

GUÍA PARA EEUU



vive el fútbol y su alegría...

“SECURITY GUIDE FOR THE SOCCER FAN”



Jesus López



vive el fútbol y su alegría...

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“Soccer is the most famous sport in today’s world; let’s do our part so this wonderful sport, whose duty is to unite cultures, is kept away from violence.”

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Graphic design: Rafael Cervantes
Copyright: 041740
ISBN code: 978-9942-13-226-0
Reading time: 30 minutes:

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INTRODUCTION

Soccer is, beyond doubt, a passion that gets people around the world together; millions of people watch it, other millions practice it as a hobby, and thousand of soccer players practice it professionally. When it comes to professional soccer, there are FIFA international championships as the world cup, specially its amazing playoffs, the confederation cup, international or regional tournaments, the clubs world cup, and the soccer olympics; besides the national tournaments of each country organized by each federation. There are also the neighborhoods tournaments, schools, high schools, and college championships.

Besides the team's competition, there are countless matches played by people of all ages that take place in parks, fields at anytime and anywhere around a soccer ball. games that motivate people to demonstrate their abilities in this sport, considered by most, the king of sports. Truth is that this sport, which scholars claim has been practiced for centuries and officially in England since the late XIX century, is a passion beyond explanation, a topic of analysis and conversation among friends, mates and family worldwide. Although soccer is an activity which main goal is to unite people, there have been problems that have corrupted its union, sportsmanship and healthy recreation bound essence.

Virtually no country is free of this soccer related violent attitudes, due to some people that disguised as fans have generated chaos, destruction, vandalism, and even the loss of lives caused by the absurd idea of defending a club or a flag. It may be prudent to start this guide by remembering some of the actions that have caused damage and pain, but remembering them would be to call on hate and ill thinking, it's enough to mention that it has gone from simple insults and cursing to battles where people around the world have lost their lives, and what hurts most is that all this tragedies could have been avoided.

Personally, thanks to soccer, we have created wonderful memories by practicing it throughout our childhood, adolescence and even our adult lives. However we have witnessed scenes that shouldn't have happened,

caused by people that damage soccer and that we should collectively condemn; there is nothing more thrilling that stands full of families, grandparents, parents and children enjoying without any fear of this amazing show, which we should keep away from violent act, such as: confrontations between teams' fans, fans against police officers, etc.

The following "Security guide for the soccer fan" was made as a backup for security and safety culture for those who enjoy this exciting sport. Hundreds of surveys were made to people related to private and public security, related to soccer, and mainly fans that stare with concern at the lack of responsibility of some people towards their actions. We apologize for sounding redundant by repeating security advices that may seem evident, whose lack of implementation has result in painful regrets. If one of this recommendations do not apply in your country, it means that the levels of organization concerning soccer related violence are not a problem.

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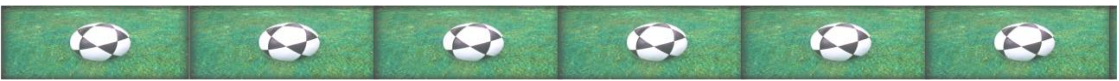
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SECURITY FOR THE SOCCER FUN

BEFORE THE SHOW

Avoid taking expensive objects or exceeding amounts of cash.

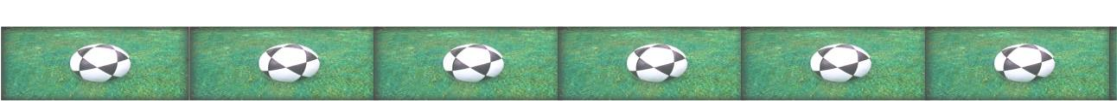


In the vast majority of cities in the world, places that gather hundreds of people, are places to which, regrettably, common thieves such as pickpockets, individuals who subtract wallets and those who use distraction to take cellphones and other goods, most of these thieves take advantage of their victim's lack of attention to commit their crimes, but there are others that may follow their victims in order to violently rob them.

The best way to prevent these sort of robberies is to avoid taking expensive objects, such as electronic devices, jewelry, or exceeding amounts of cash. It's recommended to take only the necessary for the ticket, food and transportation.

Although for today's lifestyle it's inevitable to take a cellphone, it is very wise not to use it more than necessary; if you use a very expensive cellphone, thieves might see you as a pray, and they might consider stealing it from you.

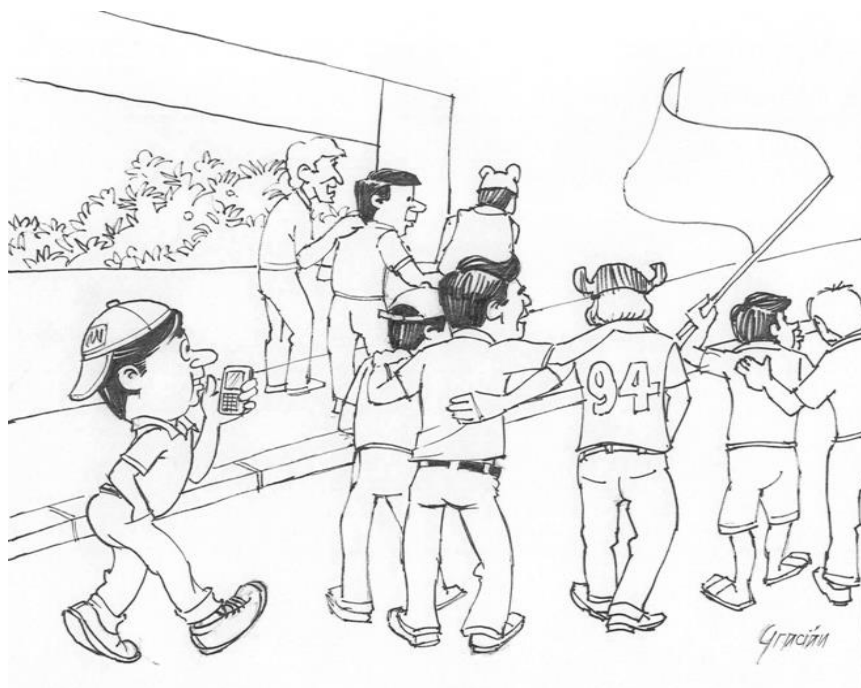
We recommend you to take into consideration these first security advice in every crowded place, even if this is not a soccer stadium. Try not to be seen as a pray for those "predators", try to keep a low profile as a self defense mechanism.



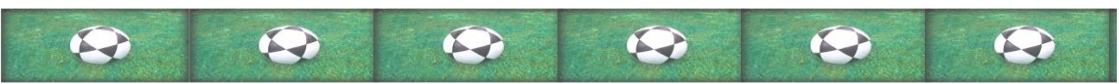
Although today, for example, it is inevitable to carry a cell phone device, it is also advisable to use it only when necessary; if you own an expensive cell phone, felons can notice it and consider it as an invitation, and if they find a chance, they could plan on stealing the device from you.

It is highly recommended to take into count this first security consideration, in any massive concurrence place, whether it is a soccer stadium or not, avoiding if possible any invitations for those who like what is not theirs, it is preferred to maintain a low profile as an auto protection measure.

Try to find a group of people to go to the stadium with, and always stay in touch with your relatives.



Nowadays, there are all sorts of risks, it has been known of several cases where people mysteriously disappear over many circumstances causing a lot of pain and uncertainty in their families and friends, that is why it is highly recommended to travel in groups or at least with a friend or relative, soccer is a massive spectacle, parents and relatives' concern is perceived as normal if you don't return home within the expected hours, now, if you go to the event in a group you have to make clear that you are not looking to start a riot or any problem whatsoever, but on the contrary, to protect yourself from any dangerous situation completely outside of the sporting event; if by any case you get late, do communicate to your relatives about your company and whereabouts.



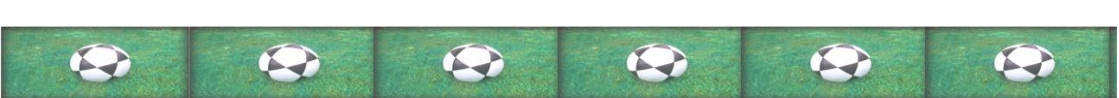
This is always a very important consideration, if you decide to celebrate the triumph of your team and you are engaging in a non programmed activity, communicate that to your relatives avoiding any disturbance to their privacy, do tell responsibly and above all as a preventive measure about your safety indicating your exact location, this consideration should be a must, especially if the soccer event is held during the night or if the stadium is located outside the city; even though you might not believe it, there have been plenty of cases of injured people that were hurt by so called friends and the fact of openly communicating about the people that is with you might discourage any poorly intentioned individual from harming you or others.

Security procedure on the way to the stadium.



The day of the soccer match is always special, most people prepare for the event by getting their team shirts ready on time and some others more enthusiastically a complete garment to cheer for their team (drums, horns, flags, posters, hats and paintings, etc); there even are people that on the way to the stadium travel with family or friends using different means of transportation such a busses or trolleys (or however they are named in your country) inside or outside the city, cabs or taxis, particular vehicles, motorcycles, etc. If you are planning on traveling in any of these ways, try to avoid getting on overcrowded vehicles, this might become a safety risk, do not let the driver go over the speed limit and if you notice the driver under the influence, communicate that matter in a discreet way so some traffic control elements can quietly approach the vehicle and stop the driver from driving.

If you are the designated driver of a particular vehicle, it is never overrated to make the suggestion to respect all the traffic rules, wear the seatbelts, even the ones sitting in the back of the car – in some car accidents, kids are the most vulnerable because no “adult” considered the precaution of making them wear the seatbelt – and do not drive if you have consumed alcohol, among other recommendations; the life of every



traveling passenger depends on the seriousness and compromise of the driver.

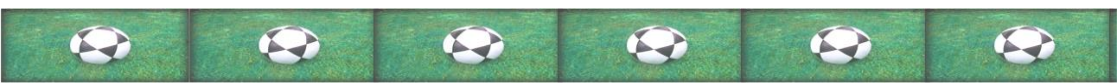
It is very common to see the fans traveling on foot to the stadium, if you travel that way, is also important to take into consideration the rules that a pedestrian should follow; like using foot bridges, pedestrian crossings, etc., and remember that there are still plenty of insensitive drivers out there who consider the streets and avenues as their personal highway, and if you as a pedestrian fail to follow any of the rules, you put yourself in danger of being run over.

The way to the stadium may be from one city to another, if the case, check your budget and make sure it is enough for all your expenses so you don't suffer during the trip and always leave some money for the way back. There are some known cases where people even have to beg for money to return to their homes and this can become an unnecessary danger to your integrity, especially if we are referring to female fans.

If we travel with a group of fans, it is a great opportunity to cheer for our team, the joy and enthusiasm can be demonstrated right from the moments of arrival where in the bus or particular vehicle or on foot we cheer our squad, what we need to prevent from happening is offending and provoking fights with supporters of the other team, these attitudes can lead to verbal encounters or even physical ones; there are some pitiful precedents where the fans of one team and the other have had an encounter and started riots in where not only the involved fans were harmed but also outsiders that did not have anything to do with the sporting event in what can only be called absurd fights and arguments.

Never provoke violence under the excuse of being a part of a supporting group or gang, you are not doing any favor to your team, place yourself where the people that come with their family are, pregnant women or those with small children that find themselves in the middle of fighting and cursing; this experience alone can leave with serious disappointments because no one can really understand how people (fans) that love their team, are capable of causing vandalism and such destruction; in a "simple" fight, a misplaced punch can cause severe injuries or even and accidental death of a person, nonetheless, this "accident" has cost several years in prison to those that were going to or coming back from a soccer match that, for the wrong reasons and willingly turned it into battles.

The path from and to the stadium must be an activity totally aside from any violence symptom; countless encounters have started on



the incitement from one group to the other that, on the chants of sayings or offensive singing, have unleashed the rage of the opposite team by responding in the same way or worse, by darkening the sport.

It is very important to always take into count the time needed to get to the stadium and to be able to enter to the stadium without a rush; avoid exaggerations, the most important thing is to arrive there calmly and enjoy the match, by doing so late, can result in agglomerations, riots and people getting desperate to go in, which implies putting vulnerable people such as pregnant women, kids, handicapped and the elderly that might be expecting to enter at risk.

On the way to the stadium is very important to avoid drinking any alcoholic beverages, not only because you can be stopped from entering to the stadium, but also because your intention and the rest of the viewers is to get aroused by the show and not to get stunned or confused by the effects of alcohol.

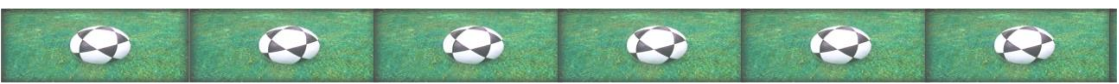
DURING A SOCCER MATCH AT THE STADIUM

Cheering your team without offending others.

A very important part of the soccer match is without a doubt the fans and the viewers in general; their chants, choreographies, instruments, scarves, seals, flags and painted faces are a special spice to the show; the encouragement to their team is always special, that is why it has been said that the fans or the public in general are the 12th player on the team.



Fans become more than just groups of humans called to cheer in good and bad to their teams, in several occasions they belong to a cantred or a group of friends, known or even family groups; their chants and sounds have a great motivational effect on the players that feel that they are backed by their followers, it is beautiful to listen to those gangs that



accomplish to spread through a whole stadium the feeling of singing their songs and chants; if you belong to one of those gangs, our suggestion is to be creative; why not creating new and fresh phrases for their team; at this point is important to point out that these chants should always aim to supporting the team, and should never be offensive to the rival team, the players or the referees during the match; these attitudes generate violence, since it becomes really easy to just respond with the same level of verbal excess or even worse situations.

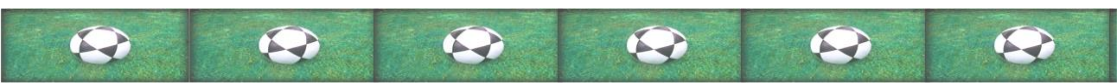
The chants from the fans cheering the squad have made some apparently beaten teams to rise again, to star in some eternal moments and achieve sporting feats to be thought of really heroic ones; if you are part of one of those gangs, congratulations!!! Do not weaken down on cheering your team, but make sure that these cheers don't have anything to do with offensive attitudes, insulting or aggressive ones that can in one way or another provoke violence in a soccer stadium.

Criminal behavior in the stadium.

While we all go to the stadium to watch a soccer match and not to focus on criminal attitudes from any individuals, it is always important to prevent, above all, the recommendation of avoiding to carry valuable items with you to the place; and is very important to point out that most of the thievery risks occur at the exits and entrances to the stadium; when a big crowd of people gather together massively, and commonly rubbing against each other, acts that are used by criminals to perform their felonies, other criminal activities could come up while visiting the toilets, that is why it is advisable to accompany women or children to the bathroom facilities in these kinds of scenarios in order to be close to them and prevent any criminal behavior.



In spite of the presence of the Public Force, criminals always find a way to commit illegal acts, which is why we always have to take our own precautions at all times; on the way to the stadium, in the stadium, and on our way back from the stadium, always having in mind some auto protection measures, such as being observant and aware of some strange or suspicious attitudes that a person might make, discarding the physical appearance or the way they are dressed, because this is a general mistake that people make; nowadays, anyone can perform a



criminal activity; it does not matter age or gender, it can either be a teenager or an elder, a pregnant woman or some even use children to help them perform criminal acts.

Generally criminals do not prefer to attack alert people, they usually take advantage of moments of distraction or carelessness that we all have from time to time.

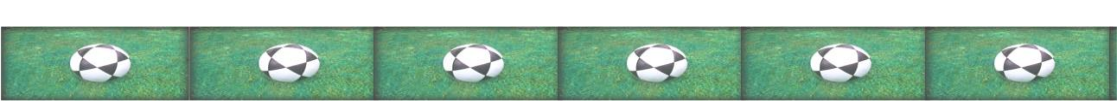
The logical thing to do would be to go to a soccer match and enjoy ourselves by watching it, but it is also important to follow these simple rules in our own protection sake.

Get away from the violent people.

If we are going to the stadium the main idea is to assist calmly, watch and enjoy the match, and when leaving it has to be in the same way, with a big smile on our face, upset or resigned, depending on the result. After having all these facial expressions, no one cares about being part of any act of violence or criminal in or out the stadium, neither do they during the trip back.



Avoid and stay away from violent people, and from any act of violence that these people might generate, do not participate in situations that may affect you as a person, or indirectly your family or friends. Sadly in some occasions, violent people infiltrate amongst the fans and carry out aggressive doings or even criminal ones disguising themselves in the colors of one of the soccer teams.

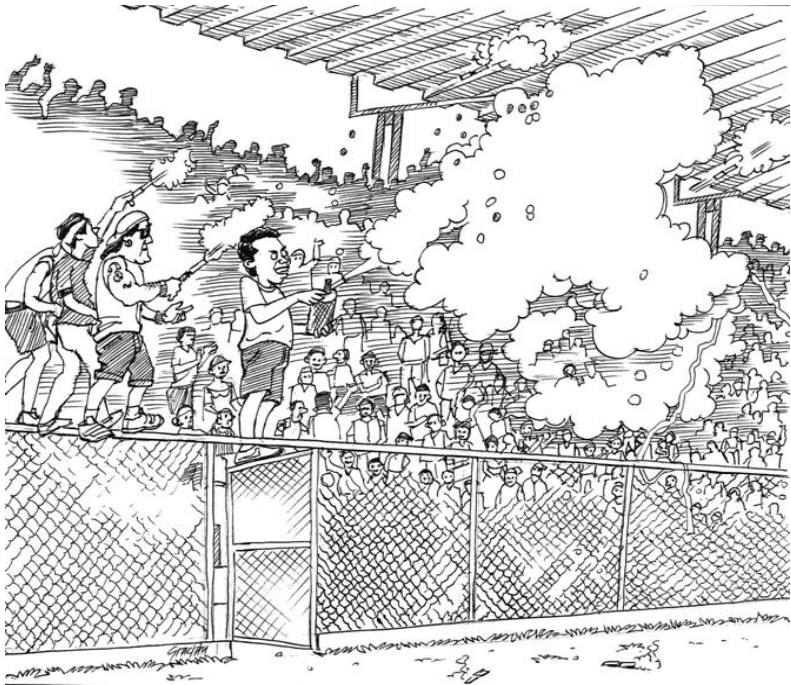


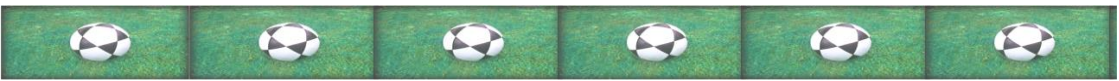
It has been determined that in most cases, some “curious” people had to take the worst part just because they did not keep their distance from all the violent elements that starred the incidents in a region of the stadium or outside, it is not worth it to put your integrity in risk and what is always best is to get away from those people

It has been determined that in a lot of cases “curious” people took the worst part because they did not get away from violent elements which were responsible for some incidents in an stadium area or outside it on time, it is not worth risking your integrity and the best you can do is to get away from the people.

Avoid the use of fireworks and do not use laser devices.

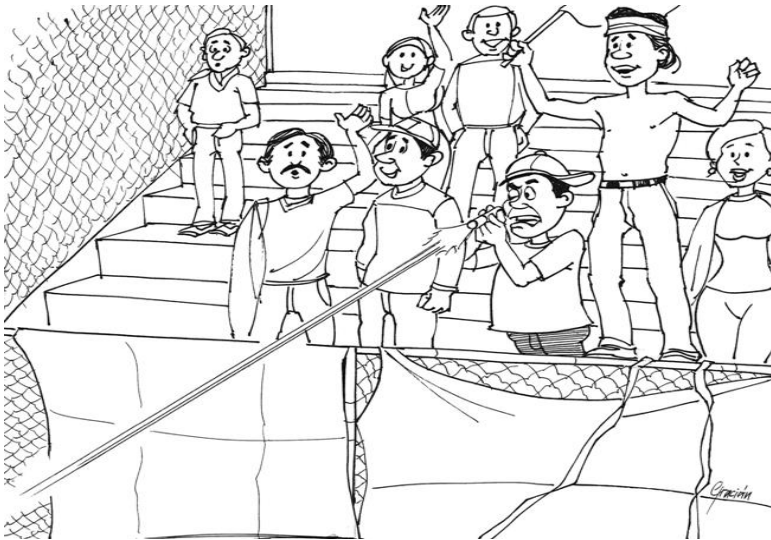
The use of fireworks and laser devices by the spectators constitutes a tacit prohibition at the soccer stadiums from FIFA. There are events related with “accidents” that are caused by fans using fireworks in stadiums; these kinds of materials always entail risks, for this reason fireworks should be manipulated by specialists when the organization of the show needs it, especially in games considered important (classics, games between teams, championship final, etc.); it is common to observe that important teams are celebrated with light festivals, sound and color using fireworks manipulated by experts; however, the fans are always reminded that they are not allowed to bring any kind of fireworks into the stadium, this order has been established in order to avoid a wrong use of fireworks by the public in general.





The sparklers have tiny combustion and propulsion mechanisms that taking certain speed and by making impact on the human body, could cause injuries and even death; there have existed injuries and deaths related to events with this characteristics; lets leave only specialists to manipulate this devices, we as spectators just enjoy the show!

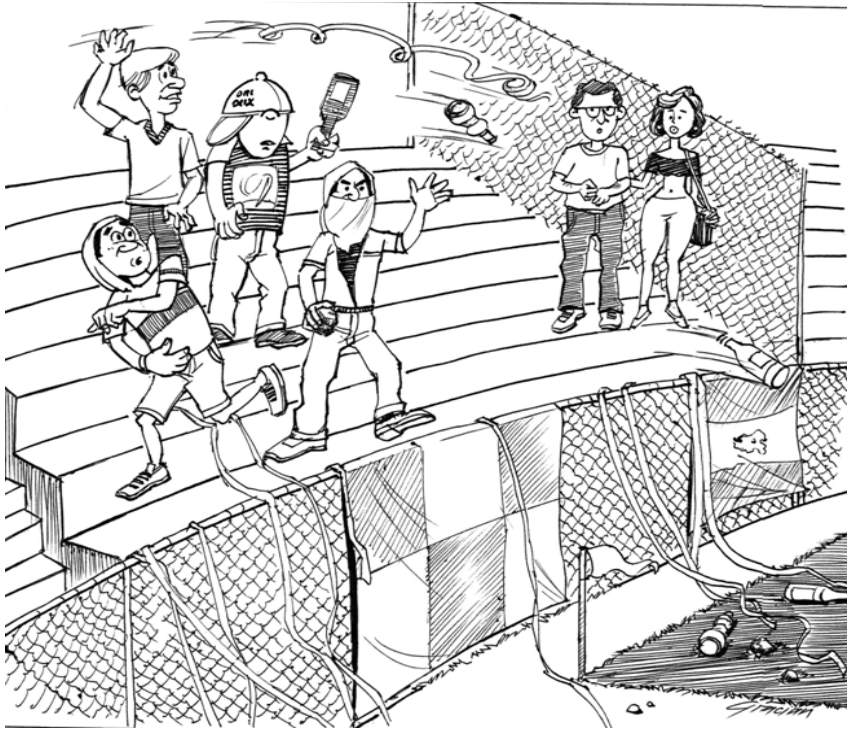
As to devices or laser pointers; besides being a prohibition its use in soccer stadium is penalize, several ophthalmologists all around the globe have point out that this little instruments could seriously affect the retina of an person's eye. In certain occasions we all had observed that in some soccer stadiums mean fans use laser devices to point the contrary team soccer player in the eyes, in order to distract them for doing an action correctly; this only shows the poor criteria and confidence that this fan has towards his team that he says he supports; if his team has to win, it has to be in a honest way reflected in the effort they put on the game, not with tricks.



Don't throw objects on the game field.

FIFA prohibits throwing any kind of objects to the field (paper rolls, bottles, etc.). Any object, even being small could become a projectile that could seriously hurt the fans, referees and soccer players; normally this attitude is drastically penalize and also affects directly the soccer clubs or football teams, but far from the disciplinary sanction, throwing objects to the field should be avoid to show the culture from the fans and the public in general.

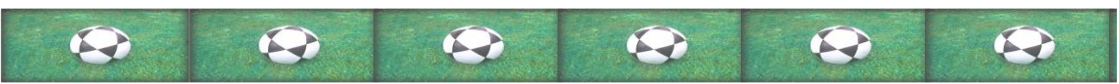
Commonly these attitudes are of frustration by some disturbed fans thanks to any situation and that, as was mentioned before, do not change results but could strongly affect those who participate in a football stadium. (Fans, soccer players, referees, coaching staff, etc.).



Avoid the intake of alcoholic beverages.

In the stadiums it is allowed the supervised sale of alcoholic beverages to adults; it is important to emphasize that everybody goes to the stadium aiming to observe and enjoy the show!, and if our team wins it is always fun, however it is sad to observe that in some occasions some people pass the limits when their intake of alcoholic beverages has been exaggerated; besides making a fool of yourself in public, you will embarrass your family and friends, even if they don't say it so they don't make you mad, you will always be object of mocks and bad commentaries. Most of the public, depending on the temperature consume soft-drinks, juices or sodas, but if for instance, if you are an adult and you like to cool with an alcoholic beverage, go ahead! You have the right to do it, but please take into account that there are places in the stadium that are not precisely a place to get drunk, you should even remember that the alcoholic beverage allow in stadiums is beer, which is diuretic, which means that drinking too much will create you the need to go to the bathroom, which implies standing from your seat and disturbing the rest of the spectators, especially if you have to do that when the game is developing.





It must be taken into account that some fan's excessive drinking may cause directly or indirectly the beginning of incidents and struggles started by people that drank a lot and got violent; Let us remember that we go to the stadium to watch soccer not drunk people. It is recommendable to remember that drunk people are more likely to commit a crime; burglars could get advantage of the victim's state and rob him or her; and in worst cases there might even lead to sexual crimes.

Do not provoke any type of racist behavior in the stadiums.

Racism is one of the most deplorable attitudes of human being however, some perturbed people promote this kind of behavior towards people with different skin color or ethnic group; admitting that fortunately now a days that kind of behavior is not that common, in some stadiums there have existed these kind of behaviors that allow us to denigrate ourselves, the saddest thing is that some people without personality imitate or repeat the people who does these.

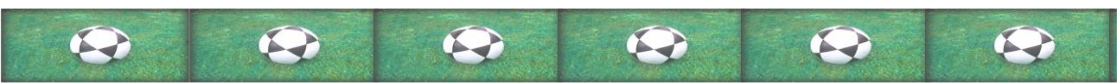
A good fan should never have this kind of behaviors, that are also prohibited and that penalizes soccer clubs and institutions, but we should avoid it specially, because this attitude discredit us as humans.



Emergency situations and evacuation.

Emergencies are unexpected situations, they could be either minor or major grade but, basically specialists should take care of them; in an stadium the only thing we can do as spectators is to not block the lifeguards so they can help the people who need them, so they can arrive and attend the injured and evacuated them so they can focus on their problem; it is inappropriate to gather around the injured person or people making it difficult for them to breath, smothering and most of all stopping the normal transfer.



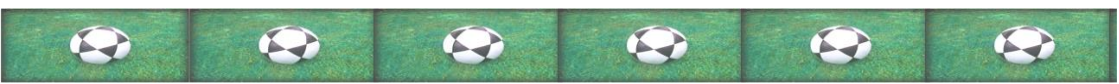


However, one of the higher risks in a stadium full of spectators is the desperation that they could have confronting an emergency situation; it could be a fire, or a power outage, earthquake or any similar situation, it has been proved that the panic of the people could cause more victims than the emergency itself; for instance, if there is a minor earthquake and people start running towards the exit door they could dangerously crowd together, fall and smash themselves, with unpredictable consequences; but if we stay calm in our seats the most probable thing is that the earthquake ends, then only if it is appropriate, we could exit the stadium in order.

When an emergency happens the members of the organization of the sportive, along with the authorities, Public Force and security agents, as well as relief agencies that should apply the contingency plans, open the gates of the stadium in order to evacuate, but it is always highlighted that in this evacuation should be done in order so the most vulnerable people won't be affected.

For an emergency in a stadium the organization of the event should have an emergency plan, but basically everybody starts calming people with a call on the loudspeaker or our common sense will do it itself and if you are with kids, it will calm them down until the emergency is over. If the evacuation is needed, always remember that the best way to collaborate is to not act hastily: generally if someone runs or screams it could cause a common hysteria and everybody runs and it could become a real risk because of the quantity of people getting out or evacuating. Never encourage people to run in the stadium because it could cause fear, anxiety, anguish, and panic in other spectators. When people are gathered in a multitude, they tend to get scared when someone is running to a specific place. A simple race between friends could cause general fear among everybody.

In certain occasions emergencies could be caused not for natural reasons but wrong behaviors of a misfit person; we all want to see the spectacle and enjoy it, the only reason we go to the stadium is to see a soccer game in which they could either win, lose or even the game, that's why not when the game is developing nor at the end we should promote violence just because we do not agree with the result or with what we see, always remember that the most important is the well-being of everybody and that it is not fair to put any person under risk, that is why it is emphasized that to the stadium go not only men, young people or physically strong people, but thousands of kids, women, older



people and people with physical disability; before provoking disorder or violence imagine that these people could be your family and you would not like them to be on a risky situation.

Finally, remember that specialists point that the human behavior plays a critical role when facing emergencies, the best decision for everybody would be to reduce risks. Mainly, the preventions is the best way to avoid risks; there are people who risks their lives and in some occasions even those of the rest of the people; places in which people gather together, balconies and terraces around the stadium or people climb the enclosures, posts, fences and internal wire from the sportive scenario; to fall from these places could be a terrible experience not just for the directly affected person, but for those who are watching.

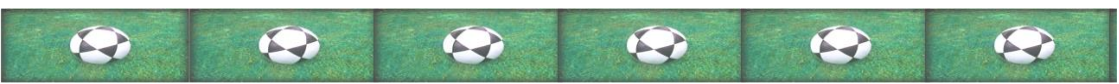


WHEN THE SHOW ENDS

When the soccer game is over, it would always be logic to retire to our houses with tranquility, this activity should normally be made in a calm way for the quantity of people that exit the scenario, and therefore it is preferable to exit in order, slow and without shocks in order to avoid mass of people that could cause problems while getting out the stadium; it is better to “loose some minutes” waiting until the exit is clear so you can go out without worries.

Despite this activity is traditionally quite at the stadiums, for different circumstances this can be altered; there are occasions in which the fans of the winning team, it may be for an important game or for the accomplishment of a championship stay at the stadium enjoying the awards giving ceremony or similar situations.





Usually the spectators' dismissal is an activity that takes place without setbacks, however in some situations the control authorities of the spectacle or Public Force are obliged to request one specific group of fans to stay until the other group exits, generally the local fan group or the biggest group exits, this decision is made with the only intention of avoiding fights between the fan groups that could lead violence. If this is the case, please cooperate with the authorities, it is not about bothering, but promoting security for all the attendee and seeking the common well-being, this action take place in all the stadiums of the world in which there are big soccer teams and big fan groups, so it is important that as a fan you understand that you are part of this beautiful sport and spectacle called football...let's collaborate!!

The security considerations of the trip to the stadium should be equally considered when returning home or to your origin place, take precautions avoid staying in unknown places and if it is possible return with someone, in case of complications take into account the transportation, inform your family who and where are you going to be, this will avoid unnecessary worries for your relatives.

Let's be reiterative remembering that if in the returning way we observe any girl, we shouldn't get close to "nose around" what's happening, the most likely to happen could be that there are problems with the law and affected people, that is why the better choice would always be to get away from the place and go to our homes.



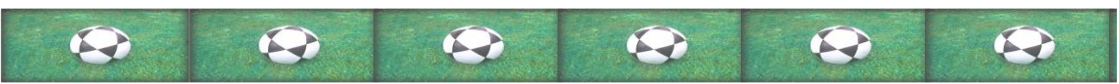
ANOTHER SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO FOOTBALL

We can win, get even or loose.

There are three results in football; win, get even or loose. It is probable that your team had a bad presentation and that considers that what was done in the field was not enough, it is possible that you think that the referee favored the contrary team; despite these considerations that could be valid, normally football always gives revenges, which means that our team could stand up again and afterwards play a batter game or championship, the world does not end by losing a soccer game or the championship, it is gratifying to observe a conscious and mature fan group that clap to the rival team even if this has win with lots of goals and was superior than our team, and to thank your team for the effort they made in the field.

Remember that when encouraging your team; even if they had lost it will always encourage them more that complaining, generally, claims only obfuscate and desperate them, but words or chants of encouragement always compromise the participants to be better (leaders, technical staff, and players), sometimes practicing football is not as easy as it seems, players considered starts have failed a penalty or an open goal, teams, apparently, invincible teams have failed in front of supposedly easy opponent; it has been demonstrated that on the game field there are eleven against eleven players and that if the preparation or the statistics could favor one or another team, is in the field that the quality and effort is shown.

A lot of violent incidents have been generated by fans that let their anger free under the excuse of not agreeing with the result of the soccer game, or even in uncontrollable victory celebrations, which have caused serious injuries or even death of people, any soccer game or any soccer result, it doesn't matter how important it is, deserves live lost, which carries on tragedy to the relatives and friends of the affected people, it distance fans from the stadiums, but most of all it brings a huge disappointment and mistrust because of the people pretending to be fans, it denigrate you team and they become real criminals. Remember that a violence situation could alter the course of our existence, not only as a victim, but as an aggressor also.

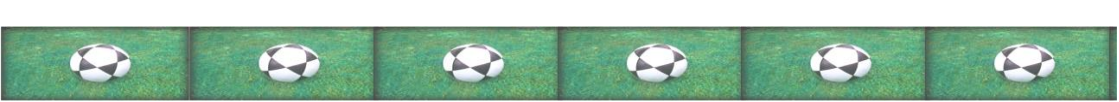


Our team can win, get even or lose; the real fan of a soccer team supports it in the good or bad times, the most important thing is to participate in this sportive party where the result could be anything, without letting it affect our lives in a negative sense.

Is football fair?

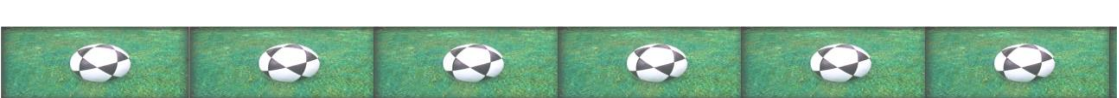
We all would like that our team always win, and if it is possible with a lot of goals, however all the teams in the world, big or small could win, get even or lose a game, as was signaled before; in case of not winning, the result won't always seem fair, those who win the soccer game are those who make more goals, sometimes this is not the reflection of what happened on the soccer field.

One of the most interesting situations of this fascinating sport is that it always give new opportunities, the logic thing is that the team with best physical preparation wins, strategy and with more capable players, but the history of football has demonstrated true sporting feats in which teams considered with less opportunities demonstrated the contrary on the field, that is why football is not always considered fair or logic, for this reason it is liked for a lot of people all along the world; if you have noticed dear fan, to a soccer stadium go different types of fans, of any politic tendency and genre; children, adults, older people; without religious problems, ethnic or social group; we go when we have a box, preference or general seat, and sometimes we make juggling to get the tickets; people who go with the only objective to share and enjoy a great time with the people they love and friends in general, spectacle that should never been disturbed by any act of violence inside or outside the sportive scenario, football won't always be fair from our point of view, but this cannot be a reason to affect anybody with violence situations, is just a game, maybe in some days, weeks, months or in a determined period of time, our team could win against the traditional rival, be better on the field, or get into the championship; in football you will always have to cry of sadness or jump of joy, but there is the limit, it does not have to damage either yourself nor the others. It is clear, then, that football cannot always seem fair to us, it will be for those who win and not for those who loose; which is definitively not fair for a family on any part of the world is the pain caused by the death of a person, injured or incarcerated just because of football.



Participants of the spectacle.

- **Referees.-** They are responsible of judging what happens on the field, they have the authority to cancel the game if for any kind of situation they consider it necessary (meteorological situations, lack of security, etc.). Generally, their decisions are considered polemic on the game field and taken in a second, these are clap by some and criticized by others, as any other human being the referee could go wrong, that's why there are several penalties stipulated on the rules.
- **Football players.-** They are the main actors of the spectacle, we all go to the field to see their performance on the field; their effort and their individual or collective techniques originate the passion of thousands of people generally, we observe their career outside and inside the game field, for that reason they should be a “role model” for the kids and teenagers that dream to become someone like them, kids that buy their t-shirts, imitate their hair styles and their gestures on the game field; they are supported by an endless number of professionals such as their Technical staff, leaders, doctors and other support professionals.
- **Spectators.-** Depending on the country, they could be called fans, spectators or attendee in general; people that make an stop from their daily routines to go to enjoy an spectacle that is without doubt a true passion that only a few could explain with property, in an stadium commonly, we all become “football specialist” pointing what player should be replaced and how should be there instead, we are the first critics when the forward fails a goal or the goalkeeper does not stop the ball, we know everything about football, about the rules because we decide if the referee or the assistants make a mistake, however most of us have never compete in a formal way in a soccer game, and it is probably that we instead of making goal would kick our face without touching the ball; anything goes to spice those passionate 90 minutes in which the most important thing is to enjoy them till the maximum, only if we don't get to do anything that could put anybody on risk, or anything that attempts to their integrity of the spectator of this beautiful spectacle of football.



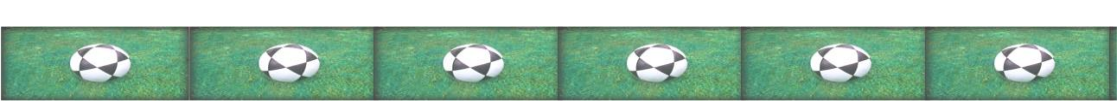
- **Public Force and relief agencies.-** In opposition to those who go to the stadium under they will and with the desire to see football, there are other actors that go to the place even if they like it or not just to do their job, they are the relief agencies, members of the public force and un some countries elements of private security. Members of the Police or any member of the public force have been designed trough an obligatory disposition to look for the safety at stadiums generally, they are there hours before the fans arrived, and they have to stay until the place is safe and clear; they have to stay a lot of time on their feet with the only purpose to give security to the spectators, including referees, players, authorities and to the public in general. Some are even designated to place themselves near the contrary soccer team fans to maintain the order. Support their job by simply respecting it, the best way to do it is by tranquil observing the spectacle, not provoking the other fans group with any kind of violent attitude, being ruse, swearing or even worst objects.

Don't forget to collaborate with the security controls done by the authority agents at the entry of the fans; this is done aiming to protect everybody from guns, fireworks, violent signs, alcoholic beverages, toxic substances, laser devices, or any article that could harm the spectator or the spectacle in general.

- **Federations, Associations, Clubs and show control personnel.-** Behind the show we see at plain sight, there are a lot of people working for it to continue without problems: control, associations, federations, authorities personnel. The experience and will of these people make the whole thing happen.

At a stadium, there are also personnel in charge of logistics, hygiene, and general services. Although is responsibility of these people to preserve the stadium, the fans should make their most not to damage the infrastructure of the stadium.

- **Specialized press.-** They are professionals specialized on sports, related to Written press, television, and radio which transmit live the circumstances of a soccer match. Normally they have assigned working areas, however, there are cases when they posses a mobile equipment for interviews. The communicators must always behave



impartial and objective avoiding any comment that may awaken the fans' rage or violence.

Firearms, sharps and forceful weapons.

It is forbidden to enter the stadiums with any kind of weapon, due to security reasons, It may also cause panic and lead to anarchy and violence.

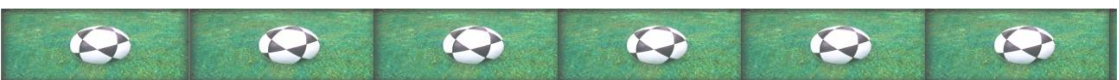
It is important to remember that going to a stadium is like going to a family picnic, no one would take a weapon to it. It is a place of family fun and the sole presence of a weapon in this place may have damaging or even fatal consequences.

Avoid fights.

Even if we may sound redundant, we must insist that manual is way to take violence of soccer for good. It is regrettable to see how people that fight, and even some that don't, have lost their legal and human dignity.

Do not stimulate violence, it is better to walk away. These people may be identified by authorities. Fans are well known for their enthusiasm and not for its violence.

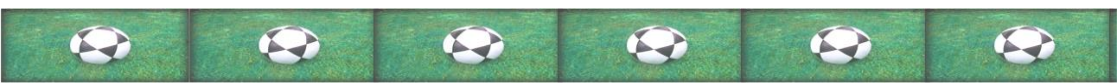
Security fence or wall.



Nowadays, walls and fences are used to contain people, to avoid the trespassing of fans into the soccer field, and to stop any object the fans might toss towards the players. We have seen in television matches that have not required fences, or walls in order to keep peace; which means that in some places we still have to evolve a little bit. We will require the help of authorities to achieve this goal of peace.

Those who enjoy soccer should help to maintain the security of this sport. A mature and peaceful attitude towards this sport is the key of all this. It will avoid the need of fences, walls, guards and regimens. It will avoid the trespassing of a fan into the field (unless is an emergency), and it will avoid the tossing of garbage to the players.

It is important to mention that the fans who create the “human avalanche” when they run towards the fence put everybody in danger for

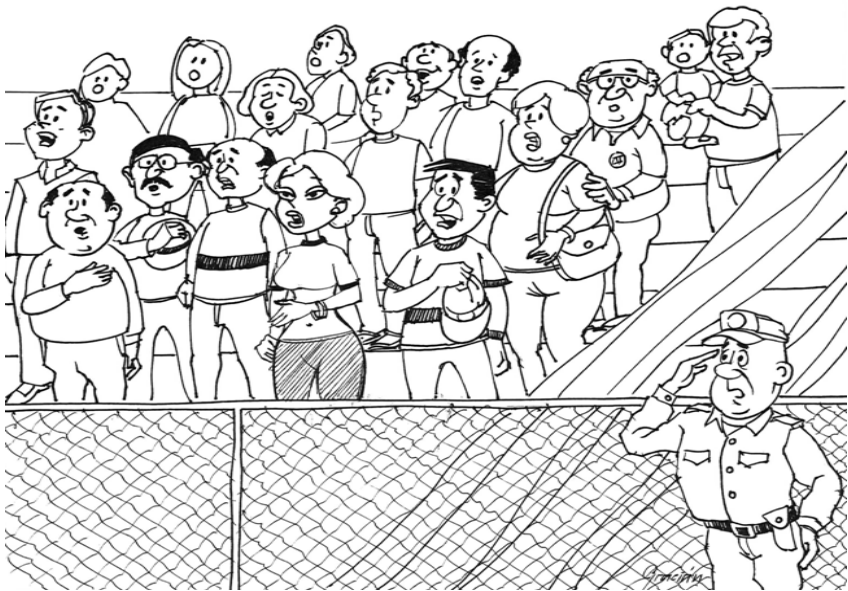


if they fall they might hurt themselves and others badly or perhaps even kill someone.

Each person has a place in this show, and that of the fan will always be sitting in their seats peacefully

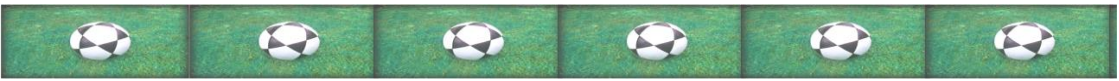
National Anthems and Minutes of Silence.

The culture of the fans is reflected in the respect to their national symbols and those of the visitors, either in an international competition among clubs, or in national selections, those good fans leave their seats, take their caps and hats off, and sing the National Anthem loudly as a sign of citizenship and pride. This collective singing also motivates our players to do their best effort and to lose themselves in the field. This is the moment when we start feeling the player #12, the good soccer fan. Likewise, When the National Anthem of the opposing team is sung by them, our manners will be reflected in our silence until its ending.



Sometimes, there are some cases in which we are asked to keep a minute of silence due to the death of someone, or some people related to soccer somehow, or victims of a catastrophe. By the loudspeaker, the fans are asked to keep a minute of silence, and the referee, the players and spectators have to abide this, showing with that respect and education.

Care in transfers to another city or country.



In order to encourage their Club or National Team, several fans can move from a city to another one inside and outside the country. If that is the case, we must take certain precautions for the purpose of avoiding complications.

First, as mentioned before, it is important not to take any unnecessary items, especially valuables, with you. If you do not know your destination, get information in current media (Internet) about the city or country you will visit, not only about the nice places, such as the tourist places and hotels, but also about those that are considered dangerous so as to not jeopardize your integrity. If possible, print or get a map, and read about the transport means available in the city, It is highly recommended to try to be accompanied, as well as to communicate your relatives with whom and where you are.

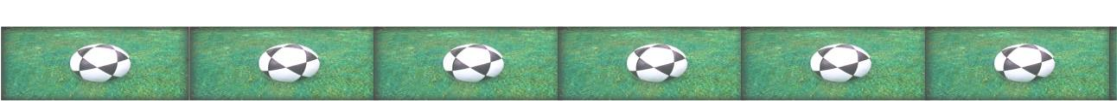
It is important to point out that practically all cities around the world have their risks; whence, it is not suitable to be with strangers in unknown places, in some way, we would be vulnerable to an action against our security. If you are out of your place of origin, and especially a country you do not know, or with a different currency, avoid buying ticket from touts, since we could get a fake ticket, and besides our change in counterfeit bills.

Do not be involved with ticket scalping.

Attending a soccer match as any other activity we realize in our lives must be well planned regardless how simple it looks. That is to say, first of all there is the decision to attend to the match, which should be one or many days in advance depending on the importance of the match. Afterwards, you must get information about the places where you can buy the tickets, either at the stadium, or at the Club or Federation facilities, go to their acquisition and have secured your admission.

Despite the fact that usually the event organizers take precautions to prevent ticket scalping, this activity gets more complicated because many people try to buy the ticket at the last minute by any circumstances. As we said earlier, thousands of people attend these establishments to watch a soccer match, for which we insist that we obtain our tickets previously so we will not be prey to those who realize this strange activity mainly because we could even become victims of a fraud by purchasing counterfeit tickets.

Spontaneous in soccer.



Those are people who are capable of doing things like showing banners, getting in the field and touching the players, running naked all over the field, and so on, just to call the attention. Their motivations may be several, sport fanaticism, political or social matters, alcohol effects or even just to make themselves to be noted anyhow.

Press does not give any credit or “promote” these people who want to take advantage of the interest that soccer generates in order to expose themselves consummating their own objectives. The attitude of the audience should also be measured since that we observe is not quite a prowess. As fans let’s stop celebrating this manners that do no good to soccer. That jeopardizes our safety, it is not interesting to all of the spectators, could confuse the kids watching such action, and provoke a sanction to the stadiums in which such actions are realized.

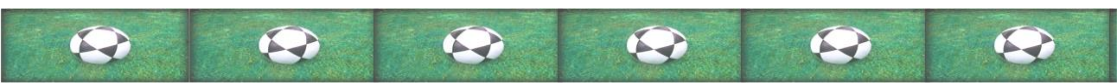
Fair play

We have seen in several international competitions some children in the stadium that march with the soccer players on the two lines with the Fair Play flag as a symbol of this program deployed by FIFA so as to incentivize the sportsmanship inside and outside the game field.

Fair play refers to the fact that in any sport competition, either in soccer or in any other sport, partners, rivals, judges, fans, directors, reporters, and so on, should respect everyone among themselves.

As fans, we have gladly experienced some examples of Fair Play. When a player has got hurt or injured in the field, partners and rivals leave out the ball, so when the game restarts the ball is given to the one who had it the last time, the opposite of when there are soccer players that pretend to have been injured or when they intimidate the referee.

Outside the game field, Fair play is all these actions that those who are part of soccer in some way could do, and as fans we are a fundamental part of it. When a group of fans of a foreign Club or Team comes to our country, the right thing to do is give them information for them to be able to go to the stadium or to the tourist places in our country, since we are the hosts. This is also a proper example of Fair Play.



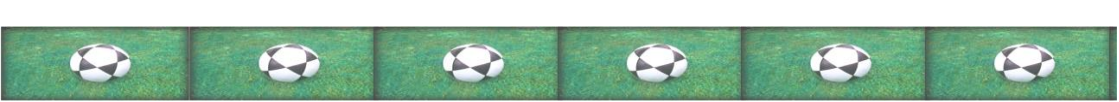
Then Fair Play, which is related to every sport, refers to our respect to others, to incentivize sportsmanship, to experience soccer without insults, grievances, and racist acts, to set parameters by which we do everything without cheating or any other graft so our team or the other one wins honestly because they proved to be the best in the game field.

We have also experienced examples of the opposite of Fair Play with annoyance. Directors that complicate the training of the opposite team, fans that use laser devices to bother the players, and even fans that make noise in the hotels where the opposite team is staying, and they do not let them rest.

Perhaps, one of the most visible examples against Fair Play is when thousands of people are in a stadium in the international finals and many others watch on television the awards to the champion and the second place. Some players in the second place flaunt their disagreement and dissatisfaction; they take their medal off almost immediately after someone placed it to them, such action is observed by millions of children and teenagers in their homes that see how their idols disappoint them, not because they lost the game, if they are at the finals it means they are as good as the rivals, but because they could not accept their defeat.

The practice of Fair Play inside and outside the fields as well as in our daily lives is undoubtedly a demonstration of qualities and virtues that make us better human beings; besides, I will prevent violence that in many occasions damage this beautiful sport somehow.

50 QUESTIONS THAT A GOOD FAN MUST ANSWER



Take a pencil and start answering these questions. Each one is equivalent to 2 points; if you answer correctly you will obtain 100 points and if you apply this knowledge in a proper way, then you are an “outstanding fan”.

ANSWER YES OR NO

1. Is it wise to take valuables or a lot of cash with you to the stadiums?

YES	NO

2. Taking only the necessary to buy the ticket, something to eat, and to transport, is it the most appropriate?

YES	NO

3. Is it better to go to the stadium by yourself rather than going with someone else?

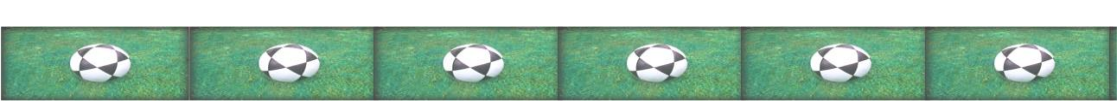
YES	NO

4. When going to celebrate the victory of our team, is it good to not keep in touch with anyone for our relatives to worry?

YES	NO

5. Is it right to take buses with overage of people to go to another city in order to watch a soccer match?

YES	NO



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6. Do we have to use pedestrian bridges to walk and get to the stadium?

YES	NO

7. Should we check our budget before going from a city to another one so as to watch a soccer match?

YES	NO

8. Is it appropriate to offend others and provoke fights with the fans of the opposite team?

YES	NO

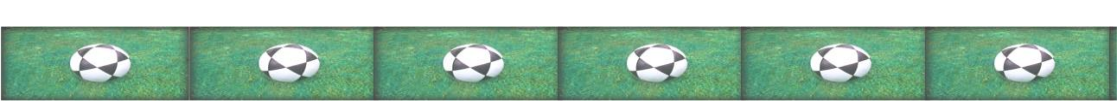
9. Is it good for our team to be part of a confrontation or fight among fans?

YES	NO

10. Is it nice for children and vulnerable people to be in the middle of a fight among fans?

YES	NO

11. Could someone get injured or die in a "simple" fight among fans?



YES	NO

12. Could the fact of getting late to the stadium imply crowds, riots and desperation to get in, and jeopardize vulnerable people?

YES	NO

13. Must the fact of getting in and out of the stadium be an activity realized without any act of violence?

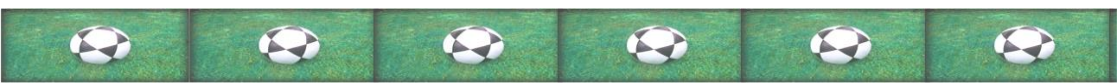
YES	NO

14. When getting in or out of the stadium, is it important to avoid drinking alcoholic beverages?

YES	NO

Multiple choice (underline the right answer)

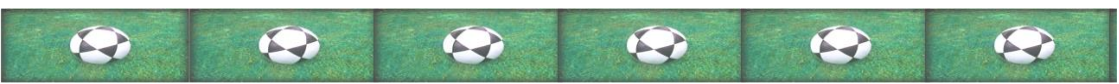
15. In a soccer stadium, who is considered to be the player #12?
- a) The referee
 - b) The audience
 - c) The reporters
16. Why does a fan attend the stadium?
- a) To bother and insult the players and fans of the opposite team
 - b) To enjoy the show and encourage his or her team
 - c) To throw things to the field
17. What do players feel when their fans sing for them?



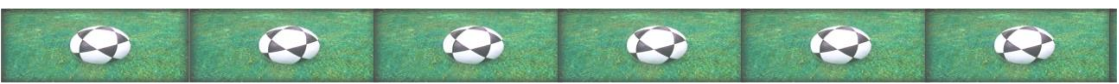
- a) Support from their fans, and that makes them strive even more
 - b) They get mad because their fans support them
 - c) They do not care if they sing or not
18. What do insults and teasing from fans of a team generate to the others?
- a) They like to be insulted
 - b) Anger, they could answer with more insults or could generate violence
 - c) They take pictures of them to frame them
19. Why is it important to be careful when getting in and out of a stadium?
- a) Because it is interesting to be among many people
 - b) Because it is the right moment for a thief to take advantage of the crowd and steal cellphones, wallets, and so on.
 - c) Because it finally starts or it finally ends
20. Why is it appropriate to get away from violent people?
- a) Because we avoid actions that could affect us the entire life
 - b) Because they may get mad at home
 - c) Because someone could watch it on TV
21. What tip of security should we take into account when being among fans inside and outside a stadium?
- a) All fans must be part of a single family
 - b) Violent people must not be among the fans
 - c) All fans must wear the t-shirt of our team

Complete

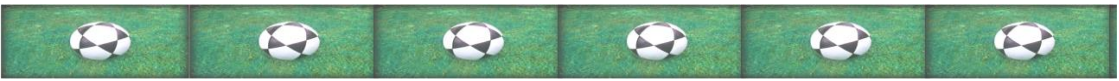
22. It has been determined that in many occasions people Had a bad time because they did not get away from violent elements that were part of incidents in a specific zone of a stadium or around it.



23. The use of fireworks and laser devices is by the FIFA in soccer stadiums.
24. The flares have small combustion and propulsion mechanisms, that when those take speed and impact on the human body, can cause and even of someone.
25. Laser devices can affect the..... of someone seriously.
26. Anything we throw on the field, even if it is something small, could become a that could injure gravely some fans, referees and players.
27. It is sad to see that in many occasions some people over limit their temperance when they have ingested alcoholic beverages in an way in a stadium.
28. Racism is one of the attitudes more pitiful of the
29. In case of an accident inside the stadium, it is inappropriate to get around one person making him breath with difficulty, suffocating him, and most of all impeding the normal movement of the lifeguards.
30. When people are evacuating the stadium, this activity must be well realized for the people more (People with disabilities, women, pregnant women, seniors, children) to not be affected.



31. Never encourage anyone to run in a stadium because that could provide..... in the other spectators.
32. Human behavior plays an important role in cases of emergency, being the of all the best decision to reduce the risk.
33. At the end of a match, the fans could be asked to stay in the stadium until the fans of the opposite team leave the place. This is realized with the only intention to avoid Between those two groups of fans.
34. It is rewarding to see fans that congratulates the opposite team even if they have won the match.
35. An act of violence could change our experience, not only as..... but also as
36. They players are the primal actor of this show, due to that, they must be a to the children and teenagers inside and outside the fields.
37. Security checks are realized in order to to all the fans
38. The absence of safety fencing to avoid people to get it the game field depends on the authorities, players and the spectators.
39. The education of the fans is reflected on the respect to their national symbols and to the



- 40. If we buy tickets in resale, we take the risk of being of a fraud acquiring fake tickets.

- 41. As fans, we do not the attitudes of the people considered as spontaneous that get in the game field, get naked, or do anything to attract attention.

- 42. Fair Play refers basically to the fact that in every sport competition, either soccer or any other sport among them, partners, rivals, judges, fans, directors, reporters, and so on.

- 43. When a player has got injured in the field, partners and rivals leave out the ball, it is an example of

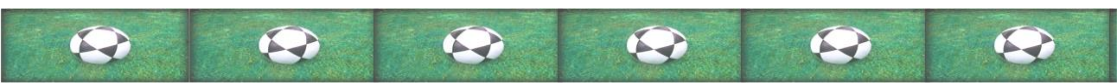
- 44. The opposite of Fair Play is when a player that did not win his medal that he received in the awards.

Enumeration questions.

- 45. Write down three actors that participate in soccer
.....
.....
.....

- 46. Indicate three things that you must not take with you to the stadium
.....
.....
.....

- 47. Indicate three actions that you must not realize in a stadium
.....
.....
.....



48. Indicate three actions of Fair Play that we can do as fans

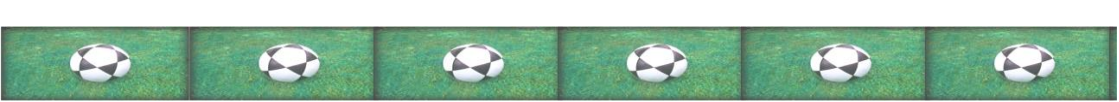
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49. Indicate three actions that you as a fan can do when singing the National Anthem

.....
.....
.....

50. Which one is the best team in the world?

.....



ANSWERS.

Yes-No Questions

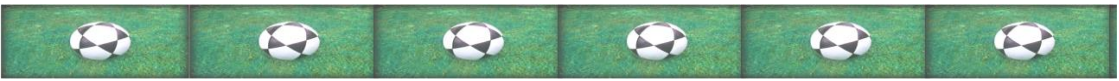
1. NO, 2. YES, 3. NO, 4. NO, 5. NO, 6. YES, 7. YES, 8. NO, 9. NO, 10. NO, 11. YES, 12. YES, 13. YES, 14. YES

Multiple choice

15. The reporters
16. To enjoy the show and encourage his or her team
17. Support from their fans, and that makes them strive even more
18. Anger, they could answer with more insults or could generate violence
19. Because it is the right moment for a thief to take advantage of the crowd and steal cellphones, wallets, and so on.
20. Because we avoid actions that could affect us the entire life
21. Violent people must not be among the fans

Complete

22. Curious
23. Forbidden
24. Injures, death
25. Retina of the eyes
26. Projectile
27. Excessive
28. Human being
29. Hurt
30. Vulnerable
31. Fear, anxiety, anguish, and panic
32. Tranquility
33. Confrontations
34. Conscious and mature
35. Victim, aggressor
36. Example
37. Protect
38. Fundamentally

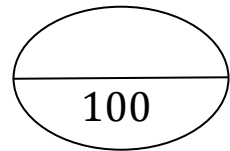


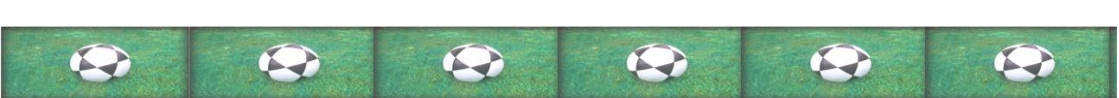
- 39. Visitor team
- 40. Victims
- 41. Celebrate
- 42. Respect
- 43. Fair Play
- 44. Leave

Enumeration questions

- 45. Players, referees, spectators
- 46. Weapons, laser devices, fireworks
- 47. Throw things on the field, Realize racist acts, insult fans of the opposite team
- 48. Accept our lose with calm, congratulate the opposite team if they were better than ours, encourage our team even if they lost.
- 49. Take off our hats or caps, sing the National Anthem loudly, Respect the National Anthem of the opposite team remaining silence.
- 50. Your team, of course!

Sum up your answers honestly, two points each, and without cheating, applying the Fair Play. Write down your score out of 100, and then check out the scorecard with the amusement that soccer has, and find your designation. Good luck, fans!

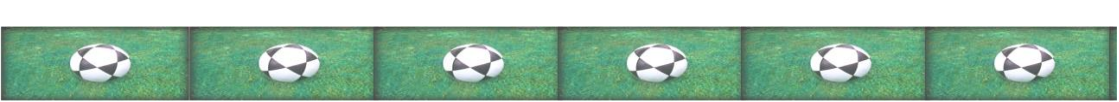




Score of the Test	The score is real is you apply this knowledge
100 points.	Outstanding fan
90 to 98 points.	Excellent fan
80 to 88 points.	Very good fan
70 to 78 points.	Good fan
60 to 68 points	Fan
50 to 58 points	Do not go to the stadium
40 to 48 points	Watch the soccer match on TV
30 to 38 points	Do not watch the soccer match on TV
20 to 28 points	Look for professional help
10 to 18 points	You are among the most wanted
0 to 8 points	Surrender to the police!

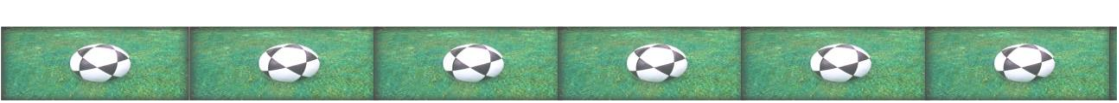
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- *Lieutenant Colonel with 22 years of experience in the Policía Nacional del Ecuador (Ecuador National Police).*
- *Deputy Police Added in Europe (Spain).*
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IMPORTANT:

- If soccer is your passion, we suggest you to check on line the *Safety Regulations* and *Laws of the Game FIFA* (17 rules). The first one correspond to a document created especially for the Sport Authorities, Organizers, Public and Private Security Members, etc. Reading it allows us to verify all that is happening around a soccer match. The second one will allow us to analyze the formal practice of soccer and what had occurred in the game field.
- Guide realized since 2010 by Intellectual Propriety and International Code ISBN since July, 2013.
- This document was created in Quito, Ecuador and it is addressed to all the soccer fans worldwide. Recommend it only if you consider that it is worth for someone else to read it, but please do respect the effort realized by the author and the intellectual property. Do not resend it. Download it only and for free from www.guiadelfutbol.org
- If you are a sports or gymnastics teacher, usually the most fun subject in our studies, it would be an honor if you take a few minutes to talk to your students the themes suggested in this guide, or realize the test given before. Just imagine that with your help one or many kids think over and decide not to participate in violent acts that could harm them.
- A lecture sampling has been realized. Public and private security members, sport journalists, police directors, sociologists from universities, high school and college students, and people just like me (soccer fans), they all agreed about the inedited, appropriate, social, practical, and preventive aspects of the project.

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- The versions and notes written in this “Guide for the Soccer Fan Security” constitute a reference. The application of these is a strict responsibility of the one who realizes them.

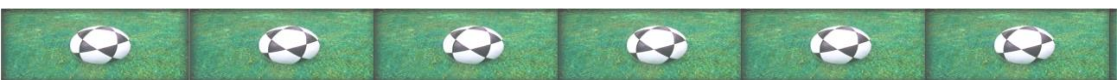
FINAL MESSAGE

Dear Fan, if you have read this guide, possibly very insisting on security recommendations and with pieces of advice quite obvious, you could tell that its only purpose is to aware those who love this sport of the fact that violence must be far from the stadiums and its surroundings , and soccer itself. This remarkable sport brings us together in a formal stadium, squares, parks and homes, to millions of people of all ages, gender and social condition, either as spectators, professionals, amateurs, or players in a little dirt court. It depends on us this very spreading to help us to become closer as human beings, with common likes, and not to separate us, or do physical or verbal damages that create a distance because of irrational situations.

In many occasions people have considered that actually, violence is wrongly linked to soccer because violent people could act like that in any place, in the stadium, in a social reunion, or even in their own home; or could be people that regularly in their everyday life are very peaceful, but unleash their anger when they are among a determined group. Such task is difficult to be analyzed by sociologists, psychologists, and other specialists in the study of human behavior; in any case, in the world of soccer, violent people are still the exception, most of the fans always act with coherence and soberness, but when these facts occur, they frighten us, and they take us away from sport events.

Share and check the notes described with your family, analyze them especially with your teenager sons or with the youngest ones, it is probable that doing this responsibly could motivate them to make of prevention their better way of protection.

Undoubtedly, the broadcast of this guide will not put an end to the violence related to soccer; however, security prevention is one of the best ways to reduce the risks. When the conscious review of these recommendations allows a father, anywhere in the world, to have the preventive tool to avoid injuries or the death of his son, then we will have accomplished our mission.



Let's keep enjoying soccer with passion, with joy and sorrow, but also with the strong belief that it is a bond of union. Let's remember when we were kids, and learn from them today as well, who practice it and watch it simply with the desire of having fun.

Send us your comments or suggestions to:

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Note: Color illustrations where not used in this guide for it not to be related to any soccer Club.



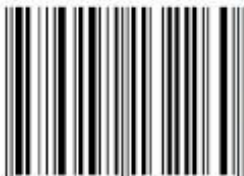
Translated into English Language by Bénédict International Language School Quito



vive el fútbol y su alegría...



ISBN 978-9942-13-226-0



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