

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS REPORT	2nd February 2016
To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Prosperity
Outcome	Actively develop and promote the economic and social development of the area
Lead Officer	Rory Donnelly
Cost: (If applicable)	n/a

1.1 Background

Council is in receipt of guidance issued by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure which requires Council to implement the remaining provisions of the Safety of Sports Grounds legislation to introduce a Safety Certificate scheme, similar to that which already exists in Great Britain, for non-temporary spectator stands in its area.

Following the successful introduction of Part II of the Safety of Sports Grounds Order, the Department now wish to proceed with the implementation of Part III with respect of the Safety of Stands at non designated Sports Grounds.

A regulated stand is defined as one that:

- a) Provides covered accommodation for 500 or more spectators, and
- b) Is not located in a designated sports ground.

Investigations by Officers have identified that the respective stands at John Mitchel's GAC *Glenullin and O'Briens*, Foreglen GAC grounds meet the criteria as set by guidance issued by DCAL/SNI made under the provisions of Article 13(7) of the aforementioned legislation and as such is required to be regulated by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

1.2 Implications of Regulation

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is required to issue a Safety Certificate for these stands listed previously. This certificate will stipulate the maximum number of spectators that can be accommodated within these stands at the Sports ground, the entry and exiting arrangements,

safety management arrangements and contingency plans in the event of an incident. Viewing capacity will be based on the circumstances pertinent at the time of the inspection of the grounds and will be influenced by two key factors:

- (i) The physical conditions of, and facilities at, the stand e.g. exiting and entry, capacity, the design and construction of terracing and physical crowd management “fixtures” such as crush barriers; (‘P’ factors); and
- (ii) The management arrangements for the stand. (‘S’ factors)

1.3 Actions Arising from Regulations

The Safety Certificate is a formal document relating to all sports events at the relevant grounds and is served on the person who is responsible for the management of the ground.

1.4 Conclusion

The Regulated Stand General Safety Certificate including its terms and conditions if properly applied should ensure the reasonable safety of spectators attending specified activities at the Regulated Stand at the venue.

1.5 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council Regulate respective stands at John Mitchel's GAC *Glenullin and O'Briens*, Foreglen GAC sports grounds in accordance with Article 13 of the Order and address the administrative process accordingly.