

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULATORY – LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

24th July 2017

Report of the Director of Legal Services

Regulation of Sports Grounds- Review of Arrangements

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on the arrangements in place for the regulation of sports grounds in Derbyshire and to approve a minor amendment to the capacity at the Proact Stadium.

2. Information and Analysis

Chesterfield Football Club- Proact Stadium

A General Safety Certificate in respect of the stadium in accordance with the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 was granted by the Committee in June 2010. The ground is a 'designated ground' within the meaning of this legislation.

The Derbyshire Safety of Sports Grounds Advisory Group, chaired by the Deputy Director of Legal Services and set up in accordance with the recommendations of Lord Justice Taylor following the Hillsborough Disaster, is responsible for ensuring that the contents of the Certificate are observed by the Club. The terms of reference and policy objectives of the Group were agreed at a previous meeting of this Committee. Match Inspections are carried out based on risk.

The work of the Derbyshire Safety Advisory Group is subject to a 'self-assessment' process overseen by the relevant national regulator. (Sports Grounds Safety Authority-SGSA). The Group has previously been commended by the SGSA. Identified strengths include the process for arriving at maximum capacity calculations, and certification and monitoring arrangements.

A number of changes have taken place at the Club since the last report to the Committee in September 2016. Following the departure of the then Chief Executive Chris Turner the Club have proposed that the Club Secretary Sally

AGENDA ITEM 4A

Swain should be the certificate holder for the safety certificate. Following consultation with the police and the fire service this proposal was approved.

In addition the Club Safety Officer, Colin Nellist, is to retire and will be succeeded by Tony Booker who was previously the Deputy Safety Officer. However, Colin Nellist will continue in the capacity of Deputy Safety Officer until such time as a successor is identified.

In relation to the renewal of the Safety Certificate for 2017/8 no substantial concerns or proposed amendments to the Certificate have been raised by any of the consultees and it was agreed at the relevant Advisory Group meeting that the stadium should continue to be assessed as having a Physical Condition factor of 1 and a Safety Management factor of 1, in both cases the maximum allowable.

A minor adjustment is proposed to the capacity of the stadium as set out in Appendix1. The total capacity is now 10,358 (unsegregated) or 10,322 (segregated). This compares with 10,379 and 10,293 respectively for 2016/7.

As indicated above all necessary certificates and inspection reports have been, or will be, provided by the Club prior to the start of the season. Issues identified on the regular fire safety inspection will also be resolved prior to the start of the season.

Policing of the fixtures and stewarding levels will be agreed with the Club.

Regulated Stands/Smaller Sports Grounds

There are currently 3 “places of sport” in the county where there is a regulated stand. Regulated stands are stands which are capable of accommodating at least 500 people under cover.

These are:

Buxton Football Club (2 stands)

Buxton Raceway,

Ilkeston Football Club,

All the regulated stands above are of simple design and are covered standing areas with no combustible structural elements.

In addition to the regulated stands at these grounds there are other non-regulated stands and facilities that do not fall within the certification for the regulated stands but for which the Council retains responsibility to the extent of identifying whether they might pose a serious risk to spectators .

The safety certificates for each of the regulated stands were reviewed during 2016.

Ilkeston Football Club has unfortunately recently been placed in into liquidation. The liquidators have been in contact with the Council and are aware of the requirements of the safety legislation.

Smaller Sports Grounds

Safety Group visits have taken place over the summer covering Queen's Park Chesterfield (Derbyshire County Cricket Club), Shirebrook Town FC, Matlock Town FC, Alfreton Town FC, Heanor Town, New Mills AFC, Gresley FC and also Buxton FC and Buxton Raceway

As a part of these visits the Clubs have been reminded of the advisory capacities applying as appropriate and any necessary actions identified.

The Vice Chair of the Committee, Councillor Ashton, participated in the inspection process, as did Councillor Iliffe for the Heanor Town inspection.

3. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; environmental, health, human rights, personnel and property considerations.

4. Officer Recommendations

That the Committee notes the update and approves the revised capacity for the Proact Stadium as set out in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Capacities

Location			
West Stand	2998		
South Stand	2064		
North Stand	2088		
East Stand	Unsegregated	3208	
	Segregated	3172	
Total	Unsegregated		10,358
	Segregated		10,322

Explanatory note

The capacity of the West Stand has been reduced by 21 as 21 fewer press seats were provided compared with the number shown on the original plans on which the present Capacity Calculations were based.

The segregated case for the East Stand has been based on 4 rows of 9 seats being taken out of use above the second vomitory from the north end of the stand. This case requires the exit gate immediately north of the north end wall of the East Stand to be available for use to avoid exceeding the capacity of the northernmost vomitory in the stand.