



*For the Game. For the World.*

# Safety Regulations



## Fédération Internationale de Football Association

*President:* Joseph S. Blatter  
*Secretary General:* Jérôme Valcke  
*Address:* FIFA  
FIFA-Strasse 20  
P.O. Box  
8044 Zurich  
Switzerland  
*Telephone:* +41-(0)43-222 7777  
*Telefax:* +41-(0)43-222 7878  
*Internet:* [www.FIFA.com](http://www.FIFA.com)

# FIFA Safety Regulations

## CONTENTS

Article	Page
<b>Preamble</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I. General</b>	<b>5</b>
1 Scope of application	5
2 Responsibility	5
<b>II. Structural and technical measures</b>	<b>6</b>
3 Basic principles	6
4 Area outside the stadium	6
5 Stadium perimeter, turnstiles and checkpoints	6
6 Perimeter surrounding field of play, emergency entry points to field of play, players' entry point	7
7 Evacuation routes	8
8 Spectator areas	9
9 Rooms for security forces and television surveillance	10
10 Security measures for teams, referees and VIPs	11
11 Lighting, emergency power supply	12
12 Giant screen and public address system	12
13 Telephone installations	13
14 Fire safety	14
15 First aid	14
<b>III. Organisational/operational measures</b>	<b>15</b>
16 Basic principle	15
17 Security officer	15
18 Entry to the stadium, sale of tickets	16

19	Security checks	18
20	Alcohol and beverages	19
21	Unobstructed emergency exits	20
22	Stewards	20

#### **IV. Other requirements** **23**

23	Stadium plans	23
24	Stadium code of conduct	23
25	Stadium announcer	23
26	Prevention of provocative and aggressive actions	24
27	Stadium bans	25
28	High-risk matches	26

#### **V. Final provisions** **28**

29	Administrative rules	28
30	Violations	28
31	Matters not provided for	28
32	Diverging texts	28
33	Effective date	29

#### **The terms given below denote the following:**

FIFA:	Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
Associations:	a football association recognised by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA, unless a different meaning is evident from the context.
Confederations:	a group of associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).
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 non-inflammable material. The seats shall also have a backrest of at least 30 centimetres when measured from the seat (inside measurement).
Official:	every board member, committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters at FIFA, a confederation, association, league or club.

## PREAMBLE

These regulations are intended to make all match organisers aware of their duties and responsibilities before, during and after matches.

These regulations contain the safety measures that match organisers, associations and clubs must take to help to prevent crowd disturbances and to help to ensure a minimum of safety and order within the confines and vicinity of the stadium. The regulations 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.

### Article **1** Scope of application

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1. The host associations/confederations of FIFA events and the Olympic Football Tournaments are obliged to apply these regulations (qualifying and final competition matches) when these events are under the direct operational administration of FIFA. These regulations constitute minimum requirements, however, when the respective confederations' safety provisions are stricter or more exhaustive with regard to some or all of the principles established hereinafter, in which case the confederations' safety regulations shall prevail.
2. In the event that the confederations organise the preliminary competition of a FIFA event or the Olympic Football Tournaments in accordance with the respective FIFA competition regulations and in the event that the confederations or the associations organise their respective competitions, tournaments and matches, their own safety regulations shall be applicable. The present FIFA regulations may only serve as guidelines.

### Article **2** Responsibility

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If the confederation, 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

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### Article 3 Basic principles

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1. The separate FIFA publication *Football Stadiums: Technical Recommendations and Requirements* must be observed and used as a reference for all FIFA events.
2. 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.
3. The laws, regulations and administrative directives in place for the construction and technical facilities of stadiums must be respected.
4. The capacity of the stadium must always refer to the maximum safe capacity of the said stadium.
5. In the stadium, it is not allowed to possess any weapons and/or any other dangerous objects, including racist or aggressive banners and lasers.

### Article 4 Area outside the stadium

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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 signs providing directions (location of sectors and entrances) within the immediate vicinity of the stadium.

### Article 5 Stadium perimeter, turnstiles and checkpoints

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1. A wall or fence may 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 in the stadium itself and the concourse surrounding the stadium shall be designed in such a way as to facilitate the flow of persons and vehicles in and around the stadium.



3. All access gates must be able to be opened or closed quickly without causing any danger. The gates shall be designed to withstand pressure from large crowds of people. When open, the gates must be firmly secured. The gates must also be equipped with fireproof locks.
4. All entry points must be equipped with facilities for searching persons and examining objects, and for storing objects securely.
5. Turnstiles and checkpoint facilities may be incorporated within the perimeter wall enclosing the stadium. They must be able to withstand extreme pressure and be fireproof.

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**Article 6 Perimeter surrounding field of play, emergency entry points to field of play, players' entry point**

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1. While the removal of all perimeter fences and screens from football stadiums is desirable, it is acknowledged that there are places where local authorities insist upon the provision of such barriers.
2. The field of play 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 (e.g. a greater number of police officers), prior approval must be sought from the local authorities.
3. There must be emergency access points to the field of play. Emergency gates must be incorporated into the fence 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.
4. 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 stairways 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 as to avoid creating an obstacle.

## II. STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL MEASURES

5. The emergency exit gates shall have one door, be wide enough and remain staffed and unlocked at all times. They shall be a different colour from their surroundings and easily identifiable by numbers or letters on both sides of the gate.
6. 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 spectators' side. If the remote-controlled systems malfunction, the gate must be able to be opened by hand immediately.
7. On entering and leaving the field of play, as well as during the match, players and officials must be protected against intrusions from spectators.

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### Article 7 Evacuation routes

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1. Emergency evacuation routes, one inside and one outside the stadium, must be agreed upon with the local security forces (police, stewards, fire service, first aid and emergency services). The external evacuation route shall have two lanes and be negotiable by vehicle.
2. Adequate areas are required around the stadium to allow for the accommodation of spectators following an evacuation without overcrowding. These need to be identified and systems should be in place to direct spectators there if necessary. The size and location of such areas should permit the free access of the police, fire and ambulance services.
3. The field of play within the stadium must be accessible from at least one vehicle entry point.

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**Article 8** **Spectator areas**

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1. The three major FIFA tournaments (the FIFA World Cup™ including qualifying matches, the FIFA Confederations Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup) and the 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 relevant local authority.
2. The spectator areas shall be divided into sectors and identifiable as such. Sectors shall be marked in such a way as to allow 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 of the routes used by other spectators as possible.
4. Safety barriers are to be erected 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 one sector to another.
5. The stairways themselves 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.
7. Individual seats with a backrest of at least 30 centimetres should be installed in the standing areas of stadiums.

## II. STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL MEASURES

8. By their very nature, design and construction, temporary stands are clearly intended for use on a match-by-match basis and FIFA does not recommend their use. An application for the use of temporary stands may only be envisaged provided that there is no other national stadium available and that the local authorities have previously inspected the construction in question and subsequently issued a certificate of approval, on which basis FIFA will carry out its own inspection. The issue of the safety certificate must take into account the integrated management of and support to the existing facilities, without neglecting any operational areas such as management of the safe maximum capacity, stewarding and integration with the general emergency evacuation plans.
9. Each venue should adopt a schedule of day-to-day maintenance. Any damage should be identified and items such as seats should be repaired or replaced as necessary before each event. Facilities should be cleaned and any dangerous objects should be removed.

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### Article **9** Rooms for security forces and television surveillance

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1. The security forces and stewards may be provided with meeting and storage rooms, as well as sufficient space for any vehicles that may be required.
2. The first aid and emergency services, police, stewards and fire service may 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 – other areas deemed to be of interest with regard to safety and security.
3. The command centres for the safety teams specified in par. 2 above shall, if possible, be located in adjoining rooms (to form a central safety point). The stadium announcer's room and the police control room shall also be located next to each other.

4. The provision of detention 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 room and connected to the police monitors. A freeze frame facility shall also be available to identify individuals.

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**Article 10 Security measures for teams, referees and VIPs**

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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 secure areas are also advisable.
2. Par. 1 above also applies to approach roads and entry/exit points for all VIPs.
3. For VVIPs, there shall also be rooms and areas that are protected against 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.
4. The match organisers must guarantee in cooperation with the local police authorities the safety of the participating teams and their officials – as well as the FIFA match officials – during their whole stay, from arrival to departure.

## II. STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL MEASURES

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### Article 11 Lighting, emergency power supply

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1. For matches played when there is insufficient natural light, the following areas must be illuminated:
  - Entry/exit points in 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.

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### Article 12 Giant screen and public address system

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#### a) Giant screen

If a stadium has a giant screen, it may be used before, during and after the match, provided that the relevant FIFA regulations and instructions are strictly observed.

#### b) Public address system

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;
  - The area between the outer and inner perimeters as well as the stands, including all entry/exit points;
  - The spectator areas, divided into the following zones:
    - Behind the goals;
    - Other spectator sectors (in particular those of the away and home fans);
  - The field of play.

2. The public address system shall ensure that all announcements are clear and audible in all conditions and made in the teams' respective languages. It must be ensured that the public address system automatically broadcasts at maximum volume in emergencies. The system must also be equipped with an emergency broadcast switch.
3. The provisions for the emergency power supply under art. 11 par. 2 also apply to the public address system.
4. The police control room shall have an emergency override facility for the public address system.

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### Article **13** Telephone installations

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1. The control centres of the event management and security services shall be equipped with an internal telephone network.
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 (if available);
  - Team and referee's dressing rooms;
  - Team headquarters – if applicable;
  - The FIFA match officials' office.
3. The provision of additional telephone lines in other potential focal points in the stadium is also recommended.
4. It is also recommended that the telephone lines specified in par. 2 above be equipped with an intercom system.

## II. STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL MEASURES

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### Article 14 Fire safety

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1. Fire may present one of the greatest safety risks at a venue. Preventive measures, such as the removal of sources of ignition, the provision of fire doors and the adoption of sensible precautions, especially where food is being prepared, can greatly reduce this risk.
2. All hydrant terminals required by the local fire service must be installed.
3. Fire extinguishers must also be provided in areas to be defined by the fire service. The fire extinguishers should clearly indicate whether they have been used or if they need to be replaced.
4. At all matches, the inner areas of the stadium shall be equipped with buckets of sand and flame-retardant gloves.

### Article 15 First aid

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The medical service shall be permanently provided with suitable rooms for the first aid treatment of spectators and any other person, other than the doping test room or the players' medical attention room.



#### Article 16 Basic principle

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The confederations and associations shall undertake all suitable organisational and operational measures against dangers to the stadium, spectators and the organisation of the match, and eliminate any dangers that may arise.

#### Article 17 Security officer

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1. Each confederation and association must appoint a security officer. 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 officer shall maintain contact with the police authorities, the emergency services 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.
3. The security officer shall be responsible for assessing and addressing risks and for taking measures which are in coordination with those being taken by the police, emergency services, public authorities and any other entities involved in the management of the event. These could include the following issues:
  - Political tensions at national, local or club level;
  - Terrorist threats;
  - Historical enmity between clubs or their supporters;
  - Supporters without tickets, counterfeit tickets or tickets allocated for the opposing team's supporters' areas;
  - Supporters with a history of using pyrotechnics or any other dangerous objects, including lasers;
  - The possibility of racist or aggressive language, banners or behaviour.

This is best achieved through the preparation of written contingency plans covering the range of possible incidents that may adversely affect

### III. ORGANISATIONAL/OPERATIONAL MEASURES

the safety of spectators or disrupt normal operations. These may be large or small. Among the matters to which they may relate are the structure of the venue, the safety equipment, crowd control and ticketing. In some cases they may require the evacuation of the venue. The plans should be tested and should be updated in the light of the outcome.

4. The security officer shall assume responsibility for the ongoing education and training of all security officers employed by clubs. He shall also conduct all briefings and devise a training and education programme.

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#### Article 18 Entry to the stadium, sale of tickets

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1. On match days, only persons in possession of valid permits shall be granted entry to the stadium. Valid permits include:
  - Match tickets;
  - Workers' identity cards;
  - Passes.
2. The identity cards of members of the security forces that allow them to carry out operational tasks shall also be regarded as valid permits.
3. The permits shall, as far as possible, be forgery-proof and protected against multiple usage.
4. The permits shall restrict access to specific, clearly marked areas. The number of "access all areas" passes shall be restricted to an absolute minimum.
5. Match tickets shall display the date of the match, and if possible, details of the teams involved. On each match ticket, the exact sector, row and seat number must be printed as well as a plan of the stadium on the reverse side.
6. The sale of match tickets shall be subject to strict control. 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.

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.
8. Each association shall take all reasonable measures for ensuring that its 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 issued with tickets.
9. The tickets shall be protected against forgery by integrating security features into the ticket. If there is the slightest suspicion that forged tickets may be in circulation, the police must be informed immediately.
10. On the day of the match, tickets may not be sold at the stadium but only elsewhere at the venue with the approval of the police and/or the relevant public authorities and in consultation with the visiting association or club. Any limitation on the number of tickets to be sold per purchaser must be determined in consultation with the police and/or the relevant public authorities.
11. The number of tickets on sale cannot exceed the declared and approved maximum safe capacity of the stadium. The match organiser shall be in possession of a certificate issued by the local authorities that confirms the exact maximum safe capacity. The stadium maximum safe capacity may be reviewed and reduced accordingly in the event of special circumstances. This certificate should be constantly reviewed and specifically examined to ensure that it is suitable for such events. In exercising this function, the public authorities will work in coordination with the police, fire and medical services and the representatives of the organiser or stadium management.
12. The correct determination of both the maximum permitted capacity and the maximum times allowed for the entry, exit and emergency exit of spectators is crucial for the event. It shall be undertaken by the public authorities. The safe capacity shall be based on whichever is lower, the capacity of the spectator accommodation or the number of spectators who can safely use the entrances, exits or emergency exits within the prescribed period, which will vary according to the design and structure of the stadium. Experience has shown that all spectators should ideally

### III. ORGANISATIONAL/OPERATIONAL MEASURES

be able to enter a free-flowing exit system within a maximum of eight minutes. The capacity shall be reduced if either the physical condition of the stadium or the safety management is inadequate.

13. A system that records the number of spectators who have entered the stadium through each entrance can play a major part in preventing overcrowding in sections of the stadium. Experience has shown that the practice of merely checking tickets is susceptible to forgery or abuse. Any entry-counting system should also account for the number of people afforded VIP status and housed in corporate facilities within the stadium.
14. The price of tickets for supporters of the visiting team shall not exceed the price of tickets for supporters of the home team in a similar category.

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#### Article 19 Security checks

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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. The entry security checks shall verify the following:
  - Possession of a valid permit to gain access to the 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, including aggressive or racist banners and lasers;
  - That the person is not in possession of any alcoholic beverages;
  - That the person is not under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating substances.

Upon exit, a visual control of the smooth egress of the spectators shall take place at the exit points.

3. At the security checkpoints, persons may be subjected to a search of their person and/or possessions.
4. Any persons who resist such searches shall be refused entry to the stadium. Stewards may not enforce a compulsory search policy.

5. Should any objects be found in violation of par. 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 his handover to the police, which should take place without delay. If a person surrenders his right of ownership and possession of an object and is not liable to be taken into police custody as no criminal offence has been committed, the confiscated object shall be held in a secure place until such time as it can be destroyed.
6. If during the security checks it appears that a person is under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating substances, he shall be refused access to the stadium.

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**Article 20 Alcohol and beverages**

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1. FIFA recognises that the regulation of the consumption of alcohol is critical. If the possession, sale, distribution or consumption of alcohol is to be permitted at a match, then the match organiser must take all reasonable measures to ensure that the consumption of alcohol does not interfere with the spectators' safe enjoyment of the match. Unless otherwise regulated by the law of the country where the event takes place, the following minimum measures are to be used:
  - Restrict the sale and distribution of alcohol to authorised personnel;
  - Prohibit the possession and distribution of alcohol at the stadium premises (outer security perimeter) or in the stadium itself by any unauthorised individuals;
  - Prohibit the admission of any individual that appears to be drunk;
  - Prohibit the possession and distribution of glass or plastic bottles, cans or other closed portable containers that may be thrown and cause injury.
2. FIFA, the confederations and associations reserve the right to further restrict the possession, sale, distribution or consumption of alcohol at matches, including the type of beverages that may be sold, where alcoholic beverages may be consumed, or banning alcohol, as deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

### III. ORGANISATIONAL/OPERATIONAL MEASURES

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#### Article 21 Unobstructed emergency exits

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1. The emergency exit routes specified in art. 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 of the stadium until it is closed.
3. If the stadium also contains a running track, at least one side must be kept clear to allow the passage of vehicles.

#### Article 22 Stewards

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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 regulations.
2. In order to fulfil the duties mentioned in par. 1 above, a team of stewards – consisting of male and female employees – must be deployed. 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 as a minimum wear the same style of jacket, which shall bear the word “steward”. The head stewards shall also be easily identifiable by 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 competition. The information from this briefing session shall also be communicated to the other members of the team of stewards.

5. If the confederation or association concerned decides to contract an external security company as the team of stewards, a corresponding contract must be concluded. This contract shall particularly cover the following:
  - Tasks (cf. par. 6 below);
  - Scope of tasks;
  - Positions to be filled;
  - Staff scheduling;
  - Time required for tasks;
  - Rights and duties of stewards in relation to stadium visitors;
  - Number and profile of the staff to be deployed, as well as details of their experience and personal qualifications;
  - Organisation of teams of stewards, organisational structure;
  - Identification (clothing) of stewards.
  
6. The stewards 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 key 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 removing 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 who 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 inside the stadium on account of legal restrictions or the stadium regulations;
  - Ensuring that spectators remain separated, in accordance with their tickets;
  - Preventing fans from moving into a 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;

### III. ORGANISATIONAL/OPERATIONAL MEASURES

- Staffing the entry and exit points, as well as the emergency exit points in 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 field of play and immediate surroundings;
  - Protecting the players and match officials when entering and leaving the field of play;
  - Controlling the flow of vehicles and pedestrians 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 where they are unable to immediately avert the danger themselves.
7. The tasks and duties of the stewards shall be divided into distinct sectors and possibly sub-sectors. Managers/leaders with suitable training shall be assigned to these areas.
8. The number of stewards to be deployed 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 deployed.
9. All managers/leaders shall be equipped with walkie-talkies, as shall all stewards assigned to high-risk areas.
10. Exact details of the positions of the walkie-talkies shall be specified in a general communications overview document, which should encompass all security forces. This document shall be distributed accordingly.



## IV. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

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### Article 23 Stadium plans

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1. Plans of the stadium shall be drawn up and displayed at the stadium, detailing all of the stadium's facilities, gates, entry and exit points, perimeters, emergency exit routes and signs.
2. If requested, the police, fire service, first aid services and stewards shall be provided with smaller copies of the above plans.

### Article 24 Stadium code of conduct

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1. A stadium code of conduct that meet legal requirements shall be drafted for the stadium in consultation with the local security forces and the stadium proprietor and shall be displayed at the stadium.
2. The stadium code of conduct shall contain provisions that help to reduce the risk of spectator behaviour that may threaten safety and order. If these provisions are violated, the offenders shall be punished accordingly.

### Article 25 Stadium announcer

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1. The stadium announcer shall be trained accordingly and provided with texts written in advance for broadcasting over the public address system, in the teams' respective languages.
2. Texts covering the following eventualities shall be drafted and readily available to both the public announcer and the police:
  - Congestion in spectator areas in front of entry gates;
  - Spectators still outside the entry gates at kick-off;
  - Decision by referee to postpone match;
  - Clashes between violent groups of supporters;
  - Penetration of perimeter fence by one or more spectators;
  - Discovery of potentially explosive/inflammable device;
  - Threat of attacks with explosive/inflammable devices;
  - Possible danger caused by poor weather or stadium design faults;
  - Danger posed by panic among spectators.

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### Article 26 Prevention of provocative and aggressive actions

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#### **a) Political action**

The promotion or announcement of political or religious messages or any other political or religious actions, inside or in the immediate vicinity of the stadium, by any means, is strictly prohibited before, during and after football matches.

#### **b) Provocative, aggressive action, racism**

1. The match organisers have to guarantee in cooperation with the local security authorities that, in the stadium or its immediate vicinity, supporters do not act in a provocative or aggressive manner. This includes, for example, unacceptable levels of verbal provocation or aggression towards players, match officials or opposing fans, racist behaviour and banners and flags that bear provocative or aggressive slogans. If such actions arise, the match organisers and/or security forces must intervene over the public address system and immediately remove any offensive material. Stewards must draw the attention of the police to serious acts of misbehaviour, including racist insults, so that offenders may be removed from the stadium.
2. Furthermore, all associations and clubs shall observe the relevant FIFA regulations and implement all available measures to prevent such misconduct.

#### **c) Supporter liaison officer**

1. All associations shall employ a supporter liaison officer. It is recommended that the 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 par. 2 above:
  - Dialogue with spectators, dissemination of information;
  - Mixing with spectators during home and away matches and intervening in dangerous situations;
  - Attending events with club supporter liaison officers.

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Article **27** Stadium bans

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1. The relevant authorities 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.
2. The relevant authorities must cooperate, exchange and corroborate information at their disposal before every football event, thus ensuring the smooth application of stadium bans in the area of jurisdiction of the match organisers.
3. If a stadium ban is violated, the relevant authorities shall prosecute the offender on account of unlawful entry and remove any persons subject to a ban from the stadium.
4. Only the body that imposed the ban may rescind it.

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### Article 28 High-risk matches

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1. It is primarily the responsibility of the host association to class a match as high-risk. However, the respective confederation and/or FIFA may also take such a decision. This decision shall be taken as soon as possible after consultation with the security forces, and in particular, with the head of overall security. The association shall inform the FIFA general secretariat of its decision immediately. The same shall apply where a proposal from a visiting association or the security forces is not acted upon. 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 are not deemed to be exhaustive but shall be implemented for matches classed as high-risk:
  - Strictly separating fans by allocating sectors other than those indicated 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 in spectator sectors, around the field of play and between the groups of rival supporters;
  - Ensuring that the stairways in all spectator sectors remain free and unobstructed;
  - Supervising the stadium and ensuring the presence of permanent security in the stadium as 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, railway station, port or bus/tram station and back;
  - Employing a stadium announcer from the visiting association;
  - Keeping spectators in the stadium at the end of the match until order outside the stadium can be guaranteed. In such cases, the following principles shall be observed:
    - a) shortly before the end of the match, the decision to retain a group of supporters shall be announced over the public address system in the language of the supporter group concerned;

- b) the match organiser shall ensure that, during this period of retention, the retained supporters have access to refreshments and sanitary facilities;
- c) if possible, the retained supporters shall be entertained (music, video scoreboard, etc.) to help the waiting time pass more quickly and keep them calm;
- d) the retained supporters should be informed regularly of how much longer they may have to wait before being allowed to leave the stadium.

FIFA may provide further instructions and recommendations on a match-by-match basis.

3. FIFA may decide at any time to appoint a FIFA security officer to its matches.

## V. FINAL PROVISIONS

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### Article 29 Administrative rules

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

### Article 30 Violations

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Any violation of these regulations in relation to matches at FIFA events may be subject to disciplinary measures from the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. Violations in relation to matches under the jurisdiction of a 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.

### Article 31 Matters not provided for

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1. Any matters that are not provided for in the present regulations shall be dealt with by the relevant FIFA bodies.
2. Such decisions are final.

### Article 32 Diverging texts

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1. The regulations exist in the four official languages of FIFA (English, French, German, Spanish).
2. In the event of any discrepancy between the four texts, the English version shall be authoritative.

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Article **33** **Effective date**

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The FIFA Executive Committee adopted these regulations on 20 December 2008. They shall come into force on 1 January 2009.

Zurich, 29 December 2008

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President:  
Joseph S. Blatter

Secretary General:  
Jérôme Valcke

## NOTES









**100 YEARS FIFA 1904 - 2004**

Fédération Internationale de Football Association