

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS - CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS - FIRPARK STADIUM, MOTHERWELL
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES		
Date: 25 June 2012	Ref: LD/EH	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council has previously adopted practices in relation to its responsibilities for the certification of "Designated Sports Grounds" in North Lanarkshire and agreed to the establishment of a Safety of Sports Grounds Officer Working Group representing a variety of disciplines which assist the process of certification.
- 1.2. The Council has also agreed that a programme of annual inspections be established and over the past few months, officers of the Working Group have carried out a series of inspections at Fir Park Stadium and met with representatives from the stadium management to discuss a number of issues relating to the General Safety Certificate for the ground.

2. Current Position

As a result of these inspections, the undernoted matters have been identified as requiring attention, details of which have been passed to the Stadium Manager for attention.

- 2.1. An Annual Periodic Electrical Inspection Report is to be submitted.
- 2.2. A Certificate of Risk Assessment of barriers, claddings and structural elements is to be submitted.
- 2.3. A Certificate of Risk Assessment of the Stadium's adequacy is to be submitted.

There are inadequate fire separation measures above the suspended ceiling in the uppermost floor of the David Cooper Stand. In the event of a fire there is a likelihood of stairs becoming smoke-logged at an early stage, particularly as there is no automatic fire detection above the ceiling and the escape stairs not being separated from the rest of the accommodation. A schedule of improvements requires to be implemented to bring the standard of fire separation and compartmentation up to an acceptable standard throughout the Stand. A risk assessment process should be used to identify the sequence of improvements.

- 2.4. There are several minor breaches in the fire resistant structure on the upper floors caused by holes made for the passage of services that have not been fire stopped and remedial action should be taken here.
- 2.5. The emergency exit signage throughout the South Stand and the Davie Cooper Stand is not to the current standard. All fire exit signs in the premises should comply with the Health and Safety (Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996.

- 2.6. There is inadequate compartmentation and fire protection in the Phil O'Donnell Stand with bare timber throughout the seating deck. The Club are aware of this and have introduced strict management procedures, however Stadium Management should provide an update in relation to their proposals to implement fire protection measures as detailed in an earlier Building Warrant 09/01402/SALT.
- 2.7. The doors of rooms with a capacity to hold 60 or more persons which may be required as a means of escape from fire must be fitted with a full width push bar device.
- 2.8. It is recommended that the pedestrian barriers within the concourse area of the main stand be in-filled in to ensure persons cannot fall through the barriers.
- 2.9. The broken fire protection boarding to the gym area requires to be repaired.
- 2.10. The damaged exit sign to the escape door from the gym requires to be replaced.
- 2.11. The smoke control brushes fire doors at the Davie Cooper Suite require to be either replaced or repaired.
- 2.12. The tarmac area to the west side of the Davie Cooper Stand requires to be repaired.
- 2.13. The nosings to all stairs within the stadium require to be assessed and repaired/repainted as necessary.
- 2.14. With regard to the structural integrity of the stadium I attach, as an Appendix to the report, a list of matters which have been identified which require comment individually or as part of the annual certification arrangements.

3. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee hear verbal updates on any outstanding issues by the appropriate officers and from the stadium management of Firpark Stadium and consider the renewal of the General Safety Certificate accordingly.



Head of Central Services

Encl.

North Lanarkshire Council Safety at Sports Grounds

Annual Inspection Report 2012

Design Services Division
Addendum for Fir Park Stadium, Motherwell

Annual Inspection 21st March 2012

Sheet No. 1 - List of Structural Observations

West Stand (Main Stand):

- Steelwork forming Roof Structure and Frame
Areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion.
The Annual Inspection & Structural Appraisal should comment on this.
Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.
- South Gable (above exit C)
Cracks in concrete surround to beam.
Recommend cracks are filled with flexible filler to prevent water ingress and subsequent deterioration.
- Metal Stairs adjacent to Pitch Side
Significant corrosion to underside of stairs and landings
The Annual Inspection & Structural Appraisal should comment on this.
Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

North Stand:

- Steelwork forming Roof Structure and Frame
Isolated light areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion
The Annual Inspection & Structural Appraisal should comment on this.
Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

East Stand:

- Steelwork forming Roof Structure and Frame
Extensive areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion
The Annual Inspection & Structural Appraisal should comment on this.
Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

South Stand:

- Steelwork forming Roof Structure and Frame
Areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion
The Annual Inspection & Structural Appraisal should comment on this.
Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.
- Brickwork Boundary Wall at rear of stand off plumb.
No obvious visible deterioration. Ground owners should continue to regularly monitor/check wall for movement: particularly in light of ongoing construction works being carried in adjacent site.
The Annual Inspection & Structural Appraisal should comment on this.
- Indoor Gymnasium
Sections of fire proofing boarding to steel beams either damaged or missing at several locations. Make good as necessary.

Flood lights:

- South West, North West and North East Floodlight
Areas of Flaking Paint and Corrosion
The Annual Inspection & Structural Appraisal should comment on this.
Recommend appropriate remedial action is taken as part of an ongoing maintenance regime.

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Sheet No. 2 - List of Structural Observations

Annual Inspection:

Management should arrange a detailed annual inspection of all structures, components and installations and provide appropriate certification in support of the same.

The inspection should:

- a. ensure that all standing surfaces, seats, stairs, ramps, doors, gates, boundary walls, fences and claddings are fit for their intended purpose.
- b. ensure that load-bearing elements are capable of withstanding the loads to which they are likely to be subjected and that they perform properly their required functions.
- c. assess which barriers should be tested in accordance with the guidance found in chapter 11 of the Guide.

The annual inspection should be carried out by a chartered engineer of the appropriate skill and experience. It should clearly state which parts of the stadium are fit for purpose and which parts of the stadium are not fit for purpose.

Structural Appraisal:

Management should arrange a structural appraisal of all existing structures and provide appropriate certification in support of the same.

The extent to which a detailed structural appraisal is necessary for existing structures cannot be prescribed. Much will depend upon the type of structure, its size, condition, location, the materials used in its construction and the standard of maintenance. The Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS) advises that an interval between appraisals of 6-10 years is likely to be appropriate for most large structures at sports grounds. In view of the fact that no such appraisal has been issued previously for this stadium we believe that a Structural Appraisal is now appropriate.

Risk assessment should form an integral part of the appraisal process, with structures being categorised according to complexity and risk. The risk assessment should be used to supplement the criteria for the annual inspection (see 5.13 of the Guide) where appropriate. The more complex structures should be subject to independent checking.

Structural appraisal criteria should be established taking account of:

- a. load factors used in the original design
- b. the degree of redundancy present
- c. the risk of disproportionate collapse
- d. the consequence of failure

The acceptability of the current condition of the structure should be determined on the basis of inspection (and testing where necessary) and analysis. If the condition is found to be unacceptable that part of the sports ground should be taken out of use. Work to remedy the situation should be specified and undertaken and then inspected before the affected structure or part of the sports ground is brought back into use.

The appraisal methods described by the Institution of Structural Engineers in the publication *Appraisal of Existing Structures* are recommended. The appraisal should be carried out by a competent chartered engineer of the appropriate skills and experience.

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Sheet No. 3 - List of Structural Observations

Barriers and Risk Assessment:

Management should arrange a Barriers Risk Assessment and provide appropriate certification in support of the same.

All barriers (including crush barriers) should be subject to an annual risk assessment to determine the time period or periods at which all barriers should be tested. Every barrier identified by the risk assessment as a potential risk should be tested immediately.

The risk assessment (which in practice, will be carried out in a similar fashion to an annual inspection) should be conducted and recorded by a chartered engineer, architect or surveyor of the appropriate skill and experience. It should take into account all relevant recommendations in the Guide, combined with a detailed appraisal of each of the following specific considerations:

- a. any available recorded information concerning the barriers design compliance.
- b. the adequacy of the barriers construction.
- c. the age of the barrier.
- d. any visual evidence of weakening or general deterioration of the barrier, including signs of corrosion, cracks, holes, misalignment, undue distortion, missing bolts or fittings.
- e. the barriers exposure to moisture.
- f. the possibility of water or moisture ingress into hollow steel sections.
- g. the barrier's location within the sports ground.

Those barriers which need to be tested immediately might include those whose theoretical strength is indeterminable, those which have suffered visible decay, and those where there is a potential for undetected deterioration.

Responsibility for appointing a competent person to undertake and record the results of a risk assessment of barriers lies with the management of the sports ground.