

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 10 JANUARY 2012

AMENDMENTS TO SAFETY CERIFICATES FOR STATION PARK, FORFAR AND GAYFIELD PARK, ARBROATH

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This Report deals with amendments to the Safety Certificates in relation to Station Park, Forfar and Gayfield Park, Arbroath which increases the maximum capacity of supporters of both these Grounds.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to homologate the action of the Head of Law and Administration, taken in consultation with the Convener of the Committee, to issue amended Safety Certificates for Station Park, Forfar and Gayfield Park, Arbroath to reflect the increased capacity figures.

2. GAYFIELD PARK, ARBROATH

Under Section 1 of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, sports grounds designated by the Secretary of State, being sports grounds with accommodation for more than 10,000 spectators, require a General Safety Certificate. Gayfield Park, Arbroath is so designated and a Safety Certificate was issued in respect of that ground, following approval by this Committee on 14 June 2011. However, members will recall that, some years ago, the Certificate was issued with a revised capacity of 4,153.

Within the terms of Section 3 of the current General Safety Certificate, the maximum numbers to be admitted to the sports ground remained at 4,153. The maximum number of spectators to be admitted to the different parts of the sports ground was as follows:-

ACCOMMODATION	LOCATION	CAPACITY
Stand	North	848
Covered Enclosures:	South	783
	East	415
	West	415
	Terraces:	North West
	North East	394
	South West	455
	South East	438
Total Capacity		<u>4,153</u>

As part of the annual safety inspection undertaken by the Tayside Sports Ground Safety Team it was noted that a programme of replacement crush barriers was in place. This programme was accelerated following Arbroath FC being given a home tie with Rangers FC in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup on Sunday 8 January 2012. The further load testing carried out on all the crush barriers & pitch perimeter fencing enabled a recalculation of the ground capacity.

Accordingly, under Section 4 of the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 an amended Safety Certificate was issued to the club to reflect the changes in the new capacity of Gayfield Park as detailed below:-

ACCOMMODATION	LOCATION	CAPACITY
Stand	North	861 (inc disabled plus companions)
Covered Enclosures:	South	1,230
	East	767
	West	713
Terraces:	North West	544
	North East	642
	South West	578
	South East	605
Total Capacity		<u>5,940</u>

3. STATION PARK, FORFAR

Section 26 of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 requires that a General Safety Certificate be issued where there is a covered stand (i.e. with seated or standing accommodation) which can accommodate at least 500 spectators, referred to as "regulated stands" in sports grounds which are **not** designated under the 1975 Act. There are three non-designated sports grounds in Angus of which Station Park, Forfar is one. A General Safety Certificate was issued in respect of the regulated stand at that ground, again following approval by this Committee on 14th June 2011.

Since that Safety Certificate was issued additional crush barriers have been installed in certain sections of the terracing along with further testing carried out on the pitch perimeter barrier at Station Park. The further load testing carried out on the new crush barriers & pitch perimeter fencing has enabled a recalculation of the ground capacity.

Accordingly, under Section 4 of the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 an amended Safety Certificate was issued to the club to reflect the changes in the new capacity of the covered standing enclosure at Station Park (the only section of the ground along with the stand which is affected by the Safety Certificate under the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sports Act 1987). This was done to ensure that all the up to date paperwork was in place before the visit of Aberdeen FC on 7th January for a Scottish Cup Fourth Round tie.

Members should note that the maximum number of spectators for the covered standing enclosure at Station Park under the amended Certificate is now 2,068. The recent improvements at Station Park now increase the total ground capacity from 5,177 to 6,777.

4. AMENDED SAFETY CERIFICATES

Due to all the works and necessary inspections only being concluded in mid December it was not possible to report this to Committee for formal approval before the Scottish Cup ties. Section 4 (2) of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 allows the local authority in cases where it appears appropriate for them to do so to amend a Safety Certificate either on the application of the holder or without such an application. The Head of Law and Administration in these circumstances was of the view that it was appropriate to issue an amended certificate with the revised capacities.

As the delegated authority for issuing amended Safety Certificates does not rest with the Head of Law and Administration and given the timescales involved, on this occasion the Head of Law and Administration consulted with the Convener of the Committee who agreed that amended Safety Certificates should be issued to both clubs on the basis that a Report would be submitted to the next available meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee for homologation of the decision.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations contained in this Report.

7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

8. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Head of Planning and Transport, Head of Roads and Tayside Police have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

COLIN McMAHON
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers: Report No 671/10.

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