



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA



THE ROLE OF THE POLICE AT FOOTBALL

Who is in charge of a football event?

The club is in charge of the event and will be in overall charge of the stadium and its footprint. Police Scotland will respond to any criminality taking place out with or within.

All SPFL clubs must appoint an occupationally competent Safety Officer, responsible for the safety, security and stewarding matters of their ground.

As part of regular engagement the club would request police attendance at football matches. In 2018-2019, 83% of fixtures were police free.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the Police at Football?

- To deploy an Event Policing Lead to support the safe delivery of the event
- To assist the club and their Safety Officer and stewards
- Assisting with searches at the turnstiles if needed
- Patrol and engage positively with supporters both inside and outside of the stadium
- Deal with any disorder or criminality that may present

Event Policing Lead

Police Scotland will select a trained and accredited Event Policing Lead who will develop a policing plan for a football event and direct police resources during the event.

The Event Policing Lead is generally based alongside the Club Safety Officer on match day and has the responsibility for the following:

- Has overall control of the policing operation
- Determining the event category
- Setting resource levels
- Assisting the club and their stewards with their responsibility for safety and crowd management where necessary
- Will take control of the event, from the Safety Officer, if any major incident or serious disorder occurs
- Maintaining Law and Order
- Reporting of any relevant issues post match (crowd safety, violence, disorder, etc.)

Specialist officers who attend football matches

Some football events will require assistance from Police Scotland's specialist resources. The resources will be selected dependent on the event assessment that has been carried out prior to the fixture.

- **SPOTTERS** – Officers are there to identify any problems out with or inside the stadium and report to the event controller. They often work closely with the club and supporters. They can be in attendance at home and away games. They can be identified as usually wearing a fluorescent jacket with blue yoke across the shoulders
- **MOUNTED OFFICERS** – Assist with crowd control from an elevated position giving a better view of the crowd dynamic
- **HELICOPTER** – Assist with an aerial view of the event and report any issues to the Event Policing Lead
- **PUBLIC ORDER** – Deployed at higher risk matches
- **EVIDENCE GATHERING TEAMS (EGT)** – Officers will deploy hand held cameras when appropriate to deter criminal behaviour and capture evidence of offences

Assurance Reviews and identifying good practice

Police Scotland are continually looking to improve and identify areas of good practice in relation to policing football. In order to identify these areas Police Scotland has created Football Policing Assurance Reviews and are conducted by specialist officers.

They are intended to provide a quality assurance function which identifies good practice as well as areas for improvement across the country. The aim of the assurance review is to ensure the greatest possible benefits through learning for all Police Scotland colleagues.

Please be assured that when attending a game you are our community for the day and we're here to make sure you enjoy a safe and secure event.



scotland.police.uk



[@PoliceScotland](https://twitter.com/PoliceScotland)



[PoliceScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland)