



# Football Spectators Act 1989

## 1989 CHAPTER 37

### PART I

#### FOOTBALL MATCHES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

##### *Preliminary*

#### **1 Scope and interpretation of this Part.**

- (1) This Part of this Act applies in relation to association football matches played in England and Wales which are designated football matches and the following provisions have effect for its interpretation.
- (2) “Designated football match” means any such match of a description for the time being designated for the purposes of this Part by order made by the Secretary of State or a particular such match so designated.

<sup>F1</sup>(3) .....

(4) An order under subsection (2) above—

- (a) may designate descriptions of football matches wherever played or when played at descriptions of ground or in any area specified in the order; and

<sup>F2</sup>(b) .....

<sup>F3</sup>(5) .....

[<sup>F4</sup>(6) A person is not to be regarded as a “spectator” in relation to a designated football match if the principal purpose of his being on the premises is to provide services in connection with the match, or to report on it.]

[<sup>F5</sup>(6A) In this Part “the licensing authority” means the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (see Part 1 of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority Act 2011).]

- (7) A “licence to admit spectators” is a licence granted in respect of any premises by the licensing authority under this Part of this Act authorising the admission to the premises

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/11/2011.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Football Spectators Act 1989, Cross Heading: Preliminary. (See end of Document for details)*

of spectators for the purpose of watching any designated football match played at those premises.

- (8) Each of the following periods is “relevant to” a designated football match, that is to say—
- (a) the period beginning—
    - (i) two hours before the start of the match, or
    - (ii) two hours before the time at which it is advertised to start, or
    - (iii) with the time at which spectators are first admitted to the premises, whichever is the earliest, and ending one hour after the end of the match;
  - (b) where a match advertised to start at a particular time on a particular day is postponed to a later day, or does not take place, the period in the advertised day beginning two hours before and ending one hour after that time.

<sup>F6</sup>(8A) .....

- (9) A person is a “responsible person” in relation to any designated football match at any premises if he is a person concerned in the management of the premises or in the organisation of the match.
- (10) The power to make an order under subsection (2) above is exercisable by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (11) The imposition under this Part of this Act of restrictions on the persons who may attend as spectators at any designated football match does not affect any other right of any person to exclude persons from admission to the premises at which the match is played.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1(3) repealed (6.4.2007) by [Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 \(c. 38\)](#), s. 66(2), **Sch. 5**; S.I. 2007/858, art. 2(n)(v)
- F2** S. 1(4)(b) repealed (6.4.2007) by [Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 \(c. 38\)](#), s. 66(2), **Sch. 5**; S.I. 2007/858, art. 2(n)(v)
- F3** S. 1(5) repealed (6.4.2007) by [Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 \(c. 38\)](#), s. 66(2), **Sch. 5**; S.I. 2007/858, art. 2(n)(v)
- F4** S. 1(6) substituted (6.4.2007) by [Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 \(c. 38\)](#), s. 66(2), **Sch. 3 para. 10**; S.I. 2007/858, art. 2(k)
- F5** S. 1(6A) inserted (1.11.2011) by [Sports Grounds Safety Authority Act 2011 \(c. 6\)](#), s. 8(1), **Sch. 2 para. 7(1)**; S.I. 2011/2597, art. 2
- F6** S. 1(8A) repealed (6.4.2007) by [Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 \(c. 38\)](#), s. 66(2), **Sch. 5**; S.I. 2007/858, art. 2(n)(v)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/11/2011.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Football Spectators Act 1989, Cross  
Heading: Preliminary.