

## Spectators with disabilities

We have highlighted some areas for consideration for clubs and venues to cater for those with disabilities.

### Persons with impaired vision

Signposting, especially fire or other safety signs, should be positioned so that, as far as possible, they can be easily seen and readily distinguishable by those with impaired vision or colour perception.

### Persons with impaired hearing

Although people with impaired hearing may experience difficulty in hearing messages broadcast on a system designed for those with normal hearing, a hearing impairment does not mean that in all cases a person is insensitive to sound and that they do not have sufficiently clear perception of all conventional alarm signals.

Where this is not the case it is reasonable to expect spectators who have been alerted to prepare for evacuation to warn those with impaired hearing.

### Persons with impaired mobility

Although it is unlikely that anyone whose mobility is severely impaired will occupy standing accommodation, they will often wish to occupy seated accommodation, perhaps with friends or relatives, in stands.

Arrangements should exist to meet such wishes where possible. For example, by the provision of wheelchair spaces within seated areas, preferably in different parts so that there is a choice of seating position.

Such provision should ensure occupants have an unrestricted view. Where possible, there should be more than one ingress/egress for those with impaired mobility. Although movement to and from accommodation at ground level is easier for users of wheelchairs, consideration should be given to means of accommodation on other levels without jeopardising safety.

#### Disclaimer

Any views or opinions expressed in this briefing are for guidance only and are not intended as a substitute for appropriate professional guidance. We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the information contained herein is accurate at the time of writing but it should not be regarded as a complete or authoritative statement of law.



### Wheelchairs

Where a person leaves a wheelchair in order to occupy a seat, provision should be made for the wheelchair to be readily accessible without it causing obstruction in a gangway or exit route. Those who choose to remain in a wheelchair should be accommodated so as not to obstruct the movement of others.

### Support facilities

Ramps which are to be used by wheelchair users should conform to industry standards. Support services and facilities for disabled people should also be available at the venue.

New design work for existing stands should take industry standards into account. Where constraints are posed by existing buildings and it is not possible or practicable to apply the Code fully, other ways of meeting its objectives should be sought.

The arrangements described above should be in addition to any special provision made for the admission (often at ground level) of vehicles used by people with impaired mobility. The location of such vehicles should be arranged with the relevant safety authority to ensure access to the playing surface by emergency vehicles and means of escape are not compromised.

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