primacy lying with governments, regions and municipalities. These competent public authorities are responsible for adopting regulations and mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of stadium licensing procedures and certification mechanisms. The public authorities ensure that the safety regulations are properly applied and monitored and controlled.

They are also responsible for setting up national, regional or local co-ordination mechanisms. These arrangements are essential to create a partnership philosophy between public authorities, event organisers, the police and other stakeholders.

The Saint-Denis Convention advocates that all stakeholders work in partnership

Each has an important role to play, complementary to that of the other players.

4. For more information on this subject, please refer to Factsheet 8: *Security at sporting events – what is it all about?*



Main actors

	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
INTERNATIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of Europe (Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events of the Saint-Denis Convention) • EU (Law Enforcement Working Party, Major Sports Events Experts Group) • Europol, Interpol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport authorities (FIFA, UEFA, CIO, etc.) • International Supporter Associations • Dedicated NGOs • Media
NATIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police (local / regional / national) • Fire Brigade • Emergency Services • Public Hospitals • Local authorities • Governmental agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club / Association • Stadium operator • Stadium S&S provider(s) • S&S providers (guards, stewards, volunteers, etc.) • Medical service provider(s) • Players, referees, observers and other match officials • Local communities • Supporters • Media



” 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)
<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>

