

CONTRIBUTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO SPORTS FACILITY SAFETY AND SECURITY: A FOCUS ON STADIUM

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ABSTRACT

There is no doubt that sports especially football is one of the most crowd-pulling social events across diverse societies. Active and passive sportspersons converge mostly in the sports facility to participate in football. Sport studies have shown that the safety and security of the sportspersons at the stadium as well as the stadium and football itself are of great concern to sports stakeholders. The sports stakeholders have responsibilities to ensure the safety and security of the stadium as a facility for football. The paper discussed entry/exit/emergency points, fence and fencing, security personnel, stadium capacity, waste management, seat and seating dynamics, ticket and ticketing dynamics, stadium access time, sports facility design and construction, poor sports officiating, drug use by sports persons, sports consumers' profile and crowd dynamics as contributors to stadium safety and security. The responsibilities of government, players/athletes, officiating officials, sports federations/associations/governing bodies, fans, parents, spectators, media, football sponsors and security personnel to stadium safety and security were equally highlighted.

Keywords: Stakeholder, responsibility, safety, security, sports facility, stadium.

INTRODUCTION

Modern and aesthetical sports facilities are objects of attraction and admiration to sports participants. There are a lot of management, legal and social issues that may arise if safety and security of sports facilities such as stadium are ignored or compromised. Elendu, Amasiatu and Orunaboka (2017) conceptualized sports facility as those immovable structures where sports take place. Sports facility is a permanent structure constructed or built for sports. Sports facility is an important material resource or structure for sports development. Based on ownership structures, Schwarz, Hall and Shibli (2010) classified sports facilities into three namely public sport facilities, non-profit sport facilities, and commercial sport facilities. In terms of governance structures, sport facilities are classified into public governance, private governance, non-profit/voluntary governance, and governance via trust (Schwarz, Hall & Shibli, 2010). Sports facilities are constructed, owned, controlled or managed by public (i.e. government), private (i.e. an individual or group of individuals) or both public and private (i.e. under public-private partnership) to satisfy the interest and needs of sportspersons in the society. Irrespective of the sport facility ownership and governance structures, the safety and security of the users of sports facilities and sports facilities itself are paramount to every sports stakeholder to avoid injuries, loss of lives and properties that could lead to legal actions.

Public sports facility is usually operated under governmental or quasi-governmental ownership either through federal, regional or local jurisdiction (Schwarz, Hall & Shibli,

2010). It could be deduced that public sports facility is a non-profit based permanent structure for sports that is initiated, constructed, controlled and managed by an elected or appointed public official(s) for the interests and needs of members of the society. Private sports facility could be what Schwarz, Hall and Shibli (2010) termed as commercial sports facility. According to them, the main goal of commercial sports facilities is to make a profit. This implies that private sports facility is a profit-based sports structure that is constructed, owned, controlled and managed by an individual or group of individuals in the society. Sometimes, government and individual(s) team up in sports facility management under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. Public-private sports facility is a permanent structure for sports that is jointly conceived, constructed, owned, controlled and managed by both government and individuals under a contractual agreement and not solely for profit-making.

Safety and security is an aspect of sports facility operations management. Safety and security are two distinct but interrelated concepts. Safety, according to Ekenedo (2010), is a state of being free from danger, which can lead to injury, death, loss or damage to property. Security is the act or process of ensuring a state of being free from danger or threat to lives and properties. Hence, sports safety and security is a condition of being free from danger, capable of resulting to injury and/or loss of lives of sports persons, and/or damage to properties of sports persons. Sports facility safety and security is the act or process of ensuring that a sports facility is free from threat or danger capable of leading to loss of lives and/or properties of sports producers and consumers including sports facility itself emanating from using or being in or around a sports facility. Ensuring safety and security of sports facility is a vital aspect of sports facility management. Safety and security, according to Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) (2011), are the most important aspects in the planning, design, construction, running and management of any stadium. The aspects of safety and security in a stadium are fire safety and prevention; structural safety; architectural safety; operational safety, and segregation of rival supporters (UEFA, 2011).

A sports facility without safety and security provisions is an injury and death trap. The provision of safety and security for, in or around sports facility like the stadium is quite challenging. Stadium is the facility where people organize, play, watch, officiate, and celebrate football all over the world. Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) (2012) noted that stadium include all parking facilities, Very Important Personality (VIP)/Very Very Important Personality (VVIP) and hospitality areas, media zones, concession areas, commercial display areas, buildings, the field of play, the pitch area, the broadcast compound, stadium media centre, the stands and the areas beneath the stands. The level of attendance or spectatorship to on-the-field football matches at the stadium is partly dependent on safety and security provisions made by sports organizers. Certain injuries, damages and losses in sports especially football are avoidable or controllable with safety conscious individuals in a safety conscious society through adherence to safety principles, rules and culture. Sometimes, injuries and death in sports occur as a result of human omission, commission and lack of safety culture and practices.

The imperativeness of safety and security in and for sports especially football cannot be over-emphasized in any football-loving society. Across many societies, football is one of the most crowd-pulling international sports. Football facilities have become target for rioters, hooligans and terrorists because of the international or global audience it enjoys through media coverage which made it to transverse across borders of different socio-cultural communities and societies. Some countries may claim that they have stadia whereas judging with Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) standard for stadium

especially as it concerns safety and security, it would not be out of place to say that they have football fields. FIFA has recommended and approved many safety and security regulations for stadium owners, operators and users. Safety and security of sports facilities are required and it beholds on every stakeholder to ensure strict compliance to it.

A stakeholder is a person, group of persons or organization that has interest and concern in an activity or organization and believes that he/she/they can directly or indirectly affect the policies and activities of the organization as well as be affected with the policies and activities of the organization. Linton (2018) defined stakeholder in sport is an individual or organization whose attitudes or actions influence the success of a sports team, sports participant or an entire sport. Everybody is a stakeholder in sports because it is either someone is actively or passive involved in sports. Sports stakeholders always protect their sports interest. According to Alm (2013), the key stakeholders of sports organisation are players, athletes, members; leagues, clubs, supporters and fans, sponsors, business partners, partner organizations, member associations, government, and general public. Stakeholders in sports include participants, spectators, governing bodies, financial stakeholders and community (Linton, 2018); athletes, sponsors, spectators, media, participants, community, hotels, restaurants, charities, host families, civic and political leaders, and businesses are stakeholders in sports (Stokes, 2008). It could be deduced that stakeholders of sports include government, players, officiating officials, sports federations/ associations/governing bodies, fans, parents, media, spectators, corporate organisations, among others. The human and material resources used for football need to be safe and secured to avoid being abused, damaged and vandalized. Every stakeholder in sports has responsibilities towards ensuring the safety and security of sports facilities, including the users of the sports facilities.

Contributors to Stadium Safety and Security

There are factors or conditions that can contribute to the safety and security of sports facilities. They include entry, exit and emergency points, fence and fencing, security personnel, stadium capacity, waste management, seats and seating dynamics, ticket and ticketing dynamics, stadium access time, sports facility design and construction, poor sports officiating, drug use by sportspersons, and sports consumers' profile and crowd dynamics.

Entry, Exit and Emergency Points

If a stadium has the entry, exit and emergency points at the same point, there will be problem of crowd control and safety. The entry points should be different from the exit points as well as the emergency points and should be created in way to promote the safety of the crowd and the facility. The entry, exit and emergency points of the officials and players should not be the same. The sports manager should ensure that tunnels are available to enable free pass for officials at all times. Avoiding traffic at both entry and exit routes should be the guiding principle for sports facility managers. This will ensure that there is no stampede before, during and after the football match. The sports managers should consider the entry, exit and emergency points for the safety of the facility. These points need to be wide enough for easy thorough fare with the presence of security personnel.

Manual and electronic searching of the stadium users at the entry and exit points of the facility with safety modalities should be put in place. For example; bomb detecting dogs and equipment, electronic and manual search, execution of these safety modalities should not be conducted at the entry point but at a distance not too close to gate, and it should be close to the security agents. Queuing of the audience should not be close to entry or exit points. The use of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras should be encouraged to help in checking

the sports facility users before gaining access to or exiting from the facility. The CCTV cameras serve as surveillance and security back-up. The public address system and the checking point should be connected to the electronic venue operation centre/room for adequate communications.

Fence and Fencing

The stadium is expected to be barricaded with fence and barb wires to secure the facility and make it safer from vandals and other criminals in the society. The sports arena should be demarcated with perimeter fencing so that spectators and fans cannot easily jump into the playing arena without thorough checks and approvals.

Security Personnel

Security is everyone's responsibility but some individuals are trained to offer the security services. Many a times, clashes ensue in the field of play among players versus players, fans versus fans, fans versus officials, fans versus players, sometimes leading to injuries and loss of lives and property. The playing arena is usually restored to normalcy with the presence and intervention of security operatives or personnel. There appears to be a reasonable level of calmness with the presence of security personnel around the spectators and fans in the stadium. In some developing countries, sometimes matches are played without adequate security arrangements. The sports manager is expected to involve by invitation the presence of adequate policemen and other security agencies within the confines of the law.

Stadium Capacity

The sports facility capacity must be considered while accommodating sports facility users to avoid sports facility breakdown or collapse. For the seating and standing accommodation in sports grounds, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (2008) emphasized that the entry capacity of the section, holding capacity of the section, exit capacity of the section, emergency evacuation capacity, and final capacity must be considered. There is need for sports organizers to calculate, ascertain and adhere to the entry capacity, holding capacity, exit capacity, emergency evacuation capacity and final capacity of the sports facility such as the stadium before admitting sports persons. The capacity of the sports facility should not unnecessarily be over-stretched because it will constitute a safety and security threat to sports facility users.

Waste Management

It is difficult for people to converge without generating solid, liquid or gaseous waste in or around sports facility during sports programmes especially mega sports events. Waste generation and management are serious issues and of concern to sports organizers for the health, safety and security of sports participants who are in or around the sports facility. Waste must be properly controlled, handled and managed using the best global waste management practices that are human-friendly as well as environmentally-friendly.

Seats and Seating Dynamics

Spectators, fans and other consumers are seen both standing and sitting down on seats. The free movement, comfort and relaxation of every football consumer in the stadium with clear view of all areas of the stadium should be the concern of every sports facility manager. There should be adequate and quality seats in the stadium. Seats and seating arrangement contribute to the sportscape of the stadium. The type, spacing, colour and quality of the seats should be of utmost concern to every sports manager for safety purposes. However, it is disappointing to observe that some stadia in developing countries exist without enough seats in terms of

quantity and quality. The seats for the fans of different football clubs are not expected to be in the same place to avoid unnecessary clashes.

Ticket and Ticketing Dynamics

Tickets, ticketing process and dynamics serve some safety and security checks before someone gains entry into the sports facility. Ticket serves as a tool to safeguard the crowd in a sport facility. Issuance of ticket should be at the comfort and safety of interested sports consumers. The mode of issuing tickets may be done physically involving a face-to-face ticket issuance between the manager or his/her representative and the on-the-field sports consumers. It may also be issued electronically which entails using information and communication technology in the form of internet/online booking of tickets without direct contact with ticket salespersons. Ticket dynamics comprises of the size, amount or fee paid, entry, exit and emergency points of a particular individual, type, colour, seat number and direction to the individual's seat. The ticket should indicate the personal data of the sport consumer, point of issue, time and date of issue with the name and signature of the person who issued it. The tickets might be designed with colours such as green colour first gate, blue colour second gate, white colour third gate, among others. On the ticket, the different sections of the facility should be well labelled or specified. For example, a section for very important personalities (VIPs), media team, executive members of football federation, among others. The ticket fee should be a round figure that will not call for giving balance to spectators to avoid crowding.

Stadium Access Time

An ideal and standard stadium is expected to be fenced with entry, exit and emergency routes/gates. Every user of the stadium is expected to gain access into the stadium through the entry routes/gates. Stadium should be made accessible with enough time intervals to the commencement of the football match. If a match is scheduled to commence at 4.00 pm, the access time should be at least three hours before the event to avoid crowding, struggling and stampede at the entry of the facility.

Sports Facility Design and Construction

The sports facility architects, designers and managers should consider the safety pattern and design of the stadium in line with the best international practices before and/or during the construction stage. The different categories of potential spectators including persons with different forms of disability should be considered while making provisions for their comfort and access to the stadium without being hurt. There should be signage for the direction of the user of the facility. Adequate safety equipment and policies should be in the architectural design of the stadium and should be properly monitored and implemented. Supervised, controlled and safe car parks should be provided for sports producers and consumers.

Poor Sports Officiating

Poor sports officiating can result to violence which is a threat to the safety and security of sports facilities and sports participants. It is a well-known ideology that umpire's or referee's decision is final in a match. When a match is poorly officiated, sometimes it results to chaos in the sports venue. Sometimes in an attempt to express the emotional dissatisfaction from poor officiating, players, coaches, spectators and fans exhibit some unsportsmanship behaviours such as the vandalization of sports facilities, fighting, among others.

Drug Use by Sportspersons

Drug use especially performance-enhancing drugs are highly prohibited in sports. Outside performance-enhancing drugs, the use of certain drugs (cocaine, marijuana,) are prohibited and banned in Nigerian society. Some spectators and fans are involved in excessive drinking of alcohol and abuse of drugs before the football match. Studies have shown that there is a relationship between drug use and violent acts. Use of alcohol and other banned drugs/substances by sports persons is likely to expose them to violent behaviours which may pose threat to safety and security of sports facilities and sports participants.

Sports Consumers' Profile and Crowd Dynamics

The sports consumers especially the spectators and fans make up the crowd that needs to be controlled for the safety and security of sports facility. Sometimes, the unsportsmanship behaviours of sports consumers are threats to the safety and security of a sports facility. There is need for the sports organizers to ask some questions like who and who are expected to the facility to form the crowd; where are they staying; how will they be taken care of; how many of them are expected; what is the class of people expected; how long are they staying?. The sports facility manager having answered the questions will be guided on the safety provisions to be put in place. Crowd dynamics is concerned about the number and categories of persons. Outside the high and low profile consumers, the handicapped should also be considered and the population in attendance warrants the type of safety measures to be provided.

Responsibilities of Stakeholders in Sports Facilities Safety and Security

Security can only be achieved by combined efforts (Booth, 1999). This suggests that in order to ensure and sustain the safety and security of sports facilities, it requires joint and collaborative responsibilities of sports stakeholders such as government, players/athletes, officiating officials, sports federations/associations/governing bodies, fans, media, parents, spectators, sponsors and security personnel, among others.

Responsibilities of Government in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Government should formulate sports facility safety and security laws and policies and ensure its strict compliance to construction and maintenance of sports facilities.
2. Government should contract the construction and maintenance of sports facilities to competent sports facilities construction firms.
3. Government should sanction contractors of collapsed sports facilities to serve as deterrent to other contractors.
4. Government should ensure that sports facilities are covered under insurance schemes.
5. Government should ensure provision of adequate and qualified safety and security personnel for sports facilities.
6. Government should procure all the necessary security equipment and materials for sports facilities.
7. There should be a public-private and community partnership in security and safety of sports facilities.
8. Government should ensure that sports facilities are constructed in line with international best practices and standards.
9. Government should ensure periodic evaluation of sports facilities by safety and security experts.
10. Government should provide adequate fund or financial resources for maintenance of sports facility to ensure its safety and security.

Responsibilities of Players/Athletes in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Players/athletes should conduct themselves in accordance to the rules of the game while in or around sports facility.
2. Players/athletes should show a high sense of sportsmanship to other sports persons while in the sports facility.
3. Players/athletes should respect other players, fans, officials, and the sports itself.
4. Players/athletes should check the sports facility before using them to be sure that it is in proper safety and secured condition.
5. Players/athletes should respect and honour the views and decisions of the referees and other officiating officials.
6. Players/athletes should avoid entering the sports facility with dangerous objects or weapons.

Responsibilities of Officiating Officials in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Officiating officials should ensure fair officiating of the game in accordance to the laid down rules to avoid or minimize disagreements and crisis.
2. The officiating officials should officiate football in line with FIFA rules without fear or favour.
3. Officiating officials should always inspect the football facility before the commencement of the game.
4. The officiating officials should penalize or sanction any sports person(s) in the football field/pitch whose behaviour(s) may constitute security and safety threat to sports facility.
5. Officiating officials should encourage fair play and sportsmanship among the players/athletes while in or around the sports facility.

Responsibilities of Sports Federations/Associations/Governing Bodies in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Sports federations/associations/governing bodies should sanction any sports person that constitutes threat to safety and security of sports while in the sports facility.
2. Sports federations/associations/governing bodies should make policies that will guarantee the safety and security of sports participants.
3. They should publicize the safety and security requirements of sports facilities and ensure strict compliance by all.
4. Sports federations/associations/governing bodies should ensure that only qualified and unbiased officials are allowed to officiate the game.
5. Sports federations/associations/governing bodies should ensure that all logistics and gadgets are put in place and in good condition.
6. Sports federations/associations/governing bodies should ensure that sports programmes are organized in a safe and secured sports facility.
7. Sports federations/associations/governing bodies should always embark on periodic inspection of sports facility to ascertain its safety and security.
8. Sports federations/associations/governing bodies should ensure sports facility owners have safety and security certificate to operate from relevant government agencies related to safety and security.
9. Sports federations/associations/governing bodies should ensure that sports facilities are insured by appropriate insurance firms.
10. All security threat elements, weapons and substances like drugs, guns and other dangerous objects should be banned and not allowed into the sports facility by sports federations/associations/governing bodies.

11. They should ensure that CCTV cameras are placed at strategic locations of the sports facility.
12. They should avoid overcrowding and stampede in or around the sports facility.

Responsibilities of Fans in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. The fans should imbibe the spirit of true sportsmanship while in or around sports facility.
2. Fans should not be under the influence of drugs/alcohol while in the sports facility.
3. Fans should not enter the sports facility with dangerous objects or weapons like cutlass, guns and explosives.
4. Fans should not make inciting statements that are capable disrupting the peace, safety and security in or around the sports facility.
5. Fans should avoid hate speeches against other sports persons while in or around the sports facility.
6. Fans should desist from any forms of harassment to other users of sports facility.
7. Fans should not invade the pitch before, during or after the football match.
8. Fans should avoid throwing objects or missiles inside the football pitch.

Responsibilities of Media in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Media should sensitize sports persons on need to ensure sports facility safety and security.
2. Media should subsidize the coverage or broadcasting fees for sports facility safety and security programmes.
3. The media should have a proper documentary and investigative report on sports facility safety and security.
4. The media should assist in sensitizing the public on the need to be safety and security conscious while in or around the sports facility.
5. The media should continuously encourage and broadcast the spirit of sportsmanship among sports participants as a way of ensuring peace, safety and security during sports events.

Responsibilities of Parents in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Parents should inculcate discipline and good moral values to their children that can translate to safety and security of sports facilities.
2. Parents should control and monitor the behaviours of their children and try to change the ones that constitute threat to sports facility safety and security.
3. Parents should know the friends, peers and close associates of their children and caution if the relationships are likely to constitute threat to sports facility safety and security.
4. Parents should always reprimand children's negative behaviours capable of affecting the safety and security of sports facilities.
5. Parents should be accompanying their children or wards to sports facilities. The presence of parents in the sports facility will check and control the behaviours of their children/wards.

Responsibilities of Spectators in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Spectators should sit according to the seat allocations and arrangements.
2. Spectators should respect sports organizers, stadium officials and rules while in or around sports facilities.

3. Spectators should sit properly with controlled movement in the sports facility.
4. Spectators should not abuse another spectator, player, officiating official or sports consumer in the sports facility.
5. Spectators should show good sense of sportsmanship while in or around the sports facility.
6. Spectators should also report to safety and security personnel any person, situation or object that is capable of creating insecurity and unsafe atmosphere in the sports facility.
7. Spectators should avoid perpetrating any form of harassment while in or around the sports facility on any sports participant.
8. Spectators should always remain at the spectators' stand while in the stadium.

Responsibilities of Football Sponsors in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Sponsors of football should not sponsor or emphasize winning at-all-cost.
2. Sponsors should not associate themselves with athletes who are banned from sports for constituting threat to sports safety and security.
3. Football sponsors in collaboration with football federation/associations/governing bodies should organized awards for the most peaceful, safe and secured sports environment among states and communities.
4. Football sponsors should organize sports safety and security workshops and conferences for sports participants.
5. Sports sponsors should render financial assistance towards ensuring safety and security of sports facilities at construction and maintenance stage.

Responsibilities of Security Personnel in Sports Facility Safety and Security

1. Security personnel should check, search or screen people and objects before granting them access to sports facility.
2. Security personnel should control traffic flow at the entry and exit of the sports facility to avoid stampede.
3. Security personnel should stand at strategic points in and around the sports facility to ensure peace and orderliness.
4. Security personnel should analyse security reports and proactively counter every security threats in and around the sports facility.
5. Security personnel should have statistical record of entrants with their identities in sports facilities.
6. Security personnel should use technological means in providing surveillance to sports facilities.

CONCLUSION

Every sport is unique and has facility of its own. Facility for football is stadium and there is need to ensure its safety and security for sports producers and consumers. Sportspersons converge in the facility to actively or passively participate in football. The safety and security of sports facilities (stadia) are serious social issues in sports management and sociology. Ensuring the safety and security of sports facility is a joint responsibility of all stakeholders in sports (e.g. government, players/athletes, officiating officials, sports federations/associations/governing bodies, fans, parents, spectators, media, football sponsors and security personnel).

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