

OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION

Subject:	<i>Granting of Safety Certificate to Gillingham Football Club</i>
Decision:	To issue Gillingham Football Club with a revised Safety Certificate under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975. The Certificate places greater responsibility on the Club with regard to managing the risks associated with COVID-19 as required by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA)
Type of Decision:	Decision taken under Employee Delegation Scheme Paragraph 1.2 of Part 4 of the Constitution (Employee Delegation Scheme).
Name and title of decision taker:	Mr Richard Hicks, Director of Place & Deputy Chief Executive
Reasons for Decision	<p>Local authorities are required to certificate certain football grounds under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975. The “Safety Certificate” specifies certain requirements that must be met before spectators and other visitors can be admitted to the ground. Failure to comply with the requirements of a safety certificate is an offence.</p> <p>The Council issued the previous safety certificate in 2018. Following the Coronavirus Outbreak, the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) issued local authorities with new guidance, requiring them to re-issue general safety certificates to include a new standard condition referencing an addition to the operations manual detailing the management of football and stadia during COVID-19 Restrictions.</p> <p>Before issuing a safety certificate, the Council had to be satisfied that the Club’s Operations Manual was fit for purpose and would achieve the same (if not greater) level of spectator (and other visitors) safety than that achieved by the previous safety certificate.</p>
Date of Decision:	2 nd September 2020
Details of any other options	Had Medway Council not re-issued the Safety Certificate the SGSA may have used its powers under Section 13(2) of the

considered and rejected:	Football Spectators Act 1989 to Direct the Local Authority to include the condition as specified. Medway Council would have then had a Statutory requirement to follow that direction.
Director:	Richard Hicks
Lead Officer:	David Cross, Trading Standards Team Leader
Conflicts of Interest:	None

Reports/documentation used in reaching this decision.

- Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (published)
- Safety of Sports Grounds Regulations 1987 (Published)
- The Football Spectators Act 1989 (Published)
- Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide)
- Sports Grounds and Stadia Guide No. 4 – Safety Management (published)
- Medway Council Policy for Safety at Sports Grounds
- Supplementary Guidance 02: Planning for Social Distancing at Sports Grounds (SG02)
- SGSA Policy Guidance. Sport with Spectators: COVID-19 Regulatory Controls