

Noise Action Plan

– Holm Park Sports and Recreation Ground and Sheppey United Football Club.

Focus: Regular Football Matches and Occasional Music Events

Purpose

To control and minimise noise emissions from regular football matches and occasional music events, ensuring that all staff understand their role in protecting local community well-being while preserving the matchday experience.

1. Primary Noise Sources from Football Matches

- Public address (PA) and sound system use
 - Crowd noise (chants, reactions, instruments)
 - Whistles and air horns
 - Turnstile operations and announcements
 - Vehicle and fan movement before and after games
 - Emergency and service vehicle activity
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2. Staff Responsibilities – Football Matchdays

Event Operations Manager

- Lead liaison with local authority regarding noise expectations.
- Oversee the implementation of the Noise Action Plan on matchdays.
- Ensure pre-match sound system checks comply with pre-agreed levels.
- Organise staff briefings before each match, focusing on noise management tasks.

Sound Engineers / AV Technicians

- Ensure PA announcements and music adhere to volume limits, especially in pre-match and halftime slots.
- Calibrate and test equipment at least 2 hours before gates open.
- Reduce unnecessary ambient music near residential boundaries.

Stewarding Team

- Briefed to prevent the use of air horns, megaphones, and loud personal devices within the stands or external waiting areas.
- Positioned along boundary walls and gates to discourage fan chanting toward residential areas.
- Assist in crowd management to reduce shouting during entry/exit.

Security Supervisors

- Monitor external concourses and side streets for anti-social noise, including motorbikes or cars revving engines, shouting, or fireworks.
- Coordinate with local police where fans congregate in noise-sensitive areas before or after matches, if required.

Turnstile Operators / Gate Staff

- Ensure mechanical entry points are working quietly and not banging repeatedly.

- Keep gates manned to prevent slamming or uncontrolled access.

Catering & Concession Staff

- Avoid metal-on-metal noise (e.g. bottle bins or crates) during quieter periods.
- Schedule waste removal or glass disposal outside early morning or late evening hours.

Clean-Up & Maintenance Crews

- No use of high-decibel machinery (blowers, industrial vacuums) before 9:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.
 - Handle equipment and refuse quietly during takedown.
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3. Matchday Timeline – Noise Duties by Time

Before Kick-Off (3–4 hours prior):

- Sound system calibration and check.
- Stadium-wide noise briefing to all departments.
- Security to patrol residential perimeter areas for unauthorised setup (e.g. street performers, loudspeakers).

During the Match:

- Sound levels monitored live (especially PA and halftime music).
- Stewards manage fan behaviour near sensitive boundaries.
- Security alert to fireworks, loud fans in concourse areas, or use of prohibited items.

After Full Time:

- PA use minimised unless necessary.
 - Swift, managed crowd dispersal coordinated by stewards.
 - Post-match clean-up scheduled within noise-agreed hours.
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4. Resident Communication

- Residents to be notified ahead of high-attendance fixtures (e.g. derbies, cup matches).
 - Updates to include: fixture time, expected crowd size, and stadium contact details.
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5. Monitoring and Reporting

- Mobile noise meters used at boundary checkpoints during selected matches.
 - All complaints logged and reviewed at monthly executive meetings.
 - Adjustments made where repeated noise levels exceed acceptable limits.
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6. Occasional Music Events

While the stadium is primarily a football venue, occasional live music events require specific planning:

For All Music Events:

- Limit number of music events per year in accordance with local licensing.
- Curfew adhered to strictly (typically 10:30 p.m. unless otherwise approved).
- Directional speaker systems used to minimise off-site noise.
- Sound levels monitored and logged throughout event duration.
- Rehearsals and soundchecks restricted to agreed daytime hours only.

Staff-Specific Roles (Music Events):

- Sound engineers to coordinate directly with ground staff.
- Security to manage dispersal strategy in collaboration with transport partners.

7. Training & Ongoing Development

- Annual training for all stadium staff in noise awareness, legal responsibilities, and practical mitigation steps.
- Briefings before every high-risk match (e.g. derby, evening fixtures) to refresh expectations.
- Executive committee to receive updates on changes to council noise regulations.

8. Summary

Noise control is a shared responsibility across all departments. With proper planning, real-time monitoring, and well-trained staff, we can maintain an exciting matchday atmosphere while respecting our neighbours.