

# freedom for the terraces

2012

33 COUNTRIES | 12 QUESTIONS

**PROFANS**  
OHNE UNS KEIN KICK!

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A project of ProFans



in collaboration with **Football Supporters Europe**

## FREEDOM FOR THE TERRACES

When World Cup 2006 took place in Germany we organized an exhibition called „Freedom for the terraces – a glance behind the gleaming surface of the World Cup“ in Hamburg. Despite the seemingly glossy and festive nature of World Cup 2006, we wanted to show the negative impacts this event had on our lives as football fans: higher ticket prices, partly (or completely) seated stadia, an increase of stadium bans, football fans being increasingly treated like terrorists, etc. One part of the exhibition was an „international comparison“. Back then we asked fans/ultras, social workers or supporters' organisations from ten different countries to answer five questions (about stadium bans, policing, fans' paraphernalia/materials ...).

In Summer 2008, the foundation meeting of Football Supporters Europe took place in London. At its fans' market place we presented this part of the exhibition and this was the first step of the new project. We've met great guys and girls from across Europe and so we were and are able to let the exhibition grow.

Originally, it all started as a project of St. Pauli fans in 2006. We now work under the name ProFans – in association with FSE. ProFans is one of three national supporters organisations in Germany. We are unified in the fight for supporter's rights.

Once a year, we work out an update and present the result at the yearly FSE congress. Furthermore we've tried to get this exhibition shown in other cities around Europe (but mostly in Germany). The FSE Committee supports us – amongst many other things – with contacts to fans from several countries who are happy to share their experiences with us for this project. We're really grateful for this collaboration. And we're deeply grateful for a lot of information and all kinds of help provided by football supporters from all round the world.

Nowadays the “international comparison” includes 33 countries and twelve questions. We're gathering more and more data and we've recognized that you guys and girls are really interested in reading this. We've realised that showing our work during one or two days of a congress or even doing a separate exhibition is not meeting the interest in our project anymore. As a consequence, we've produced a PDF version of the exhibition this summer, so that we are able to share this project more easily all over the world – and with you! :-)

Of course, all answers to the questions presented are subjective and represent individual viewpoints. Also, we might have missed some important facts. So, we would really appreciate if you want to correct or complete the project with your experiences from your countries' situation yourself (especially if your country is still missing). Please don't hesitate to contact us and send an e-mail to [exhibition@profans.de](mailto:exhibition@profans.de)!

And now enjoy!

Tanja & Sandra  
ProFans, July 2012

## FOOTBALL IS PASSION ...

... football is history and football is tradition: football is life. The unique perception of fans all around the world regarding the peculiar aspects of the modernization of a sport that moves so much in terms of economy, culture, politics and passion is a great asset for the organization of demands that are shared throughout the world.

Football fans are countless in numbers, in an era of interconnection it is the only acceptable movement for football fans to unify their chants from terraces all around the world and work for the common cause of bringing back some of the things that made football the experience that it is.

Historically, football is also transgression. When the people from Catalunya held dearly on to the identity of the province against the strict policies from Primo de Rivera and Franco, Barcelona FC was one of the channels that made possible for the feeling to be kept very much alive with banners and the right amount of pride and anger. More recently, the role played by the ultras in Egypt during the Arab Spring was of great importance, bringing the organization from the terraces to Tahrir Square. It is also true that the sport and the fans were many times used as political instruments in times of conflict and instability, but this also goes to show that this great mass could organize under its own demands.

A project like "Freedom for the Terraces" is a great opportunity to evaluate the bigger picture and what we must stand for. There is plenty of room for international cooperation and we have the means to communicate, exchange experiences and aid. If fans in Europe face political oppression, or fans in Latin America are brutalized by the police, fans worldwide can manifest their discordance and support through social media, on the terraces or through the many tools we are provided for communication.

Most of the problems we face are very well organized. We face the lobby from the Television Networks shifting dates and times at their will, we face skyrocketing ticket prices and with all that we face the rise of a football for the elites, one where there's no room for standing and pushing forward your team and no room for pressure on the top hats that are on the game for profit. They want a modern football, we must keep passions alive.

Even though we are millions, we will only be strong if we act as one. That is why we must praise such an initiative as "Freedom for the Terraces" and we must have others. Let us put our voices together and stand for what we believe and love.

Igor / Brazil, July 2012



# ARGENTINA

- **Capital:** Buenos Aires
- **Language:** Spanish
- **No. of inhabitants:** 40.1 million
- **No. of first first league teams:** 20
- **Part since:** 2008   ► **Last Update:** 2012

## 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

In Argentina, there seem to be as many rules as security chiefs. Each security chief moulds the rules, which is why different criteria prevail. For instance, at some stadiums in the district of Buenos Aires, it is forbidden to enter with banners that are longer than two meters. At other stadiums of the same area, all kinds of banners, even drums and other forms of percussion are allowed. Arbitrariness is also obvious: local fans are often given permission that visitors never obtain.

Every district has its own rules because every province (each of Argentina's 23 states) is autonomous, so the criteria are not unified. The arbitrariness is absolute in terms of decisions and, in general, clubs have agreements or "friendship" with the local police. Another important thing is that up to the current season in the second and third divisions, away fans were not allowed into stadiums during matches. This was changed only because River Plate (the biggest football team in Argentina) was demoted to the second division.

Then, there's the issue of the law that prohibits fans from showing flags or banners with racist slogans and wearing clothes or showing the colours of the rival team. Also, a lot of "barras bravas" keep their flags in the club in spaces provided by the club managers themselves. As to the purchase of flags or scarves, there's normally a stand near the stadium on match days or in the club or on the Internet. The problem is when people want to install big flags in stadiums during matches: they always need the authorisation from the hooligans.

## 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

There is a register of those who have committed a crime in the field of football, but it is not updated and not actually used. The punishments refer to participation in violent acts, fights among fans or against security forces. Spectators are afraid to be identified as violent actors because it would lead to stadium bans. Nevertheless, many convicted people ignore the prohibitions and enter the stadiums by seizing the opportunity to hide in the middle of the crowd, helped by the complicity of an inoperative police.

## 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

First of all, we should mention that the organised supporters' groups (usually known as "barras bravas") are escorted by the police when they travel to away games. These restrictions tend to create lots of problems: sometimes they guide the visitors to the local entrance by mistake or produce fights between the police and the groups they have in custody. Secondly, the local supporters have to wait in the stadiums for 15 or 20 minutes after the match has finished. This police strategy often remains incomprehensible and therefore generates inconveniences among the local supporters. Sometimes local supporters avoid this policy due to the negligence or indolence of the police – which produces confrontations. Thirdly, police have developed different measures to filter out intoxicated fans or those with pending proceedings from entering the stadiums. Police established varied methods to measure the level of alcohol and can register offenders by fingerprints. None of those measures has been very effective: only a few people can be checked because such devices cause delays. In general, their effectiveness in reducing violence in sport is questionable.

The delays are actually an excuse given by the Ministry of Security. There are no real reasons for not updating the system.

## 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

The organised fan groups, the "barras bravas", do not have a formal relationship with each other. They are focused on a constant fight for symbolic supremacy. Who has the biggest group, who has the best singing group, who can mobilise more fans for away games, who is involved in most fights. In some cases, there are alliances or help to face the police or judicial prosecution. Any such solidarity is however, temporary and individual rather than a permanent feature among the organisations.

## 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

This question should be answered by the authorities and the fans separately. We are just experts on the field, not the actors. But: there are no groups of organized fans, just the "barras", therefore there are neither measures nor actions against restrictions and repression.

## 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

No, people are not allowed to use any of those articles. A fan of Racing Club was killed by a flare in 1983 during a match between Racing Club and Boca Juniors. From then on, these articles have been banned. However, no-one respects the existing law. The punishment is discretionary and depends on the judge.



**7 . Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

Argentinas stadiums don't met the FIFA regulations concerning all-seaters. Football stadiums are split in two sectors: One is called „pit“, including chairs to sit. This sector has always existed and this is for people more calm and seniors. Another popular area is the area behind the goals where all are standing. Argentina has tried to start with the FIFA regulations, to be all seated but has not been finished yet. In Argentina, football is expressly lived up and so you want to continue living this way, standing. We understand that violence in football doesn't depend on if anyone is standing or sitting.

**8 . How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

The cheapest one is about 40 pesos (7 Euros). The most expensive one is about 300 pesos (53 Euros). Anyone can buy the cheapest ones, but only a few people can afford the most expensive ones. Anyway, there is a tendency to implement the purchase of tickets for the whole season. Not so much like in Europe, though.

**9 . How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments /delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Schedules and assigned days are seldom respected. The organisation is based on TV broadcast (two matches on Friday, three on Saturdays, four on Sunday and one on Monday). However, this changes every weekend. Especially the ones on Saturday and Sunday, mainly for security reasons related to fights between groups of fans or political decisions.

**10 . Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)**

They are normally non-profit organisations but there are a few cases of owners but they are not listed on the stock exchange. Decisions are made in meetings that members hold to decide what needs to be decided. Voting and participating in these meetings is not an obligation but a right that members have.

**11 . Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

There are a few, but the best one is San Lorenzo in 2001. It was about to sell the property of its stadium to a private company (ISL), which then went bankrupt. The club's president, Fernando Miele, wanted to sell it, but members and fans opposed through demonstrations and finally prevented the club from being privatised. Then, ISL went bankrupt and the process stopped.

**12 . Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

My greatest wish is to have families back in the stadiums and to have the good old songs contests between rival fans, when the songs were meant to support their own teams and not to insult the opposing one, which are the onset of physical violence. This is one of the factors that have scared families away from stadiums in the last 20 years.

They are also scared away by the murky business of the Argentinean Football (re-selling of tickets in the surroundings of the stadium and illegal parking fees charged by the hooligans on the street on match days, buying and selling of footballers, etc.).



# AUSTRIA



- **Capital:** Vienna
- **Language:** German
- **No. of inhabitants:** 8.0 million
- **No. of first first league teams:** 10
- **Part since:** 2006   ► **Last Update:** 2012

## 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

The framework of the professional 1. and 2. league can be found in the security guidelines (§4 Abs. 6e) and the guidelines for supporters' choreographies which have been updated in July 2012 by the Austrian Bundesliga and its "Senat 3" who is responsible for security issues. These guidelines oblige the football clubs to "build and maintain a strong relationship with their supporters' clubs" and to appoint fan commissioners and security officers.

According to these security guidelines a named delegate of a supporters' club is allowed to carry the following items to the stadium: drums (max. of 15 drums per club), megaphones (max. of 10 per club), different kinds of banners (flag poles no longer than 1.30m and maximum of 2cm width), telescopic poles and hollow plastic pipes such as flag poles.

Until the security check which is approx. 2 hours before the match the delegate of the supporters clubs has to announce all the items the supporters want to take with them. The extent of the choreography will be put down in the minutes of the security check before the match.

All these regulations are musts, but it's up to clubs to implement stricter regulations.

## 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

The Austrian Bundesliga has published a paper (updated in July 2012) on stadium bans that mentions different kinds of offences. The paper essentially distinguishes between local and nationwide stadium bans. Stadium bans can last from two months up to two years.

The club of 'Wacker Tirol' also has so called "soft bans". These refer to minor offences that would not be brought to court. The "soft ban" involves making the offenders work as stewards.

Local bans: executed by the clubs, duration between 2 months and 10 years; it can only be executed once per season upon the same person. In case of repetition the club has to apply for a nationwide ban at the "Senat 3" of the Bundesliga (Austrian Football League).

Offences: repeated use of aggressive behaviour against stewards and executive authorities, throwing of dangerous objects on the pitch, repeated removal of prohibited objects, police report for violent assault, police report for bodily injury, police report for damage to property.

Nationwide ban: executed by "Senat 3" after a claim by a club, duration between 6 months and 10 years. The respective person may protest against the ban.

Offences (not complete): police record for resistance to state authority, police record due to offences against pyrotechnical law of 2010, possession or use of pyrotechnical material, repeated offences or records that lead to the local stadium ban, assaults on players, referees, trainers, record for affray, record for aggravated assault, record for malicious damage, record for offences against the laws relating to civil disorders and rioting, records for other offences, prohibited transgression of barriers, racist behaviour, record for breaching the "Verbotsgesetz" (prohibitions law), breaches related to high financial consequences for the club or stadiums' administration, etc.

The same authority that executed the ban can lift it ahead of time and under special conditions.

With regard to the EURO 2008 the ministry for interior introduced a database for "Hooligans". An amendment of the "Sicherheitspolizeigesetz" (safety police law) provided the police with the opportunity to impose the obligation of registration on recorded "Hooligans". They have to appear at a certain time to a certain police station. So-called "persons at risk" may be banned from a certain security zone around the stadiums.

It certainly can be assumed that special football police agents maintain their own internal database. But nobody knows if such a database is just for internal use or exchanged with other police forces or institutions.

## 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Special football police agents have been exist since 1998. They are plain-clothes policemen, who carry a special identity card and can still be recognised. You can see such agents at every Bundesliga club; even some clubs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> division have got them. The special football police agents, known as "fan contacts" attend every match. At test games, they try to get very close to the supporters' scene and collect deeper knowledge.

Of course, there is uniformed police presence around the stadiums, too. The police force around the stadium is so massive that supporters are never left alone after a derby match. Supporters' buses to away games are completely covered by police. The police can also refuse permission to the bus to stop for a break.



#### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

Due to the revision of the pyrotechnics law in 2010, Austrian Ultra groups and fan's clubs established the network "Pyrotechnik ist kein Verbrechen" (PikV, pyrotechnics is no crime).

The new law brought aggravation of the previous legal regulations and primarily the delicate rise of the penalty represent a great interference into the fan culture of the active Austrian football fan clubs, particularly since the active groups or responsible parties of the clubs have not been tied into the decision of the legislator.

An even closer look however shows that the cases concretely mentioned are damages, which were caused by firecrackers. These so-called "bangers" are though also rejected by the fan scenes of this country as they embody a risk potential which should not be treated lightly. Bengal firework, however, is responsibly used for years and used by many fan blocks of the country including only singular incidents (Rapid – Austria 2011, Austria – Red Bull 2011).

However, a certain risk cannot be denied, as with other things (e.g. traffic, professional world, ...) but this risk can almost become eliminated by responsible dealing with pyrotechnic objects and the last years have shown that there existed and exist no problems with Bengal flares at normal use.

In addition, there are many possibilities to make the use of pyrotechnics even safer, but outside the fan scenes there were only singular efforts though to take measures for the prevention of possible accidents. Rather, it was the purposeful attempt of politics and media to criminalize football fans and to restrict and limit their rights.

Over years torches provided atmosphere, emotions and the so often quoted southern atmosphere in Austria's football stadiums. Clubs, press and TV have profited from these pictures for years but simultaneously denigrate and denunciate them.

PikV clearly declare, however, in favour of:

- Not using firecrackers or bangers
- Not provoking game interruptions by handling pyrotechnics responsibly and posing no danger to other stadium visitors, ball kids or personnel
- By providing containers filled with water or sand to ensure a safe burning off inside the fan sector and thereby also provide an orderly disposal of the burnt down and hot objects
- Not throwing torches or other pyrotechnic objects on the runway or playing field

PikV request all responsible parties to allow a controlled and responsible use of pyrotechnics with respect to acceptable and adequate limits in appropriate conditions for all persons involved. The engagement of the initiative led to the introduction of exceptions in 2010 (see also point 6.).

#### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

See above (Pyrotechnik ist kein Verbrechen – PikV).

From club side the fan commissioners were installed. They should link the supporters' scene with the club. But the communication between supporters and these fan commissioners works differently at each club. The fan commissioners are often seen as too close to the club and therefore not really able to represent supporters' issues.

In 2009 FK Austria Wien started its "Fanzentrum" (fan centre). Apart from being a meeting point for fans and providing fans with space and storage room, the head of the "Fanzentrum" tried to mediate between club, fans and police.

The "Fanzentrum" was closed again only half a year later by the club, to kind of "punish" their own fans as there had been racist insults by a small group of Austria Wien supporters at the Europe League match against Athletic Bilbao. Since then there are massive problems between club and supporters and amongst different Austria Wien supporters' groups themselves.

In July 2012 fans of SK Rapid together with lawyers formed the so called "Solidargemeinschaft von Fans für Fans" (a kind of solidarity alliance for fans) with the purpose of helping supporters in their contact with authorities, police and judiciary. This move can be seen as a reaction of organised fans to the pitch invasion of Rapid fans in the Vienna derby against Austria in May 2011 which leads to numerous legal charges and stadium bans.

#### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

Pyrotechnical devices are strictly forbidden since the new pyrotechnics law is in force. Persons can be fined with up to 4.360 Euro or four weeks in jail. Police is even allowed to search your house if they do have the suspicion that you store pyrotechnics there.

Nevertheless, after negotiations from members of "Pyrotechnik ist kein Verbrechen" with Bundesliga and security forces in autumn 2010 an exceptional rule was included in the pyrotechnics law. It stated that after a positive request to police, local government and clubs fans were allowed to use certified flares in special sections of their stand and under special circumstances. This has led to the allowance of the controlled burning of flares at Wacker Innsbruck and Sturm Graz away ends. At other clubs this solution didn't work out well (because of stadium construction, misbehaviour of fans, police and clubs which don't support this idea) and also at away sectors this exceptional rule didn't turn out to be workable.



## 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

Capacities of stadiums of Austria's First League clubs (season 2012/13):

**Pappelstadion, SV Matterburg:** Capacity for 15.700 with 5.700 seats and a standing area for around 10.000 fans;

**Generali Arena, FK Austria Wien:** Capacity for 13.500 fans and standing areas (including away sector) for approximately 5.000

**Keine Sorgen Arena, SV Ried:** Capacity for 7.700 people, both stands behind the goals are standing areas, the away-sector provides standing space for 770 fans.

**Red Bull Arena, RB Salzburg:** Capacity for international matches: 29.800 seats, no standing areas. Capacity for matches of the Austrian league: 30.200, the "Südkurve" is a small standing area for the home fans

**UPC-Arena, SK Sturm Graz:** 15.400 seats (folding seats allow standing behind the goal and in the away end)

**Stadion Wiener Neustadt, SC Wiener Neustadt:** Capacity for 7.700 fans

**Hanappi-Stadion, SK Rapid Wien:** Capacity for 17.500 fans (folding seats allow standing behind both goals, including away sector)

**Tivoli Stadion, FC Wacker Innsbruck:** Capacity of maximum 17.000 Fans at national and 15.200 at international level, standing areas in both home and away end

**Trenkwalder Arena, FC Admira Wacker/Mödling:** Capacity of 12.000 fans

**Lavanttal Arena, Wolfsberger AC:** Capacity of 7.000 (after renovation which is currently in progress)

There is no club that will force you to sit in sitting areas rather the seated spectator behind the standing one would not be amused. Basically fans in the stands behind the goals do not sit. Spectators/fans in the stands at the length of the pitch usually sit.

## 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

The ticket prices in Austria are relatively moderate and affordable regarding the average income and in comparison to other countries. Here are four examples including clubs from different regions and different size and popularity:

**FC RED BULL SALZBURG** (Champions in 2011/12)

### Day tickets:\*

Standing: Regular: 13 EUR, Discounts:  
Students, youths till 19, retirees: 10 EUR, Kids (till 14): 3 EUR  
Seating: Regular: 26 EUR, Discounts: 20 EUR, Kids: 7 EUR

### Season tickets:

Standing: Regular: 161 EUR, Discounts: 107 EUR, Kids 32 EUR  
Seating: Regular: 321 EUR, Discounts: 213 EUR, Kids 97 EUR

**SK RAPID WIEN** (2<sup>nd</sup> in 2011/2012, highest average attendance)

### Day tickets:\*

Standing: Regular: 22 EUR, Discounts: 18 EUR, Kids: 9 EUR  
Seating: Regular: 32 EUR, Discounts: 28 EUR, Kids: 12 EUR

### Season tickets:

Standing: 172 EUR (no discounts)  
Seating: Regular: 375 EUR, Discounts: 287 EUR, Kids: 147 EUR

**SV RIED** (6<sup>th</sup> in 2011/12)

### Day tickets:

Standing: Regular: 14 EUR, Discounts: 12 EUR, Kids: 6 EUR  
Seating: Regular: 18 EUR, Discounts: 15 EUR, Kids: 6 EUR

### Season tickets:

Standing: Regular: 180 EUR, Discounts: 155 EUR, Kids: 60 EUR  
Seating: Regular: 295 EUR, Discounts: 255 EUR, Kids: 75 EUR

**WOLFSBERGER AC** (promoted from second division)

### Day tickets:\*

Standing: Regular: 12 EUR, Discounts: 10 EUR, Kids: 4 EUR  
Seating: Regular: 17 EUR, Discounts: 14 EUR, Kids: 6 EUR

### Season tickets:

Standing: Regular: 170 Euro, Discounts: 140 EUR, Kids: 60 EUR  
Seating: Regular: 250 EUR, Discounts: 200 EUR, Kids: 100 EUR

(\* At "top games" clubs regularly charge an agio of up to 4 EUR on day tickets)

## 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

Matches of the first league (10 teams, 36 rounds) are played on Saturdays (16.00 and 18.30) and Sundays (16.00 and 18.30), mid-week rounds on Tuesdays (20.30) and Wednesdays (19.30). Every game is broadcasted by Pay TV channel Sky Austria, one Sunday/Tuesday game also on public television ORF. Games are definitely scheduled at least three weeks ahead. Appearances of Austrian clubs in European competitions have led to some short term changes of the plans in recent seasons, also cancelled matches due to unplayable grounds after the winter breaks in February and March.

Matches of the second league (10 teams, 36 rounds) are played on Fridays (18.30 and 20.30), midweek rounds on Mondays (18.30) and Tuesdays (18.30). Pay TV Sky Austria is broadcasting a "live conference" of the four games that are played simultaneously and showing the "match of the week" live in full length. Games are definitely scheduled at least three weeks ahead. Cancelled matches due to unplayable grounds after the winter breaks in February and March have led to short-term changes in recent years.

Especially the early Friday games in the second division have been heavily criticised by supporters because it's nearly impossible to attend away games when you got a regular job. This TV slot might be due to the fact that Sky is also broadcasting German Bundesliga and the games should not collide with that Friday night game.



**10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)**

FC Wacker Innsbruck is a membership-based club. The board of management is elected by the members. In the club convention which takes place every year, the election of the board of management is a main agenda. The members are also allowed to make applications and to vote on these.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club...)**

In Austria existed and still exist a lot of examples of commercialization in football. The most apparent example is Red Bull Salzburg, where a soft drink company overtook the traditional football club SV Austria Salzburg in 2005 and changed the name and the colours of the club. A common tool of sponsorship in Austria is the “adapting” of emblems, the name of the club and the stadium name (see list above). Nearly half of the clubs in the Austrian Bundesliga have sponsors in their names and emblems. In the past even licences have been switched from one part of the country to another (FC Pasching – Austria Kärnten, SC Schwanenstadt – Magna Wiener Neustadt).

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

I personally think that fan culture, repression, police and state conduct regarding football fans are no topics to make devotional wishes. I would just want the fans to articulate their problems in a more concentrated way which should lead the authorities to deal with this aspects of football and the concerns of (organised) fans more sensitively.



## BELGIUM



- ▶ **Capital:** Brussels
- ▶ **Language:** Belgian Dutch, French, German
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 10.2 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 16
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

In our stadium (Standard Liege), there have been restrictions on political (antifascist) messages on banners and flags (since 2005). Especially when we play against a club whose supporters are more known to be right-wing extremists. This applies to away fans, as well. "A.C.A.B."-banners, flags, scarves and t-shirts are banned by police. We also face a total prohibition of Bengal flares, smoke bombs and other kinds of fire work.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Yes, you can be banned from the stadium and we have a central register of potential dangerous fans.

A stadium ban means a minimum of 3 months, plus a deposit of 350€ that can be increased after your trial (another ban, charge and/or prison).

The central register opened in the 80's and has always been updated since then. You don't have the right to get out of it – you are recorded for the rest of your life.

The consequences are numerous:

- Prohibition to watch football matches in Belgium (this register contains portrait photos)
- Doubling of the penalty if they catch you again
- The club can refuse your following season ticket
- Your details can be transmitted to the police in other countries according to international matches (club or national team)
- If you are arrested in a 5 km area around the stadium (for any reason) you can be judged by the "football law"

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Typical examples of police conduct towards fans are:

- "combination tickets" for "dangerous" away games (special coaches and individual tickets which include your name)
- police escorts and guarding all the way (sometimes with aggressive and brutal policemen)
- stadium laws at a few clubs forbid flags, banners, drums and "papelitos"

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

No more fans associations in Belgium, the rivalries and different points of views between Ultras' groups are too important.

Only in RSCL, the Fan-Clubs associations decided, with the club agreement, to ban all away matches that sold tickets over 20€. It means: NO ONE TICKETS will be sold by the club for RSCL fans for that away match (3 away matches last season included the "clas-sico" FC Bruges vs RSCL). We hope this example show the way to the other Fan-clubs associations ... but this is Belgium!

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Meetings, organising strikes, banners with anti-repression messages, group banners upside down – we know it's like David vs. Goliath – but we are keeping the faith.

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

No, and it's punished more and more. For the first time you use it, you have a minimum of 12 month of stadium banishment and a fine of 500€.

### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

In the Sclessin's stadium for the new season 2012-2013, they transformed the "groups area" with seats which can be pulled down for Belgian championship but open for UEFA matches (in agreement with UEFA rules). These transformations allow a saving of space (+/- 2.000 more to sold), for a championship match, but with their armatures, make our area look like a slaughterhouse's cows corridors (like in Hannover stadium).

### 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

I don't know about the single normal ticket prices, because most of the places are sold with the season's tickets, but the season's tickets are from 125€ to 335€ for adults.



**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments /delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

The new season schedule is edited one month in advance before the 1st season match. A change must be necessarily announced 15 days in advance but sometimes that rule is broken because they decide it. In Belgian first league the matches are normally played Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays only except to play a cancelled match. The fixture can change in regard of TV, local police or/and a European match played (CL and UEFA).

Since last season (2009-2010), the Belgian first league (Jupiler League) imposes the stupid rules of play-offs.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

In Standard, the club is owned since 2011 by a new owner (Roland Duchatelet) who buy it from Eric Soccer (owned by the widow of Robert Louis Dreyfus and owner of Olympique de Marseille). The club is managed since 2012 by the group ELEX.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

A lot of clubs are and were closed of bankrupt, because of modern football.

Actually, 3 first league clubs are arise from the fusion of different lost clubs: Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen (Beerschot + Germinal Ekeren), KRC Genk (Winterslag + Waterschei), Zulte Waregem (K. SV Waregem + Zultse WV).

The only stadium with a commercial name in Belgium is the KRC Genk stadium (Cristal (for Cristal Alken beer) Arena).

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

The end of modern football and a return to popular football... but it's only utopia!



## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

- **Capital:** Sarajevo
- **Language:** Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian
- **No. of inhabitants:** 3.8 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 16
- **Part since:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Speaking of fan material which is most often restricted in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), those include big flags on plastic poles. Basically, although bringing big flags on plastic poles is agreed with the club and police before the match, often it is police that restricts that just before the match. In that respect, home and away fans are mostly treated in the same way.

However, there is a ban for away fans issued by Football Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH FA) in force since October 2011. No away fans are allowed to any Premier League matches. Even when the match is "city derby" (both teams from same place), away fans are theoretically not allowed but practically some of them come without any club colours (shirts, scarves, flags).

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

There is no system of stadium bans imposed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, yet.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Before the away ban, police would most often escort away fans by bringing them (their bus) to stadium around 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> minute of the match and would take them out to leave around 75<sup>th</sup> - 80<sup>th</sup> minute of the match. In that way, away fans are prevented to see the full match, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> minute.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

There is no network or cooperation of ultras/fan groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, yet.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

So far, several groups placed banners against stadium bans for away fans in a few bigger matches. No other measures have been taken. Clubs follow the orders issued by BIH FA.

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

Usage of pyrotechnic articles (flares, smoke bombs and similar) in football matches is not legal in Bosnia and Herzegovina. If a fan is

found with a pyrotechnic article during the security search at the entrance, the fine is about 300 KM (approx. 150 EUR). However, once the pyrotechnic articles are used at the stadium, it is mostly tolerated (i. e. security will not try to capture the fan).

### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

There are no official standing areas. However, most of ultras/fan groups are standing during the match. Currently, there is no inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia.

### 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

Cheapest tickets for top teams are 5 KM (approx. 2.50 EUR) and most expensive ones are 15 KM (approx. 7.50 EUR). The average price per match is even about 30 % cheaper when buying a season ticket. Although the average salaries in Bosnia and Herzegovina are approx. 250 - 350 EUR, most people can afford those ticket prices.

### 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

Match days are mostly definitely scheduled about two weeks in advance. There are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures possible in exceptional cases (mostly due to weather conditions e.g. big snow recently). The only responsible for match day fixtures is the BIH FA.

### 10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)

Clubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina are registered as non-governmental organizations. The Executive Boards of the clubs are, among others, mostly composed of sponsors. Generally, that area is still neither well defined nor regulated.

### 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

Not yet.

### 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

Big crowds of working class watching football players playing primarily for passion and glory, not that much for money.



## BRAZIL

- **Capital:** Brasilia
- **Language:** Portuguese
- **No. of inhabitants:** 192.4 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 20
- **Part since:** 2006    ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1 Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

2007: The only official restriction is that dangerous material like fire works or flag poles which can be used as weapons are not allowed in the stadium. But in reality, the police decide individually – and their decisions vary from place to place and from day to day. In Sao Paulo and Curitiba, flag poles are strictly forbidden, in Rio they are allowed. Smoke and signal lamps are sometimes allowed in Rio.

The official explanation of the stadium police is that supporters' clubs could take paraphernalia into the stands as a reward for their good behaviour. In this case, paraphernalia means: flags with poles, block flags, banners, balloons, percussion instruments, the pyrotechnics just mentioned and confetti. Choreographies are unusual in Brazil. It's up to the police if away fans are permitted to take their paraphernalia into the stadium. The local police allow whatever they want to. Officially, there is no difference made between home and away fans.

2009: Fans in Rio de Janeiro are having problems to put their banners after the Maracana rebuilt. The police said that is a problem of circulation in an emergency case, but it is not followed for the home fans. In Brazil we use drums but when we are away fans the entry with drums is not allowed.

2010: Every time there's a change in the command, as in new officer in charge of the police in the stadiums, there are new rules, which is bad, because the new commanders come and they want to show how hard they work by giving the fans a hard time. But, sooner or later they all pass and we remain on the stands.

2012: In normal conditions we have a meeting about two days prior to the game with the police to have a list of what is allowed and what is not allowed in the stadium for the upcoming match. The size of the game, presence of away crowds and previous behaviour will play a part in what will be permitted.

There is different treatment for home and away fans. Away fans will always have police escort, fans found out of the escort can even be detained, depending on what are their plans and attitude. Also, they establish longer routes for fans to walk when the teams are from the same city (we believe they do that to get us tired, but it is also to avoid contact with the other guys). Sometimes when you play at another country or state, the police can be harsh and treat you with some degree of hostility and sometimes even violence. On this aspect, I'd say that police in Paraná and Santa Catarina are very bad and sometimes were unprofessional towards us. Police in South America is not bad, though sometimes the Argentinian police can be uneasy and edgy.

### 2 Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

2007: There are stadium bans but not a data register. According to law no. 10.671 from 5/15/2003 there is a so called 'fan statute'. Chapter XI, article 39 says: "The fan that causes a tumult, uses violence or instigates others to do so, or enters areas which he is not permitted to, will be banned from all sport venues for three to twelve months. The sentence depends on the severity of the offense. Further punishment may be added."

The following articles specify that this law also applies to fans who commit acts of violence inside a five-kilometre area around the stadium.

Chapter II, article 5 states that sport venues are obliged to have information panels at the gates on which (besides the information concerning the game) the names of banned fans must be stated.

This law is obviously weak in some details. For example: What does "instigate others to use violence" mean? And how do you recognize a fan 5 km outside the stadium? Actually, the law is ratified in the whole country but in Brazil, data is not passed on from one federal state to another (not even tickets for wrong parking are sent out to other federal states). In practice, very few fans are banned, approximately 50 per year in the whole country. One reason probably is: the police consider these laws as ineffective because they don't have the 'tools' to deliver them. To publish names of banned fans would need a nationwide central register – but there are only local ones. It is rather unlikely for someone who is banned to be stopped when he wants to enter a stadium.

2009: It happened 3 or 4 times just to have something to appear on TV. It is common in Brazil, they warn but they do not put into practice.

2010: As said before, even with the law for the supporters, nothing is really done. It's the rarest thing to see someone banned, this person will have to report to a police station on match days. But even if you start a fire, like go arson ape shit, you won't be banned.

2012: We have everything and nothing works like it should. Fights and drug use can lead to bans, but effectively it never happens if the offender is out of jail. The bans are supposed to be national, but ... oh well ...

We had a douchebag that knifed someone inside the stadium, he was jailed and "banned". His case is extreme, but we had people torching chemical bathrooms inside the stadium to have no punishment whatsoever ...

You can get a criminal record and small sentences, like doing voluntary work ... Generally there will be subpoenas for the person to have a hearing and yadda, yadda ... It doesn't work effectively. They have courts inside the stadiums and what they really do is let almost everyone walk with a slap on the wrist.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

2007: Officers of the military police are everywhere in the stadia, controlling the incoming fans and they especially like to stand behind the percussion groups of the Torcida (Brazilian Ultras).

The supporters are not only escorted to away games but also their luggage, bus and body is completely searched. There is an escort at home matches as well, from the supporters' meeting point all the way to the stadium.

If the police interpret a situation as chaotic, policemen often use truncheons and tear gas and aggressively present their weapons, even machine guns.

2009: They make a human line inside the stadium separating the away from the home fans.

We have several problems in the south of Brazil because our policemen are too violent.

They don't arrest fans but they use their heavy truncheons for anything, like they were taking care of pigs.

2010: If a police officer sees you wearing any kind of gear of a firm, ultra group, barrabrava or anything, they will search you with more "heart". Sometimes they might ask for gear. On away games, they usually do.

2012: The same group of cops that deals with heavy criminals deals with the stands. Meaning that we get treated like we are always wrong.

They search us thoroughly, they spy on us with undercover cops (though we can spot them from miles) and they are condescending and obnoxious when they have more stripes on their shoulders.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

2007: There is no organized network of fans of the different clubs but only some loose contacts. A network would be extremely necessary to fight for more democracy in football, to protect the fans culture, to stand up for less commercialization and against the customary criminalization of fans.

The current candidature of Brazil for the world cup 2014 leads to smaller terraces and more seated areas, higher ticket prices and the ordinary fan probably won't have access to the world cup 2014. The issues are obviously very similar to those of the fans in Germany.

2009: Happened this month in Sao Paulo was the first seminary of Brazilian fans. The biggest Ultras' groups of each state were represented. The event was paid by the government. We talked a lot about ways of decrease the violence, some new rules are to be approved by the head of state.

We are about to create a big association right now.

2010: The second edition of the seminar took place. Not much was implemented. There's a lot of exchange of information amongst fans, but the system is very political and the core is very hard to change. Alliances among fans, like punho cruzado (handcuff gesture) with Camisa 12 from Inter, Independente from São Paulo, Jovem from Flamengo and Jovem from Sport help their members with support on away games and information on what can be brought into a stadium.

2012: We have several different groups of supporters that are considered alliances in Brazil and we also have a national forum that happens yearly. Though we have a lot of differences, it's coming along the fact that we need to reach common grounds in order to survive a new football reality.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

2007: There are no local or nationwide measures against repression and restrictions organized by fans of different clubs. Single groups of fans consistently organize demonstrations and take banners of protest to the stadium.

The clubs support these groups as little as possible. On the other hand, they depend on them so that meetings between club officials and fan representatives are common. At these meetings benefits for the fans like free tickets and assistance for the away matches are negotiated.

There are also meetings to 'discuss' security measures with the police. These are rather one-sided affairs: The police tell the fans what they have to expect. There is never a search for a consensus to which the fans could contribute anything considerable. Consequently, these meetings only lead to one thing: The result that the police know in advance.

2009: The police tries to control the banners. If it doesn't say anything violent or anything about drugs & alcohol, there is no problem to get them in!

2010: The clubs are supporting us depending on the political moment and on their will. It's better not to wait and seek other ways, but it depends a lot on the diplomacy made by the members and contacts of by them.

2012: The club will support you if it is interesting to the political situation of who is in charge.

We don't sit around and wait, we have to fend for ourselves with lawyers, media contacts and demonstrations.



## 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

2009: In some stadiums a number of paraphernalia are allowed. But they cannot make sounds, just lights!

Only ultras can entry the stadium with the articles, but some normal fans hide it in the sneakers to get it inside the stadium. We have a law saying that is forbidden but the police never arrested anybody.

2010: TV networks complained about smoke and managed to get the big amount of flares banned. A few people still bring them in hidden, but they do get into a little bit of trouble.

2012: TV lobby and other BS got pyro banned from the stadiums in Brazil. No pyro. Period.

We try and use other stuff nowadays, but no pyro anymore.

## 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

2009: FIFA says that all the stadia must have numerated seats. In Brazil a lot of stadia just have the numbers on the floor, but you don't have a seat. You have to sit on the cold floor.

But is normal in Brazil to watch the games standing, only in the VIP areas or expensive areas the people get seated. Regularly they don't sell more tickets than there are places in the arena.

2010: We still don't have all sitter stadiums.

2012: Pretty soon we will be faced with that problem. Though now we still have terraces.

## 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

2012: It depends on the tournament. But since we have 100.000+ fans associated to the club the prices range (for those fans) from R\$20,00 (8 Euros) to R\$80,00 (32 Euros) (plus a monthly fee). The ones not associated have to pay a lot more, obscene prices. It's not good, makes it elitist.

## 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

2009: The Confederations are supposed to define them, but the TV defines the match days really. It's horrible because they adjust the matches on bad schedules. We have games finishing after midnight when no bus is driving anymore, just to be on the most watched time on TV!

We don't have games starting before 16:00 hrs.

2010: This year, the summer was awful, so we had no games before 5pm during January and February. Other than that, TV is still calling the shots.

2012: The TV defines the dates and times. We have a game on Saturdays at 9pm, nuts!

Generally two games a week, like Wednesday and Sunday, or Thursday and Saturday.

## 10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)

2012: The clubs are still owned by the clubs here. We don't have Russian, Chinese or oil money buying clubs. The supporters have a saying, but there are councils within the management that rule about mostly anything.

## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

2012: With the world cup, clubs had to seek partnerships to get the stadiums renewed or rebuilt, or built. These stadiums will work with naming rights.

No changes of colours as of 2012. We had a thing with Parmalat on the 1990's though, they changed the colours of Juventude to green and white.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

2012: Pyro and lower prices. Football and Inter were always for the people, they should bring the people back.



## BULGARIA

- ▶ **Capital:** Sofia
- ▶ **Language:** Bulgarian
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 7.4 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 16
- ▶ **Part since:** 2008 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

The most controversial issue are the pyrotechnical devices. Although law has prohibited them in 2008, they are largely used by all ultras groups. Police and Bulgarian Football Federation are aware of this situation and in practice pyrotechnics are allowed more often than not. There is a fine imposed only if a pyrotechnical device is being thrown on the athletic track or on the pitch. Now football supporters clubs together with the federation, and some of the major football clubs, are trying to change the respective law and to legalize the use of pyrotechnics under certain regulations.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Yes, there are such bans and there is a Ministry of Interior-run register.

In most of the cases people are banned if they have destroyed something material or have been involved in fighting which caused someone's injury.

The most often ban is for one-year-period and it concerns football matches in Bulgaria and in Europe.

Violations of the Law for Preservation of Public Order at Sports Events. These violations are not considered criminal acts, and sanctions on the basis of this law do not fill your criminal record. If you have been sanctioned, however, you may have problems when applying in the future for working positions in police or the army.

Consequences can be:

- payment of fine;
- stadium ban;
- work penalty;
- there is only one case with a person who was sent to prison for 6 months;

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Bulgarian police is often using a great number of policemen in full combat dress to stay around the stadium, sometimes inside the stadium, to respect the crowd but they rarely go in for "heavy measures", with some very unpleasant exceptions in the last few years. Football fans are complaining however that this enormous, and very often unnecessary overwhelming presence of police at the stadium is a great waste of money for the football clubs and the taxpayers. There is also a great criticism that police, instead of staying at the stadiums, should try to manage better the situation with criminal crimes and organized crimes.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

There are few informal connections based on ideological similarities and historical relations.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Different supporters' clubs act/protest individually but there are cases when they unite against police repressive measures or for a social protest.

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

It is not legal but it is tolerated.

### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

There are still many standing area in Bulgaria and the area behind the goals is used always as standing area even if there are seats. This is a great tradition and I do not think it will ever change. Even the renovated stadiums provide space for standing terraces.

### 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

Bulgarian supporters are very happy to have some of the cheapest tickets in Europe, normal price is EUR 2-3 and the highest may reach EUR 25 for first category seats for UEFA competitions. These prices are affordable by everyone.

### 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

Here we have a big problem. It is comparatively easy for the football federation to make changes/amendments in the match days schedule. The most negative factor for very bad kick-offs and uncomfortable days is live TV coverage.



## 10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)

Greater part of professional clubs are private shareholding companies with one share-holder/person or company/with majority vote. This means that all other shareholders do not have a say. The management practically depends on the whim of one person, which has been heavily criticised by supporters. The amateur clubs are membership-based. There is not a single Bulgarian football club, which is listed on the stock market.

## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

These cases are very rare and they concern some clubs without fan base or small amateur clubs. In Bulgaria football supporters are very keen on preserving their identity and tradition. The change of emblem or colours may lead to boycott or riots and club owners keep this in mind.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

Even though Bulgarian football stadiums are very old and mostly have not been renovated, and the quality of football right now is considered by football experts as not very high, we still have this old atmosphere of a tremendous vocal support, half of the stadium may watch the game standing all the time, great pyrotechnical show, tremendously beautiful flags and choreography, very liberal attitude to the so-called banned symbols, as many of them are elements of world's cultural and historical heritage, and general sense of freedom and unity.



## CROATIA

- **Capital:** Zagreb
- **Language:** Croatian
- **No. of inhabitants:** 4.3 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 12
- **Part since:** 2010    ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Officially, the only banners, scarves and flags which are not allowed in the stadiums are the ones that promote hate speech, that have a purpose of provoking or insulting opponents, or ones that police finds "inappropriate" in any other way. In reality, these rules are interpreted in a very strange manner: while some groups regularly carry banners openly, promoting the independent state of Croatia (the fascist puppet-rulers of Croatia during WWII), banner, depicting throwing the swastika in the trash bin with the words: "Croatia without fascism" is not allowed on most stadiums. Also, some club officials have misused police and stadium security to prevent supporters from bringing in and displaying banners criticising the club's leadership. There is one example from last season (2011 - 12) where the chairman of one club did not allow Croatian national flags on one match, he instructed police and security to take them from the supporters, but that rule last for only that one match.

Although there is no formal difference regarding home and away fans, home fans usually have more resources to bypass these restrictions.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Yes, stadium bans are imposed in Croatia and we have a central register of "troublesome" fans, although it officially includes only those fans which have already been sanctioned or involved in aggressive behaviour.

Stadium ban is given to fans repeating their offences; its duration ranges between one and two years, and it can include some or all matches. It can mean that the offender must either contact the police station or is kept there during the match, depending on the verdict. It may also include international matches abroad.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

As we are a rather small group (around 50 fans) I can give you some examples only from our perspective, although it may differ from the experiences members of larger organised supporters' groups could have, so please take that into consideration.

When police does not allow certain banners to be taken in the stadium (e.g. "Croatia without fascism"-banner, described earlier), they don't give any legal explanations and refuse to issue an official document. Present policemen refuse to contact their superiors when asked for clarification, and mistreat the that insist on an official document by holding them and checking their documents for some part of the game, by making them take an alcohol test and by other most "creative" ways.

Until just a few years back not all stadiums had a toilet for visiting fans, often police denied us our right to go to the toilet on the other stand, even with a police escort and we had to relieve ourselves at the edges of the stands, which is, I must say, quite inhuman. Also, if there was a conscious organiser, they would sometimes give us the watering-hose from the pitch so we can have some water. Although conditions have improved and all stadiums must have toilet facilities for visiting fans (since two or three years ago), it clearly depicts how visiting fans are generally treated.

Before an organised travel to an away game police writes down personal data of the travellers, their ID numbers, and occasionally check the baggage for alcohol which is not allowed. At the arrival of the destination random breath tests are occasionally applied and all supporters with 0,5‰ or more are denied entry to stadium and taken to police station for „sobering“ until the match is over.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

There is no formal cooperation between fans from different clubs. Certain initiatives that gather fans from most clubs occasionally do exist, for example a yearly pilgrimage to the town of Vukovar for remembering Croatian victims of recent war. But there are no organisations or initiatives with clear and defined purposes.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Most measures taken against restrictions, bans and repression are banners and flags which most of the fans' groups bring to the games. Recently, a public debate on fans' rights has been started by some groups, and some fans' organisations have taken legal steps for determining legitimacy of police actions against fans in Croatia and Croatian fans abroad. Also, there are some fan initiatives which use media promotion and take legal action to combat unlawful behaviour of clubs' officials, corruption, nepotism, unlawful club structure, denial of possibility of supporters joining the clubs as members, general assemblies being elected by the executive committee which in turn elects the same executive committee, etc. as these issues are not addressed by football governing bodies or local judicial bodies.

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

The use of flares is strictly prohibited, and the law proposes sanctions such as fines from 100€-1500€ or 3-30 days prison sentences. There are no exceptions or possibilities for a controlled pyrotechnic performance. Although larger groups, despite these measures, use pyrotechnics, it is much more difficult for smaller groups.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

There are no specially designated standing areas as the Croatian licensing committee imposed strict rule that stadiums must be all-seaters. However, fans do stand on their sections of the stadium as a rule.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

Most stadiums in Croatia are pretty small and have only two or three stands. Good thing about that is there is no some kind of VIP or really expensive areas. The cheapest ticket is around 4 - 5 € and the price for a family area is 8 - 12 €. Every year the situation gets more difficult, but yes, pretty much everybody can afford a ticket.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

In general, match days are scheduled at the beginning of the season by the league officials and the clubs can occasionally ask for a rescheduling in case of European matches or some other criteria. For example, although the main match day is Saturday, two clubs have been given the right to play their home games on Friday. Attractive matches that are usually televised live are often moved on Sunday evening, depending on an arrangement with TV stations.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)**

Clubs are generally organized as „sport societies“ and are bound by same laws as other NGOs. Usually, local city or county bodies have the biggest part in decision making as they are the largest sponsors and own the stadium infrastructure. Being tightly tied to politics and a great deal of club's functioning is in the „grey zone“ of the law, because the clubs are not paying taxes and being pardoned for it, very low taxation and virtually no transparency in conducting business, which contributes greatly to emergence of elected club officials with no ties to football or sport in general, and with a great personal financial interest.

Supporters have virtually no decision rights, because there are only one or two clubs who include a supporters' representative in the general assembly. Recently one of the biggest Croatian clubs Hajduk Split has been privatised, but the majority owner is still the town of Split. A few weeks ago, NK Istra 1961 from Pula has also been privatised and is the first club in Croatia that has a private owner.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club...)**

Very small attendance and small interest of sponsors has saved Croatian football from major commercialization influences. Paradoxically, the only issue has emerged when NK Varteks from Varaždin, changed its name from NK Varteks (major textile producer and a long-time club's sponsor) to NK Varaždin, with supporters rejecting the change on the ground of tradition and founding of the club by the factory workers many decades ago. After unsuccessful struggle with the club they recently founded a supporters' club, NK Varteks, which has started officially competing last season.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Full stadiums, good connections between supporters and players/club, less corruption, mafia and multimillionaires in football. Get football back to the people and people back to football and of course stands without racism, fascism and any kind of discrimination.



## CZECH REPUBLIC



- ▶ **Capital:** Prague
- ▶ **Language:** Czech
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 10.6 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 16
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006    ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

2006: Although it is not permitted to use flags on poles the active fan terraces are usually allowed to use limited numbers of flags and banners at home games. At away games this is not permitted, although exceptions are made. Flares are illegal as well, but just like with flag poles many fan groups use them in nearly limitless amounts at their home ground (after finding an arrangement with their club's management). Other groups have problems with the security (etc.) at their home ground. At away games you would usually get a lot of trouble with the security if you use flares – an increasing number of people had to pay fines. Choreographies with paper, cloth or plastic can usually be performed without any problems at home and away games. Choreographies have been almost free of censorship so far although in 2006, there were problems due to political motives (often right-wing extremist) or anti-police slogans (A.C.A.B.) – which is a rather new development here.

2009: It's not illegal to use flags or choreographies on the terraces except for political (right-wing) pattern. Flags on poles are not allowed, just special poles which can not be used as weapon. There are no problems on away games also. Sometimes security (especially on away games) makes problems. Flares are not allowed. Some supporters' groups have deals with their club management so they can use flares after the game is finished, but just on home ground.

2012: Same as in year 2009 (but there were some "incidents" with flares or smoke shells on away matches during the game).

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

2006: An official central register of potentially dangerous fans does not exist. The police relies on so called scene cops who often go to away games and monitor the fans. The Czech Republic also has stadium bans. But they can only be imposed after a supporter has been convicted of a criminal offence (in connection with football) by court. The number of stadium bans is unknown but not greater than 100-200.

2009: In the last 6 months a new law was taken. This law is more focused on football violence crimes. Police was taken out of the stadium and the responsibility is on clubs now. The police is hidden outside and acts just in case that the riots aren't eliminated by the security. The clubs have to pay for police action then.

From the new season on if someone who destroys stadium equipment should be placed on a special list and will not be allowed to enter any stadium in the country. But there are no details concerning this list and system, how it should work is still not known. The ministry of interior wants to push clubs to be more involved in preventing football violence.

2010: Following the new law, first punishment was given and one Slavia Prague fan has now to come to his local police station every time his team is playing.

Although there is no official "register of potentially dangerous fans", police (of course) runs its own database.

2011: There is something like a central register and the possibility to ban fans from stadium, but in reality it doesn't work.

2012: Same as in last years.

In Feb 2012 2 supporters of FC Baník Ostrava were probational sentenced for violence on terraces and they were banned for life to visit any 1<sup>st</sup> league football match.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

If you're on your way to an away match in an organized train or bus you should reckon that the police will await you (before entering town) with a lot of policemen. They will lead everyone straight to the stadium without a chance to do any sightseeing etc.

It's common that away fans have to stay in the stadium after matches for up to an hour until all home fans are gone. And then everybody has to leave together and stay together until they have reached the train or bus, even those who (for example) came with their own cars.

Many away sections in stadiums are fenced-in, in a way (worse than in a zoo). You can hardly see the pitch.

2011: Situation in Pilsen – Lot of people had to do breath test because of alcohol on stadium. (It was controlled by security)

Stadium in Olomouc-Security, mostly fascists, attacked some fans.

Match in Ostrava: Police tried to escort our fans on every way, they used violence to push people into buses and those that didn't want were arrested.

2012: Same like in last years, nothing new. There was no bad conducting to our fans (Bohemians 1905) during this season.



#### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

2006: There are hardly any organized groups here (the ultra and hooligan groups don't register people as members). A network of active supporters' groups to defend the rights of fans doesn't exist either. One of the first combined action was a choreography in 2006 against police and its violence, in which almost every group took part.

2009: Nothing special? There are just few examples. One of them is mentioned above. No network was established among ultras yet. There is just the project profootballfans.cz which is partly official. I don't know if it works... Bohemians ultras took part in this project in the beginning but they don't do any more I think.

2011: There is a new political party called "Desitka pro domaci", that are fans of Bohemians and Slavia, that joined together to fight against the removal of our fans from Ďolíček to Eden (they have closed down our stadium for an A-team, we have to play on Sk Slavia Praha Stadium).

2012: Nothing new during this year.

#### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

2006: Difficult to answer. The majority of the most active and largest (ultras) groups in the Czech Republic are heavily influenced by hooligans hence the only reaction to repression etc. is an increase of hatred towards the police. A similar effect can be seen in relation to journalists. If an ultras group publicly distances itself from hooliganism or political extremism and tries to explain that it has other objectives, it would have to expect to be ridiculed by other groups.

An amendment defines some criminal offenses in connection with football matches newly. Although there is a lot of media coverage this amendment doesn't contribute anything important to the "fight against hooliganism".

2007: Since the beginning of the second half of the season the police and the football association are supposed to be stricter in their actions against the usage of flares, so the stadiums will definitely stay free of pyrotechnics. Being threatened by a serious fine, most clubs try to persuade the supporters groups to do totally without flares. On the other hand there are clubs that still tolerate them. The reaction by the football association is still awaited.

2011: Once a year we join the campaign against racism (FARE) and we also join the tournament for Africa and the Antira tournament. The rest is practically the same as in last years.

2012: Ultras Bohemians are still supported by the club for their choreography, they can use some empty rooms at Ďolíček stadium etc.

#### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

2009: Flares are not allowed. Some supporters' groups have a deal with their club management so they can use flares after the game is finished, but just on their home ground. I don't know about any real offenses.

2011: Pyro is not legal but it's mostly tolerated. You usually can settle everything with club, but sometimes we are punished because of it. They can take you out of stadium and that's usually everything they can do (of course they confiscate your pyrotechnic).

2012: Same like previous years.

In Feb 2012 pyrotechnic was used on "our" pitch (Bohemians 1905) during the match (in 32<sup>nd</sup> minute of the game) because of death of one of our previous club director.

On away match (same month) was agreed, between Ultras Bohemians and SK České Budějovice, using of pyrotechnic (10 flares) on their stadium.

#### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

2009: Every stadium of the 1<sup>st</sup> division must be equipped by seats completely.

2011: A standing area used to be in Ďolíček, but our stadium is closed now (this season for first time and it looks like it will stay this way ) In Eden there are no standing places and the stadium is a classical „modern football stadium“. (Situation same as in 2009)

2012: At the pitch in Hradec (in away fans sector) aren't plastic seats, only plastic cover / surface on the terraces (so it looks more like a standing area).

#### 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

2012: 150 CZK (ca. 6 EUR) for attractive teams (means 3-4 matches), normally 90 CZK (ca. 3,50 EUR).

Mostly people can afford them.



**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments /delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

There are two (public) TV terms – at Saturday afternoon and Monday afternoon. TV chooses the most attractive matches every week and the teams have to respect their schedule. Especially the Monday-term is hated by fans because they have no time to manage it with their works (especially if it is away game ... for Baník Ostrava, for example). This praxis can be seen as an unexpected punishment for active fans: do you make nice atmosphere at your game? Than we will broadcast it at Monday!

Except for this praxis – usually before “potentially dangerous games” – there is a meeting of police and clubs and there all details (including changes in date/time of games) are prepared.

2012: If we are talking about TV matches, there are 4 TV channels, which choose the matches, which they would like to show on TV screen (from Friday - Monday).

**10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

Some clubs you don't know who owns it (which was actual few weeks ago, when Slavia Prague faced big economical problems near collapse, Football Association wanted to help but didn't know, which person should be contacted – who owns the majority in the club). Of course the clubs have every year (before the season starts and they ask for professional licence) to give the basic information about ownership, but usually you get the info, that majority of the club have some XY company, but you don't know, who owns the majority in XY company ... As I know, no Czech club is listed on stock exchange, almost all are owned by private companies, sometimes with the minority of city of which is the club from, sometimes with supporters' minority (Cooperative of Bohemians supporters owns 11 % of the club).

2012: Last season matches was very visible “bribing” of referees by owners (?) of the clubs. Teams from the bottom of the table (who were struggling for continuing in 1<sup>st</sup> league, namely FC Baník Ostrava) succeeded in final matches and stayed in 1<sup>st</sup> league.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

Some stadiums are called by firms which own these and even some clubs (usually in lower leagues) are called this way ... For example our new stadium (the SKS ) is called Eden (historical name) but the official name is Synot tip arena.

2012: There was born a new team, in 2<sup>nd</sup> league. There were joined 2 teams (FK Spartak MAS Sezimovo Ústí and FK Tábor) in brand new one – Tábořsko (based in Tábor city). Tábor city gained a 2<sup>nd</sup> league and Sezimovo Ústí gained a new stadium, because of building a hotel instead of their old one.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

2012: Bring back the time when money wasn't influencing football as nowadays.

And one more “private” wish of Bohemians fans:

Bring Bohemians 1905 back to Dolíček stadium. This wish/dream probably will come true since next season in 2<sup>nd</sup> league, because of lower stadium conditions etc. (People are planning now to buy season-tickets, organizing voluntary work on the stadium etc.)



## DENMARK



- ▶ **Capital:** Copenhagen
- ▶ **Language:** Danish
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 5.5 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 12
- ▶ **Part since:** 2009    ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

The last year more and more restrictions have been put on the Danish fans. Some clubs don't allow away fans to use banners, megaphones, flags or drums. The clubs are very strict with regard to the content of choreographies. In most clubs the director of security wants to check and approve the message that the fans want to show with their tifo/choreography display. The common thing is that the away fans almost never can bring visual stuff besides flags below 1,5 meter.

2012: At the beginning of the spring season 2012, the clubs introduced a common guideline for fan materials, to make it easier for the fans. However, the rules are so strict that the effect is yet to be seen, and with a clause, that still allows the clubs to completely reject materials on the grounds of history. Fans had little or no say in the development of the common guideline.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

A new law has been established from the start of the season 08/09. The law gives football clubs the right to keep "unwanted" fans in a register in corporation with the police. The law has not been effective at all, because most of the violence and trouble is taking place outside the stadium. Pyro, violence and vandalism puts you in this file, but also smaller cases like not following police orders can put you there. You can be placed in without sent before to a judge.

A stadium ban can be up to 2 years depending on the incident.

2012: There are stadium bans in Denmark, but they are governed by the clubs and their security officers. The bans are only to some degree effectuated on the home stadium.

The offenses to receive a stadium ban include: pyrotechnics, violence, vandalism, not obeying stadium rules (smuggling banners etc), throwing paraphernalia as lighters, beers etc.

Stadium bans vary according to what each club decides, and depends on your "violation". It varies from a couple of games, the rest of the season, 6 months, 1 year, 2 years to life time ban.

We do have a state-run central register, but it is directed at violence in connection with football games, and is called "the hooligan register". Only incidents related to violence will add your name to this register, and only if you are proven guilty at a court of law. If you are included in the "hooligan register" you are banned from all Football matches, incl. nationals and lower leagues, you are not allowed

within 500 metres the stadium on match days. The ban will be for 2 years. You can be added to a "watch register" or be given a "yellow card" as the police call it, but it will not have any consequences, other than the police will be watching you more closely. There are currently approx 20-30 people registered with a 2 year ban, and approx. 200 people under observation.

The law is now also up for revision, as the politicians and state police believe that the law is too rigid, making it difficult to place violent fans in the register.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Police are not always in full riot-gear anymore – but still most places.

The use of a new strategy with yellow shirts who guides us fans.

Different approach towards fans depending on where in Denmark you play.

2012: Within the past two years the police have changed their conduct strategy at football games from a restrictive hardball tactic towards a more dialogue based conduct. This is still in the early stages, and not completely introduced in all police districts.

The dialogue policing includes service, escort in yellow vests, guidance to a nearby pub etc. This has been very well received by all football fans in Denmark.

There are however still examples of police conduct that is restrictive. The latest example being that away fans at games between Brøndby IF and FC Copenhagen are forced to be transported by bus from their home stadium to the away stadium, if they wish to be in the delegated away section.

I cannot give you a third example, as it is these two strategies the police use in Denmark.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

The Danish active supporters' groups aren't organized. Though, the official fan clubs are organized in DFF (Danske Fodbold Fan-klubber – Danish Football Supporter Association) except the fans from Brøndby IF and Odense Boldklub. But in some protest, e.g. Eurostand and against Monday matches, the groups have contact to each other and cooperate.

2012: The DFF are now moving towards including all organised fans' groups, and are opening up towards including ultra groups as well. Since the last update the Fanclub in Aalborg withdrew from DFF, but during the summer both Brøndby and Aalborg will join the DFF again, leaving only Odense out.



**5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

Many of the active supporters' groups have made banners, actions and happenings against the law – none have worked. Some fan groups are making contacts with their respective clubs and politicians. A few clubs in Denmark have announced that they support the legalisation of pyrotechnic. Also there is a group of researchers at Aarhus University with contacts to all Ultras' groups in Denmark which tries to put a focus on the problems in Denmark. But in Denmark the groups are small and new, so no big focus from the fans point of view.

2012: We are now moving towards working more politically to deal with restrictions, bans and repression. This movement is both regional and nationwide through the inclusion of DFF more in the work. We are talking to politicians, and have recently been invited to a series of meetings with the minister of justice. We also participate in meetings with our clubs, the FA and the police in order to avoid restrictions and bans, and trying to educate the parties on the dynamics of fans.

**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

No, the usage of pyrotechnic is illegal in Denmark. Most of the football clubs are punishing the users of pyrotechnic with bans. Some clubs have started to punish these people with huge fines (4 - 5.000 DKK, 540 - 670 €.) Sadly, these huge fines will probably lower the usage of pyrotechnic. But it is widely used in the bigger clubs; Brøndby IF, FC Copenhagen, Odense Boldklub, AGF and Aalborg Boldklub.

2012: Pyrotechnics are still illegal in Denmark. There is however a small movement towards trying to introduce it, with Norway as a good example. This is however still in the very very early stages..

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

Yes, many of the stadiums in Denmark have standing areas for the active fans. The largest stand with 5.500 is in Brøndby. In most stadiums the two active ends of the stadium have standing areas – the number of standing areas has increased in the newly build stadiums.

2012: Some stadias that were built without standing areas are now moving towards setting up small standing areas for the home and away fans.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

2012: The cheapest prices in the top league are 120 dkkr (approx. € 16) and the most expensive are approx 230 dkkr (approx € 30,5).

Everybody can afford these prices, but the tendency is a small increase in the prices.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

During the last couple of years TV-companies could change the match schedule within 2 - 3 weeks before the game. But with the new TV agreement the companies should schedule 11 match days on a time. In our Danish league we have match days on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. One game on Saturday 5 pm, 4 games at Sunday with kick-off times from 2 pm until 6 pm, one game on Monday at 7 pm.

2012: The match have to be definitely scheduled 7 - 11 round ahead of time. It is TV companies that schedule the matches. However the police have the option of moving the match if they assess that the game is a high risk, and assess that it would be safer at another time (e.g. when it is still light outside). This was, for the first time, done for a Cup match fall 2011 between Brøndby IF and FC Copenhagen. This possibility might be increased and sanctioned further by the ministry of justice, and is still up for debate.

With the new TV deal for the clubs (starting this season), the splitting of matches are currently as follows:

1 x Friday 18:30  
1 x Saturday 17:00  
1 x Sunday 14:00  
1 x Sunday 17:00  
1 x Sunday 19:00  
1 x Monday 19:00

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

The biggest clubs are on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange and others are owned by investors as well. The amateur departments of these clubs don't have so much power in running the professional department.

But mostly those clubs are run with respect for their history and the ideals of their background – but more and more clubs are joining together and formed a joint-venture 'club' killing the older clubs.

There are very few movements towards fan-owned clubs in Denmark.

2012: The movement towards fan-owned clubs in Denmark are still in the early stages, and currently it is only in Brøndby IF that this is openly discussed.



# 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

It is very popular in Denmark to sell stadium names, and nearly all clubs have sold or are willing to sell their names. The worst part of the commercialization in Denmark is the joint-venture clubs in Denmark. Every year some new 'FC-' clubs are seen in Danish football, and a lot of old clubs with great history are killed.

The FA and the DFF are also trying to unify the stands on stadiums to be a family happening, killing a lot of the nerve of Danish football in making it more of an entertainment show than a football match.

2012: The only example where commercialization has won is in the name of the stadium, where most stadiums now are named after the highest bidding sponsor company.

# 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

2012: Fewer restrictions on the stands on banners, flags etc., and the message on these. The political correctness and restrictions in size are killing the creativity.



## ENGLAND



- **Capital:** London
- **Language:** English
- **No. of inhabitants:** 52.2 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 20
- **Part since:** 2006   ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

It can be difficult for supporters to bring in their own materials. Flags are allowed with prior consent as long as a certificate proving they have been fire proofed is provided. (despite stadiums all being non smoking) Small flags on sticks often are not allowed in case the sticks are used as weapons or cause injury. If flags obscure advertising hoardings then stewards will ask them to be removed. I've thankfully not yet to hear of scarves been banned and rules and restrictions are no different for home or away supporters.

There are many atmosphere groups in this country, some call themselves Ultras, and they face a very difficult time in getting permission to take in flags, confetti, etc. Many find themselves under close scrutiny by the police and stewards.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

We have bans imposed by the clubs and Football Banning Orders (FBOs), which are imposed by the courts. Supporters may be banned by their clubs for periods of one game to life for many reasons, swearing or gesticulating, persistent standing, criticizing club management, singing songs deemed racist or offensive, being arrested for a criminal offence or being found guilty in a court even if no banning order has been issued. No means an exhaustive list. It is rare for clubs to impose bans fairly in that they act as "judge, jury and executioner" and will rely on witness accounts from stewards, the police and sometimes other supporters without giving the 'accused' supporters the benefit of hearing their version of events before issuing a ban. The FSF are working hard to persuade clubs to adopt a fairer system before imposing a ban.

If you are subjected to a club ban you will not be allowed on club property and while there is no central register as such, clubs may pass information about a banned supporter to stop them gaining entry to other stadiums.

If you are arrested for a so called football related offence, then the police and/or Crown Prosecution may apply for a FBO to be imposed by the courts for period of three years upwards. This will be in addition to any other punishment the court imposed. There is a central register for those who have a FBO and the restrictions may be very draconian, such as having to hand in your passport when club or country play abroad, not being allowed within a certain radius of a football ground and sometimes you are even banned from using the railway network on the days your club are playing.

FBOs may also be applied if you've not committed a criminal offence. The police here keep very detailed records on supporters, which deem to be a risk. Courts will often grant these FBOs on the flimsiest of evidence – for example being in the wrong place at the

wrong time or if you are seen in the company of other 'risk' fans. These FBOs are of huge concern to the FSF.

At the 2011 Liberty (civil rights organization) the AGM voted in favour of them campaigning against 14b banning orders. The solicitor who deals with many supporters for us tells us that until relatively recently the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) would allow for discretion as to whether or not a banning order would be applied for. In recent weeks there appears to have been a policy change in that the CPS will ask for an FBO regardless of the offence committed and whether or not it is a first offence.

Finally, there has been a change in the legislation meaning that a banning order now includes games in Scotland and will mean those under a ban may not attend any matches played in the Olympics.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

In the past season have been numerous examples of police conduct towards fans. Here are three of them.

At a cup game away to Accrington Stanley, two young Newcastle supporters were arrested for pitch encroachment. Technically they were guilty, but the reality was they'd strayed on to the area adjacent the pitch during a late goal celebration and were hauled out by stewards when making their way back to their seats and thereafter arrested and charged. The case proceeded to court where the supporters were given a conditional discharge but no banning order. Shortly afterwards we learnt that the CPS were appealing the court's decision not to impose football banning orders. Again we provided legal representation and won the case.

Liverpool played away to Sunderland towards the end of last season. There is no history of animosity between the two sets of fans and the match passed without incident. Notwithstanding this, some 18 coaches containing Liverpool supporters were given a police escort all the way back to Merseyside. When writing to question this, we were told by Northumbria Police that they'd escorted fans to their borders but Durham and Merseyside forces denied all knowledge. Somebody escorted those coaches and at the time of writing we're referring the complaint to the IPCC (Independent Police Complaints Commission) for them to investigate.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have already paid out £ 200,000 (ca. 250.000 EUR) compensation to Stoke City Supporters for their wrongful use of Section 27 (annotation of the proofreaders: it's the section concerning Alcohol related disorder in public places) against them. At the time of writing we have two further cases proceeding against GMP, again for wrongful use of Section 27. In one of the cases some Man. Utd fans attended the Servicemen's Club to watch their Cup game versus Liverpool. Towards the end of the first half a number of police officers entered the club and told all those there that they were being Section 27'ed. I have spoken to many supporters in there and they all tell broadly the same story. Nobody was drunk and there was no trouble. Legal proceedings and a complaint to the IPCC are ongoing and of course we hope both are successful.



**4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?**

There is a small number of fans in this country who call themselves 'ultras'. They tend to be younger supporters of lower league clubs whose main aim is to improve the atmosphere in their stadiums. Life can be made difficult for them by their club safety officers and on occasion the police who misunderstand their objectives and think being a passionate fan makes you a hooligan!! There is little co-operation between separate fans' groups; the culture here really is that you only care about your own club and fans, not what is happening elsewhere.

The Football Supporters' Federation (FSF) is the national supporters' organisation for all football fans comprising 200.000 individual fans and members of local supporters' organisations from every club in the professional structure and many from the pyramid.

The FSF has many affiliates, too many to comment on what their functions and objectives are but imagine that they don't differ hugely to what our European counterparts wish to achieve. We communicate with our affiliates and members by a weekly email, that we call Fan Mail and regularly update our website with news stories. A good way to stay in touch with supporters is to regularly read their message boards and advertise our services if they are in need of advice or assistance. We also have a Facebook page and use Twitter.

With so many fans facing similar issues, particularly those of club ownership, it would be to everybody's advantage if club rivalry was put to one side and we all worked together. Occasionally, this happens, such as when the idea of Game 39 (annotation of the proofreaders: the English Premier League thought about playing an extra round every year outside of England – Australia, Asia, Gulf States, North America – to make more money) was mooted, but that was the exception rather than the rule; supporters involved with running trusts or other organisations at their own clubs may well speak to those doing similar at other clubs but as a general rule ordinary supporters won't involve themselves with what is happening elsewhere. A great example of this is both Liverpool and Man. Utd. facing very similar issues with their clubs' owners; despite what a unified front may achieve, ordinary fans would not consider any joint protests for example.

**5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

We have formed alliances with Liberty, the civil rights group, and in the past few years we have built up an excellent network of legal advisors and academics. We are better able to refer supporters to experts for advice and this has meant legal action being brought against some clubs and police forces. If legal action can't be brought then we encourage supporters to persist with complaints against their clubs and the police. In this country, we have a football Ombudsman who supporters can go to if the club and appropriate league have not been able to resolve the complaint. We want to stop the mentality that treats law-abiding supporters as criminals or of being "anti social" when often they are little more than passionate fans!

**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

They are banned and simply not tolerated – unless of course the stadium owner provides them such as at Wembley for the FA-Cup. If a supporter does get a flare or pyrotechnic into the ground and is caught, then they face arrest and possibly a football banning order.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

No, only the older grounds have standing areas in the lower leagues. While they are legally entitled to retain them, they are being abolished by stealth; for example when a club moves ground, grants won't be forthcoming if standing areas are included in the plans. The campaign for safe standing areas as seen in Germany still continues in England.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

A very difficult question to answer accurately due to the number of clubs in this country and the different pricing that they offer for different age groups, the disabled and students. Suffice to say, many clubs do make the effort to ensure all can afford their tickets, but at other clubs (particularly in the Premier League) supporters are vociferous in criticising highly priced tickets. A more expensive season ticket at Chelsea FC can cost £ 65.80 (82 EUR) per game.



**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments /delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

The fixtures are released some time in advance of the season but with a disclaimer that they may be moved at short notice. Ordinarily this will be to suit the TV schedules but on occasion the police will insist a fixture is moved for "safety" reasons. The police can also dictate how many tickets away fans are entitled to and even if the clubs disagree, the threat of having their safety certificate (without which supporters would not be allowed into the ground) withdrawn is made.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)**

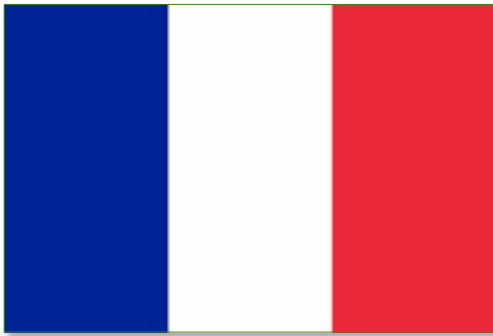
Clubs in this country are owned by a variety of individuals from oil barons to commercial chicken farmers. There are examples of fan owned clubs lower down the pyramid but these are far from the norm and very much the exception. Newly promoted Swansea City is 20 % fan owned. I think most fans would agree when I say sponsors probably have more influence with clubs than fans do! Some clubs consult their supporters but it is debatable as to whether this consultation is meaningful; supporters have a long way to go in this country before they are recognised as „stakeholders“. We are however starting to make inroads but it will be a slow process.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

Many supporters feel that commercialisation is ruining football. To the best of my knowledge though, no club owner has changed colours or emblems but there have been some instances of stadium name changes, more often when a stadium moves.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

I think the answer to that has to be safe standing although definitely not the old style terraces, rather modern safe standing areas as seen in Europe.



## FRANCE



- ▶ **Capital:** Paris
- ▶ **Language:** French
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 65.4 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 20
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006   ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1 Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

France has the so-called "League Guidelines" (inspired by the famous „Alliot-Marie-Law“) which are valid for all stadiums and therefore for all supporters as well. These "League Guidelines" forbid everything that promotes hatred and anything that could be used as a projectile or weapon.

This includes:

- not only all taunts and offences like racist remarks and symbols on banners and flags but also all other kinds of political content
- all material which could cause danger, like Bengal flares, smoke bombs and flag poles longer than 1.20m

Actually, other things are forbidden, too. Stewards sometimes decide arbitrarily. At some games, the police make the decisions. It once even happened that it was forbidden to take any flags (at "Stade de France", Paris) for Bordeaux supporters. Before entering the stadium all kinds of banners have to be shown and acknowledged by stewards, a league commissioner and the police. Some of Bordeaux's antiracist banners often are forbidden because they show swastikas which are crossed out or thrown into a trash can. Some supporters from Metz have been placed in police custody for 48h and have been banned for 3 months because they had shown such flags in a stadium. Banners including names (e.g. protests against the club's board) are mostly not allowed. It is also difficult to get permission for any banners containing jokes about the opponent. Also it was not allowed for colleagues to show a banner protesting against a wrong penalty for a Bordeaux supporter. The authorities explained that there is no need to question a court's decision. So there are a lot of statements and different kinds of material which are strictly forbidden. But in the end, a lot depends on the stewards at the stadium entrance and the atmosphere before a game.

### 2 Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

In France, there are lots of stadium bans and you can presume that there will not be fewer in the future. They are most of the time given because of lighting Bengal flares or trying to bring them into the stadium. There are also stadium bans due to violent acts (fights with other supporters or the police) and racist incidents. Also, some are banned because of drug possession; protest (violent or simply verbal) against the police, or to have been in a state of inebriation (more than 0.5g = 1 pint). Many supporters are already added to police files. At away games on high risk levels or after fights between two groups it is no rare occurrence for the police to include all supporters and to take pictures and personal data of every single

person. Delegates of supporters' groups are regularly approached or phoned up by the police to hand out information. The police know the important delegates of supporters' groups very well and like to expose that. In general, everyone has the right to ask the police to see his own police file.

The "Sarkozy Law" raised repression. It means that supporters are treated according to Sarkozy's anti-terrorist law. It defines football supporters as terrorists and allows the police to take many more and stronger measures to fight supporters. This law allows the complete dissolution of supporters' groups (in order to prevent the supporters from inciting violence). The police are also allowed to impose so called preventive stadium bans on supporters. It means that people can be given stadium bans for 6 (previously 3 before the law "Hadopi 2") months without doing anything, just because the police think they might cause trouble, just on the basis of suspicion. That is Sarkozy's prevention! Many preventive stadium bans have already been imposed. Some victims intend to oppose these exaggerated measures at court.

Durations of stadium bans differ. The duration depends on the city and the reason for the sentence. They can last for a month up to a few years. The duration of preventive stadium bans differ as well. In general, stadium bans are valid in each French stadium. There are a few exceptions where stadium bans are only valid in a certain city. The preventive bans oblige the convicted person to come to the police station on match days to make sure that he is not in or around the stadium.

A recent law called "Hadopi 2" initially dealing with Internet privacy is also applicable to groups of people including supporters' groups. The duration of preventive stadium ban has been doubled (3mths -> 6mths), and supporter's data can now be integrated into the police files without any trouble committed (your basic information are kept as long as you are a member of this group, or you are seen staying with people from a group).

### 3 Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Regularly before away games the supporters have to announce the number of people and their means of transport. The club's security commissioner will hand this information over to the police. The police often directly contact delegates of supporters' groups to get more information and organize an escort.

Quite often, the police capture supporters a few kilometres before they reach the destination. They used to check identity, to inspect buses and material. Then the police will escort them through the city.

At away games (and sometimes at home games, too) it is common that police overtakes searching the supporters and their material. They also use such an opportunity to check if anybody is too drunk.



#### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

In 2003, as a response to excessive repression against ultras in France, supporters founded the "Union contre la Repression" (Union against Repression). This included meetings, joint action days, united banners at stadiums and more. Sadly, due to the completely irresponsible behaviour of some groups, credibility was lost and the union was dissolved. The aim was to legalize the lighting of fireworks like Bengal flares. But a few weeks after the joint activities certain groups used flares as projectiles. That is the reason why there is no longer an official network. But from time to time some groups coordinate themselves to show joint banners, for instance. In 2007 a Paris SG fan has been killed by a policeman and after the Boulogne Boys tried to make the union between groups alive again but with no success. Since then repression is growing every year, Boulogne Boys have been dissolute and in spite of some meetings nothing concrete emerged.

Clubs do not really have the power to back supporters' efforts. For instance, sometimes supporters ask for permission to light some smoke bombs and Bengal flares at a fixed time. If the league commissioners agree the supporters would regularly be allowed to do so. Some clubs like Strasbourg brilliantly support their supporters to take flags, banners and other material to the stadium but some other forbid everything.

#### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

French Ultra movements are quite old and very developed but not mature enough to take its future in hand. We have huge difficulties to gather everyone against repression and restrictions.

Some groups never stopped protesting. We have always been active in the different unions explained just before and we often do tifos and banners against television, the national league or even some laws. We often ask fans coming to Strasbourg or fans, where we are guest fans, to do common actions to show that we can be united.

Our club supports us even if they can't do it officially. Government pressure is very high on the French league with puts the pressure on the clubs by threats, sanctions and fines.

#### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

The usage of pyrotechnic articles in France is strictly forbidden. Someone, who is arrested by the police, has to stay for 24 or 48 hours in jail before being judged. Courts always ban the fans for minimum one year, put a fine and often jail with probation.

#### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

Active fans have standing areas in almost every stadium and those who don't, stand on the seats. The proportion of people standing is very different from one game to another or from one stadium to another. Unfortunately the inclusion of a number of standing spaces is not taken in account in new stadia. It is forbidden by law.

#### 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

There aren't fixed prices determined at a national level. Clubs are free to fix their prices, based on the league they are playing in, their strategy, the level of infrastructures, etc.

At away games in "ligue 1", a ticket usually costs 8 € (defined at a national level as a "basic price to apply") but clubs sometimes set a price of 10 or 12 €. The principle of reciprocity often applies. For example, fans moving to Lyon used to pay 12 €, and when Lyon fans assist away games, clubs fix ticket at 12 €. This is basically a surplus of income for Lyon, but their supporters do have to pay more at every away game.

#### 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

In France the league decide which weekend the game will take place and then the television time and precise date. First division plays most games at 6 pm on Saturday, one big game at 9 pm and one or two other on Sunday afternoon (5 - 6 pm or 8 - 9 pm). In second division we play most games on Friday at 8 pm, one at 8:30 pm and the last on Monday at 8 pm. Normally TV decides which are the delayed games 10 days before.

The new season (2012 - 2013) will be now mostly diffused by Bein Sports, a subdivision of Al-Jazeera. In order to increase the number of diffused games in a weekend, they changed all schedules, making second division games playing at 6.45 pm instead of 8 pm, on Friday. The problem is that most of supporters are still on their way back to home after work and cannot assist games. The initial schedule was 6 pm, but then a grouping of Supporter's groups (most of them, Ultras from second division club, but Ultras from other divisions gave their support to the cause) created a petition and published articles in newspapers. The final decision from Bein Sports, agreed by second division club's presidents, is to kick-off at 6.45 pm ... It makes harder to support a team, and supporters still have to be a day off to support their team away.



**10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)**

Bordeaux have been owned by a television channel (M6) for about ten years. The club is run by a chairman appointed by M6, though he does come from the region and had worked at the club before that. He knows the club very well and the fans have a good relationship with him. The owners, on the other hand, are only there to determine the club's budgetary policy and give money (i. e. not often...). They control the club's budget to make sure it doesn't cost them too much and to put them in a position where they can possibly make some money when they decide to sell it.

The other clubs operate with a board of directors based on a company model, with major shareholders whose influence depends on the size of their investments.

PSG have just been bought by a Qatari investment fund and have previously belonged to a US investment fund (Colony Capital). PSG fans have had lots of problems with these owners and have been fighting them for a long time.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club...)**

As far as I know, there have been no changes of a club's name to a brand like in Salzburg or Leipzig. On the other hand, some French grounds have already been given brand names (for example, the new stadium in Le Mans is named after an insurance company). As far as colours are concerned, some clubs have started changing them for commercial reasons. Bordeaux's traditional colours, for example, are navy blue and white. In the 1990s, the club played in burgundy and white because the new owner decided to change the colours for business reasons. The stands at the stadium in Bordeaux have been named after brands or companies for two or three years.

It should be changed with the allocation of UEFA Euro to France in 2016. All cities that would welcome games have already started to build new stadiums, or to increase their own. Terraces are far away from the pitch, stadiums are all seated, and ticket would be more expensive. Merchandising won over popular football, and it will create many changes in supporters' life in the next years.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Hard to point out an unique thing... Everything is linked together, but I would appreciate to bring back supporters in their terraces (PSG), to unify supporters from all over France (and Europe?) in order to give them importance and to open discussions regarding pyrotechnics, cheaper tickets, arrangements for supporters (schedules of games).



## GERMANY

- ▶ **Capital:** Berlin
- ▶ **Language:** German
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 81.8 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 18
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006    ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1 Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Most German supporters enjoy pretty much freedom concerning the various paraphernalia which are allowed to bring into their home stadium. Although there is a small number of clubs that (about three years ago) established a new way of treating away fans, most clubs still allow little up to nothing for away supporters. The new model's idea is that every group is allowed to bring in whatever they want to – there are no restrictions about flag poles, number or size of flags, banners, drums, megaphones, choreo materials, etc. If away supporters misbehave in any way (pyrotechnics, racism chants or violence) they won't be allowed to bring anything when their team plays against that club next time (e.g. next three games or next three years, depends on the certain model). This model isn't our favourite, due to the fact that supporters have the feeling that their autonomy is undermined by others. They feel like they are dependent on the decision makers because they can decide whatever they want to. And it's seems like an education method which is no longer up-to-date.

Stadium regulations depend on the individual owner. If the stadium is in public hand, it depends on which German province the stadium is in (due to federalism). So there is no top down regulation, but nevertheless a general model, developed by the German FA. It e.g. includes rules about the length and diameter of flagpoles and suggests the amount of fines a club might demand from a "guilty" supporter.

Many clubs of course are convinced that they should follow the FA's proposals which do not really support fans' interests.

National German supporters organizations (ProFans and BAFF) tried to change the FA stadium regulations' model but after promising to discuss the proposal in their committees, there hasn't been any reaction for several months.

Meanwhile the FA told us there is no need for a change or a discussion about that issue.

That was state of affairs in 2011. Meanwhile nothing has changed...

### 2 Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

In Germany, there are two different types of stadium bans: local and nationwide bans. Local bans of three up to twelve months are basically imposed by the local club based on their domestic authority. Nationwide stadium bans are either imposed by a club or the German Football Association (DFB) (Actually it's a bit more complicated due to the fact that there is a German FA and a German Football League, which includes all clubs of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division. So we will ease some facts).

These bans generally apply to matches of all clubs from fourth league up to Bundesliga and other official matches of the German Football Association or the clubs (e.g. friendly matches and games of the national team). The duration of these bans mostly vary between one and four years (or rather 3 years plus 364 days...). This is based on the "licensing systems of the German Football League" which allows the clubs to assign each other domestic authority. A stadium ban is imposed right after a fan is accused of a misdoing (e.g. in the beginning of preliminary proceedings), the constitutional principle of presumption of innocence obviously does not apply here.

The German FA tends to impose stadium bans en masse. In 2010 e.g. members of "Schickeria München" (ultras of Bayern Munich) were affected. 5 got in trouble with the police. The result: 30 preliminary proceedings (without result by now) and 81 (!) stadium bans. Sadly, due to the fact it isn't an exceptional case.

A few weeks ago 50 Borussia Dortmund supporters got banned for lighting flares during their championship party (not inside the stadium). The "funny" thing is: two players did the same during this party, but the officials closed the criminal investigation proceedings and nothing happened at all...

Meanwhile it looks like the German FA as well as a couple of clubs (pushed by police in most cases) use the stadium ban guidelines to create their own compensatory law: They don't act preventive as it ought to be, but rather punishing.

There is a governmental file called "Datei Gewalttäter Sport" (Database of Violent Offenders in Sports) containing details of individuals who are convicts or mostly just suspects or fans who's personal data were registered by the police. In consequence, phone calls or private visits by local police authorities or observations by special football police agents may occur. In addition, strict border controls might happen while leaving or entering the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 2008 there was a judgement by a German court that decided that this database is illegal without an ordinance. The judgement was approved by a higher instance afterwards. In June 2011 the Federal Administrative Court was up to dispense justice. Exactly on that day the "missing" ordinance was put into force. Finally the Federal Administrative Court decided that the database was and is legal including all entries made before the necessary law even existed.

Nowadays 11.000 German football fans are listed in this database and you can imagine that the vast majority of them are no "Violent offenders in Sport" at all.



### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

At away games, police makes enquiries about the departure times of supporters' clubs and other groups' busses to await them in the city. Police generally accompanies away supporters, from the railway station all the way to the away stands. There is no chance to step aside and avoid this 'party'.

Police often acts excessively violent against away supporters.

Police is not allowed to impose banning orders themselves, but they propose supporters to the club for stadium bans. Further police has the power to decide which games are "high risk" and this has an impact on the clubs. (More security, no permission to sell alcohol etc.) Clubs often are forced to follow these proposals if they don't want to risk losing money.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

There are different German initiatives at national level such as ProFans, BAFF (alliance of active football fans) and Unsere Kurve (our terraces). These organisations mainly focus on the preservation of supporters' culture and fight against repression towards football supporters. BAFF has its main focus on anti-discrimination work.

Due to the fact that ProFans consists of Ultra's groups mainly, there are noticeable rivalries every now and then. But they almost always manage it to pull themselves together to get things organized and done... ProFans' common denominator is antifascism.

Thanks to Internet, mobile phones and emailing the different supporters groups are well connected with each other. This guarantees that a particular course of action can be discussed and agreed in a flexible and quick way.

Supported by the national fans organisations ProFans, BAFF and Unsere Kurve as well as single supporters, the "Fanrechtefonds" (supporters rights fund) collects money to sue precedents which are binding to improve the fans' situation in Germany.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Regionally and nationwide banners, boycotts, action days, demonstrations, supporters right fund, exhibitions, CDs, educational work, meetings with the FA, etc.

The relation between clubs and their respective fan base strongly varies from club to club. Some clubs find themselves in a quandary: On one hand they want more commercialisation, ergo more and more money, on the other they realise the importance of supporters for long-term success of the club. Other clubs are interested in the first part only; they take fans for exchangeable components of the clubs like players. But this attitude won't work forever.

The three German fans organisations quit the official dialogue with Football Association and Football League in September 2010 (AG Fandialog). They complained not to be taken seriously and missed an eye-level dialogue. So they went back to the roots: After 2002 in Berlin and 2005 in Frankfurt it was time for another nationwide demonstration. In October 2010 more than 8,000 supporters took the streets in Berlin. Although rivalling Ultras groups were involved, there weren't any problems at all. The whole campaign is called "Zum Erhalt der Fankultur" (Save fans culture) and will be continued with local activities. The next step has to be a big one, watch out! :-)

The fans organisations underscore that they were and are willing to talk, but not at any price. As long as they are not be accepted as a part of Football (a important one) there won't be a common ground.

Nearly eight months after quitting the official dialogue there was an offer to integrate the dialogue into the structure of the FA. During the next few weeks fans will have to decide if they are willing to take part in that model, which would imply that they believe that it's possible to improve the dialogue.

2012: "AG Fandialog" nowadays got installed as a tool of communication between supporters and FA integrated into the structure of the FA. We – again – were willing to work together and gave it a new try – no improvement, yet. If it turns out that they're kidding us again we will quit the meetings – again and forever. We hope that it's now possible for them to talk to us as equals...

In January 2012 ProFans has organized a national supporters congress: Football's Future. 550 participants, 60 different clubs, several topics and many hot discussions. There were some sporadic "officials" taking part but all in all FA and policy makers from clubs were not really interested: they didn't take part as it would have been appropriate.

We – again – asked them to communicate and proved that we are able to discuss seriously and funded. Now it's to them to show that they're not only able to talk about us supporters but with us as well.



**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles/flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

No, it's not legal to use any kind of pyrotechnics in Germany. In lower leagues, the club board might tolerate it when the relation between club and fans is really good. But in general, any kind of pyrotechnics is strictly forbidden. Quite ironic is the fact that TV stations and media in general use pictures of "burning terraces" from abroad to promote a Mediterranean mood, but at the same time fans in Germany using it, are branded by the media as hooligans, violent criminals or terrorists.

Two years ago, a campaign was started by several ultra groups. They've developed a concept how use pyrotechnics secure in the stadia. This concept was given to the FA. The FA signalled their willingness to talk about this concept at least.

Although there have been discussions about the general use of safe pyrotechnics and the possibility of an experimental model, the FA suddenly denied to have talked about anything like this. Instead they use every opportunity to prove unpopularity and dangerousness of pyrotechnics (including faked statistics) and ignore the safety thought of the concept, unfortunately unverified adopted by most media.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

Not all new stadia in Germany are all-seater. In some stadia, whole areas of the seated areas can be converted for domestic games (as they are for common league games). Unfortunately, standing areas often include locked folding instead of disappearing seats. However, whilst many clubs tend to reduce the size of their standing areas, especially in the away sector; there are few others that build new stadia with even more standing than seating space.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

The cheapest ticket costs circa 10 Euros but that doesn't apply for every club. A few of them sell the cheapest tickets for round about 20 Euros – that's quite a lot and not everybody can afford it (at least not every game). There's a campaign "Kein Zwanni für'n Steher" (We're not paying twenty to stand) that fights against high ticket prices. Originally founded by Dortmund supporters, which boycotted their derby against Schalke in 2010. Nowadays more and more groups from different clubs take part. Focus is not only the terraces, but also the seating areas – especially in the away sector.

A special problem have supporters of "top teams" concerning away games: Often they have to pay an additional fee.

In general we can say that the development from good old football stadia to "fancy" football arena increased ticket prices.

In Germany we have season tickets so we can save some money for the single games. Generally there's price relief for pupils, students, disabled people, unemployed and retired persons. For pupils and students there's mostly an age limit of 27, sometimes older.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

We know the schedule of the season (not the real dates but the weekends) ca. 4-8 weeks before the season starts. The definite dates of the games are published block wise – two till at most eight games in a row. That means that we quite often only know two weeks in advance the exact termination (day and time) of our game (nearly impossible to get free days from work or cheap train tickets on this short notice).

1<sup>st</sup> league: 1 game Fridays 20:30, 5 games Saturdays 15:30, 1 game Saturdays 18:30, 1 game Sundays 15:30 and 1 game Sundays 17:30.

2<sup>nd</sup> league: 3 games Fridays 18:00, 2 games Saturdays 13:00, 3 games Sundays 13:30 and 1 Mondays 20:15

If there is a so-called "English week" 1<sup>st</sup> league games additional to weekend dates take place Tuesdays/Wednesday at 20:00, 2<sup>nd</sup> league games already at 17:30.

Responsible for the match day fixture is a mixture of FA, TV stations, clubs and police. In general the TV channels' voice is the loudest. They are paying an immense amount of money. So the FA as well as the clubs are doing what they can do to "keep them happy". Whether it's at all possible for fans to support their teams at home and away games or not doesn't seem to care for anyone...

Responsible for the splitting of the match days in contrast is the German Football League.

The more exclusive games, the bigger the earning of TV licensing. A funny thing: The clubs denied influence, but they are part of this "game". They are able to affect (directly or indirectly) the acts of the operative unit (German Football League, the operative unit of the so called "Ligaverband" (league union) which includes all clubs of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division). And the clubs are able to vote about the splitting of the match days. But money changes priorities...



## 10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)

As we said before the structure of professional football is a little complicated. On the one hand there is the Football Association, on the other there is the Football League. The FL takes care about the two top divisions, the FA in the contrary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> division (nationwide and professional) as well as the regional divisions (together with the regional FAs). There is a foundation agreement between them. It regulates for example that the FA is in charge of security matters of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division or that it's allowed to be promoted to the two top leagues.

Clubs in Germany are membership-based. But there is a possibility to make a spin-off of the professional departments. On the one hand this is a protection of amateur sports departments, on the other this is a loss of influence for the members. In the foundation agreement is regulated at least that in such a case 50 % plus one vote has to stay inside of the club (so-called 50+1).

There was one exception called “Lex Leverkusen” (according to the club Bayer 04 Leverkusen). Leverkusen as well as Wolfsburg are owned by companies. When the Football League was installed they had to find out a workaround for these two clubs. Their solution: If a company has supported a club before 1999 for more than 20 years the company is able to own more shares. But unfortunately the club “Hannover 96” went to court to fight this regulation. Nowadays the deadline 01.01.1999 doesn't exist anymore.

We try to convince fans to become club members to be able to vote for their rights. How much influence fans have depends on several criteria.

## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

There are tons of examples where football lost against commercialization. It's not as bad as in Austria or England, but it's heading into the same direction. Here are a few examples:

- Jerseys in sponsors' not in clubs' colours
- Advertisement jingles during the game: in case of corners or something like that
- Everything is packed with advertisement, there are only a few spaces left for fans banners
- Sometimes companies make their own “choreographies” (for examples big plastic hands to clap with), but fans are faced big problems to get their material in
- Splitting of the match days
- Sale of stadium names
- Nearly no half-time break without commercial shows on the pitch
- Censorship: Sometimes chants against the broadcast company are censored by TV station via changing the actual stadium sound against neutral stadium atmosphere or banners against sponsors are forbidden by the club

A special case is **RasenBallsportverein** Leipzig (no translation possible due to the fact this isn't a real German word, it's like Grass-Ballsportsclub). The club was founded 2009 and started in the 5th division (due to fusion). Red Bull “owns” this club, the abbreviation is RB Leipzig, the logo looks like the sponsor's logo, the club plays in the Red Bull Arena and so on ...

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

Away games like they used to be. Just imagine: You arrive in a city, you're not being received by police, you can walk around and go wherever you want to, the stadia are colourful because every kind of paraphernalia are allowed.



## GREECE

- **Capital:** Athens
- **Language:** Greek
- **No. of inhabitants:** 10.8 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 16
- **Part since:** 2010    ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Theoretically, the stewards check the banners for racist/abusive content; practically this hardly ever happens and there are always tricks to get anything you want inside the stadium. Kick off has been delayed at some matches during the year because of banners considered offensive to state and sports officials.

Away fans are only allowed to travel to the match if certain "terms" are met:

- a) No banning of away travel enforced by the government
- b) The visiting club asks for tickets
- c) The home club agrees to give tickets
- d) The police allows to travel

Fans are considered as 'pigs' and 'scum' in Greece so visiting fans are always easier 'prays' for police abuse (foul language, easier prosecutions, torture by moving at very slow speeds etc).

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Yes, stadium bans are imposed and often followed by imprisonment sentences. There have been incidences of people getting a 10-day imprisonment sentence with a 6-month stadium ban etc. Stadium bans can be imposed for anything. From swearing and owning pyro (even if you don't set it on fire) to throwing rocks and enter the field and/or hitting players. There is no certain rule, all cases are often treated under the same rule: Fans are dangerous, so the authorities will exhaust their strictness and tolerance on them. Two people (one was a woman) were sentenced to 6 months imprisonment for calling a policeman "malaka" (asshole) because, as he said to the court, he felt "threatened" by them. There are many cases of people carrying pyrotechnics outside of the stadium (even without using them) or people who were caught by the police for fights between opposing fans or fans and the police. Usual length is at least 6 months, with up to 2 years for some cases (maximum ban length recorded for fights between fans inside the stadium).

If you get a stadium ban, you are obliged to be present at your local police station for two hours during your club's football or basketball match. The fan card is now in use to prevent troublemakers from entering the stadium however the whole concept is broken and cannot be applied efficiently. Banned people still have to be present at their local police station during a match.

According to a Greek law (4049/2012) "Restriction of entrance in the stadium: The Boards of the league organizing authorities or the home clubs can decide (providing a justification) the entrance to a specific sport event to anyone that is considered, due to current circumstances and behaviour, prone to participate in act of violence during the event, and especially to individuals who have broken the safety rules or are considered suspicious of committing offences related to stadium violence or deny body search from the security staff of the stadium or have consumed substances or alcohol. This decision, that must be based on objective judgement, is sent to the local police force.

The state has tried a lot to change the framework around the ultras and organized fans. The official groups will now operate only after approval of the club the board of which will have full responsibility of the actions of the ultras members (fights, fines, etc). At least, that's the plan. This has caused major disrupt amongst the directors of the club, first one being the president and major shareholder of Olympiakos who said he will step down from the Board and will be replaced by someone else, as he does not want to face any legal problems due to potential misbehaviour of the ultras of Olympiakos.

You can be 'filed' for anything, as mentioned above. There is no legal framework that predicts what gets you a stadium ban.

With stadium bans people get alienated from the stadium – that's definitely true. Solidarity phenomena appear and this method was proven to be inadequate and counterproductive. Stadium banning as a concept and punishment definitely needs to be reconsidered.

There is no "official" registration list that can be accessed if requested by a lawyer etc, however since the police has a special department of sports anti-violence (though malfunctioning), a database like this surely exists.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

The situation is more or less the same like in any other country. Provocative behaviour, lack of respect towards the visiting fans, prejudices.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

A fans' federation is supposed to exist (osife), however it is proven that its purpose was lost in time for some reasons. Truth is there are only few fan clubs/ultra groups which could work along with fans and ultras of other clubs to achieve a common goal. Most fans/ultras have accepted (and maintain to date) in their ranks extremists (far left or far right), criminals, the mafia and many other types of people who have nothing to do with football or supporting a club and only use that to get into fights and create problems.



**5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

A fans' federation does exist, however it is not working properly and we cannot work with each other. There have been only a few cases of common banners like „freedom to XY (club, fan, name)“ and stuff like this. As some clubs use the fans to serve their own goals they tend to – unofficially – support them and offer them free legal representation or put – unofficial – pressure on the police, the court or the state. There have been cases where the board of directors of the clubs have worked with the police and have given them names of troublemakers. ARIS Thessaloniki, through the FSE, is trying to get in some new ideas and perspective about the relationship between fans-police-clubs-state...

**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

It is illegal and not officially tolerated. Sentences of imprisonment, stadium bans, away travel bans can be applied.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

No standing areas are allowed. All first league clubs need to have full seated stadiums. Standing is tolerated, however fans have to 'stand' on their chairs, which can make it very dangerous. The toleration leads to lack of action for official standing areas.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

Ticket prices for the season 2011 - 12 ranged from 10 € to 200 €, depending on the club and the gate. Season ticket prices for the season 2011 - 12 ranged from 100 € to 4.000 €. A common price for the away fan tickets is 20 €. The league decides the lowest single match ticket price, lowest season ticket price and highest ticket price for the visiting fans and for the season 2011 - 12 the prices were respectively: 5 €, 75 € and 25 €.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

The league match days are scheduled before the beginning of each season round (each round of 15 league matches). The first round matches are scheduled before the start of the season, and the second round matches are scheduled 2-3 match days before the start of the second round.

The cup matches are scheduled at the beginning of the season and are played on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Normally, league matches are played only on weekends. The league decides the dates and hours using special algorithms that prevent

dangerous situations between fans (i.e. local rival clubs playing at the same day and hour both at home) – which has to do with the police and algorithms that distribute the matches to the TV channels according to the signed contract.

If a team has to play an EC or CL match and a cup match, then the cup match is postponed and the new date is decided almost immediately. There is a chance for the league date/time to change (to Sunday from Saturday or vice versa) so that the team can achieve the maximum performance possible in both matches.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

In Greece all first and second division clubs are private limited companies. They are owned by major shareholders, benefactors and people who use the clubs to serve their personal goals and to put more money into their pockets. Fans are often taken into consideration by the clubs' board of directors, however what they (the suits) tend to do is try to control the fans, take advantage of their love and passion for the club and use them, too. ARIS Thessaloniki is the only club in Greece that is owned and controlled by the fans, through ARIS member society and with the one-member-one-vote rule that exists in Germany.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

From a point of view, Greek football loses versus commercialization every day as it is owned, controlled and run by people who seek to increase their own profits and not by fans which want their club to be not only big but also healthy and sustainable. Some clubs are 'products' of club merging (for example there are some historical clubs that played to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> division and did not have the strength to promote and were merged with clubs promoted from the 2nd division to the Greek Superleague.) This cannot happen today, as measures were taken after these merges.

Another example is this of a Greek club, that changed (more than once and it's announced to happen again this year), its name logo and colours due to the connection of its major shareholder to a known car company.

The only recorded influence of sponsors is the conditions they enforce on clubs to give them less money in case of fans violence. They do not interfere with anything like match days, match times ... yet!

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Wish all clubs return to the fan-owned nature they had when they were first created – or that the fans would have a bigger say in the strategic decisions of the club. This would make it easier for everyone and help us all solve all the problems caused by the commercialization of the sport and the capitalism of the companies and individuals involved.



# HUNGARY

- **Capital:** Budapest
- **Language:** Hungarian
- **No. of inhabitants:** 10.0 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 16
- **Part since:** 2009    ► **Last Update:** 2012

## 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

In Hungary group flags must be stamped by the police at the beginning of the season. Only stamped flags are allowed in the stadiums. (I assume that 99% of the group flags get the permission.) You have to write some text about the meaning of the flag, so if you are clever, you can let the acab flag stamped too, thanks to the police wisdom :-)

## 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

There is no national system of stadium bans in Hungary, yet. There are certain clubs which impose stadium bans, but it is quite rare. Officially there exists no state-run central register for dangerous fans, though the police of course has such register. If a club imposes a stadium ban, it is generally valid for its own stadium only. E.g. Kispest Honvéd and Ferencváros have banned a few of its own ultras because of violence or racism.

This was the first year (Season 11 - 12) when they made a supporter card at Ferencváros, and in the next year, they want to make it in the whole country (in the first step: Győr, Diósgyőr, Újpest, Haladás, Kecskemét, Honvéd) The government wants to renew the ticket selling system, make the supporter card system, and a the central ban system. The whole project is worth about 2.2 million Euros.

## 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Police escort at away games has improved a lot in recent years, now they do it in a quite professional way, like in Germany or Italy. Provocation of fans happens less often than in the 90's. The problem is that the police is not willing to be present inside the stadium unless they are paid for it, so they only come in if there is a problem. Sometimes stewards are unable to maintain order and the police arrives lately. On countryside police is more dangerous, because matches are the only way to "train" the riot police there. Since the riots in Budapest (2006) riot police became very organized, and much more aggressive, so the chance of fight in the streets is very low.

## 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

The first national organization of Hungarian fans was formed in May 2009, named "All-Hungarian Federation of Fans" (ÖSzSz). Their three main goals are:

1. A thorough examination and impeachment after the brutal police attack at DAC-Slovan in November 2008 where Hungarian fans were beaten by Slovak police for no reason (one fan almost beaten to death)
2. Defending the freedom of speech and opinion at stadiums
3. Enhancing the conditions at matches e.g. prices of away tickets, catering of fans, question of match timings etc.

In 2011 a new organization is formed under the MLSZ (Magyar Labdarúgó Szövetség, Hungarian FA) its called Szurkolói Iroda (Office of fans), they could made a great agreement with the MLSZ, for the next season.

- New rules about the pyros in the stadiums (the football federation won't deny it, everything depends on the police)
- The stamping of the flags will be much easier, but if the flag contains anything against the law (like racist text) it can be removed
- The guest tickets can be only 1.400 HUF (about 5 Euro) and 10% of the tickets must goes to the quest team
- The internet fan sites can be accredited to the match too
- The Office of Fans will be asked about the times of the matches

This agreement is hopeful, we will see what will happen in practice

## 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

See previous point!

## 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

In theory usage of pyrotechnic is not allowed now. Certain clubs are regularly punished by the Federation because of it. If you get caught in the stadium, you get a big fine from the police.



**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

In Hungary the new stadiums (e.g. Győr, Újpest, Ferencváros) are all-seaters, though ultras continue to stand even on seats so ultra sections actually function as standing spaces. Old stadiums (e.g. Diósgyőr) have more standing places than seats.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

The cheapest starts from 900 HUF (about 3 Euros) and the most expensive is about 3000 HUF (10 Euros).

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Final match days are defined 1-2 months in advance – as soon as the deals are closed with TV stations. The dates are defined by the Football Federation in cooperation with TV stations and clubs. Sometimes there are amendments or delays because of bad condition of the pitch (in winter), or international matches.

**10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

About half of the clubs are owned by private business persons who are connected to the governments (Debrecen – Szima, Disógyör – Leisztinger, Győr – Tarsoly) some teams are led by politicians (Ferencváros – Kubatov Gábor).

In Hungary only the owners and the sponsors lead the clubs (a lot of clubs are sponsored by the city governments), and the supporters have no influence.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

Thanks god, not yet. Maybe one team Videoton used to be Parmalat FC for 2 years, from 1993 to 1995.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Keep business out of football!

“football is for you and me, not for fucking industry”



## IRELAND

- **Capital:** Dublin
- **Language:** Irish, English
- **No. of inhabitants:** 6.4 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 12
- **Part since:** 2012

**1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?**

From my personal experience at Ireland away games, the only issue with flags is that one gets to the stadium as early as possible to hang the flag in a suitable place. There are restrictions/bans on flagpoles as potential weapons but that's fine. Never any issue with scarves and I'm not sure we've been treated differently to home supporters in my experience.

**2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?**

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

This question should be probably directed to our football association (FAI) as I do not know if bans are or have been imposed on any of our fans. It has happened with League of Ireland clubs (I follow Shamrock Rovers) and Rovers have banned fans from home games for violence, pitch encroachment or verbal abuse at opposing players.

**3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).**

Again, in my own experience at Ireland away games I haven't come across police "conduct" towards Irish fans, other than keeping an eye to make sure nothing out of place was happening. I've not experienced a police escort but it may have occurred at away matches I did not attend.

**4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?**

Irish fans don't officially network with other clubs, the Irish support have diverse club affiliations to Irish and British Clubs so when Irish fans come together at matches, it's to support Ireland.

**5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

The FAI works well in advance of matches to talk to the host country about the behaviour and habits of Irish fans so I'm not aware of there ever being a ban or repression from host fans/police in my experience of travelling.

**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles/flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

Flares are banned. A fine is imposed on the offending club.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

At Ireland games, standing is permitted in the designated "Singing Section" of the National Stadium. I'd estimate the percentage of standing area seats is about 5 % of stadium capacity at most.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

Cheapest adult ticket at the moment is approximately € 30, rising to (I think) € 70. Not everybody can afford these prices due to the current recession in Ireland.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

In my experience, the matches are definitely scheduled at fixtures meeting between the countries. I don't like the current Friday night/Tuesday night format, I would prefer Saturday (afternoon or night) and Wednesday night for matches. I don't know who is responsible for match day fixtures, I'd imagine it's the FAI in conjunction with the Gardai to a lesser extent.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

Some Irish clubs are privately owned, some are membership-based. Membership based are proving increasingly popular and important to ensure the best interests of the club is followed and that budgets are adhered to.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

How long have you got with this one? Shamrock Rovers (my team) had no home ground from 1987 to 2009. Then the owners of the club decided to sell their old home ground (Milltown) to property developers to build houses on the ground. The fans totally opposed this, but the development went ahead and Rovers went from stadium to stadium from 1987 to 2008, losing big numbers of support in those years. The club lurched from crisis to crisis until the Rovers fans took over the club and created a Membership based club and finally a new stadium (Tallaght) was secured with the local South Dublin County Council (owners of the stadium) in 2009 and the club has gone from strength to strength since.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

My favourite all time Irish player, Paul McGrath, I wish he could still play!



## ISRAEL

- ▶ **Capital:** Jerusalem
- ▶ **Language:** Hebrew, Arabic
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 7.9 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 14
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Each stadium management and local police force decides what fans materials will be allowed in the stadium. Most of them allow flags, banners, and confetti. Pyro, smoke and fireworks are officially restricted by law.

Officially home and away fans are treated the same. Actually home fans usually have good relationship with the local police force; therefore sometimes they can get in more of their material than the away fans.

From 2011/12 stewards replaced the police inside the stadiums.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

In the last year the Israeli police are working on building up such database. The stadium ban is not accelerated. This is due to lack of enforcement from the police. (The banned supporter should stay at the police station during the game. But there isn't the fitting infrastructure at police stations)

Incidents of violence from the supporters have the greater chance to lead you to be banned.

There are no other consequences than the game ban.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

The police escort away supporters only to „high risk“ games.

At matches with big rivalries, the police arrive hours before and coordinate a strict separation between supporters of each team.

At some stadiums the police are giving the away supporters a hard time – no tifo/drums allowed...

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

The Israeli supporters' scene has the "Israfans" – it's the national supporters organisation. This network includes more than 25 groups. It includes lots of ultra's groups and supporters initiatives. The network deals with police repression, ownership issues, ticket prices and empowering the supporters' organisations.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

After almost a decade of campaigns, from the last season (2011/12), stewards replaced the police in the stands. Israfans started negotiating with the police and ministry of homeland security. We tried to have new agreements regarding tifo, so far with no success.

We also did lobby work in the Israeli parliament (The Knesset) to reduce the restrictions that they wanted to have in the "Law of preventing violence in sport". We succeeded to eliminate the minimum punishment they wanted to give supporters.

These days, an official committee of the sport office is examining the result of the first year without police inside the stadiums. It should give the recommendations in the next weeks.

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

It is not permitted. If you use it and get caught you will go to court. On the other hand with the new deal with the police they agreed in some conditions they will allow pyro in the future.

### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

Officially we don't have standing area. Actually we do. In the new stadiums they continue to build all seated areas. But the FA and the other football authorities announced that they won't force seating.

### 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

It changes during season time and the clubs – the cheapest is 20 NIS (4 EUR) for season ticket (only in one club). The average price is 40-50 NIS (8-10 EUR) for youth and 80-90 (16-18 EUR) for adult. But the variety is very big threw this scale.

Supporters feel the ticket prices are expensive, due to the general situation in the Israeli football, and comparing to other leisure activities.



**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

The schedule is usually announced midweek, 4 - 6 days before the games. It is possible to change the day/time but the FA does that only in very rare occasions.

Over the years more and more games are being played during the week.

In Premier League all games are on Saturday, except for 1 on Sunday and 1 - 2 on Monday. In the National League (the second one), 3 games are played Friday, 3 on Monday and the rest on Saturday. The FA is in charge of the days and times of the games. It signs the contracts with the TV and the "National sport betting council".

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

It's complicated – Most of the clubs are members' association with no members ... Historically they were public, but over the years the „owners“ kept the control, and nobody can join. Beside that there are clubs, which are owned by companies without the „official“ ability to gain profit.

Supporters used to influence by protest. Most of them weren't effective. In recent years, "Israfans" tried to push that more and more clubs establish supporters trusts, which get involved by getting the marketing of the clubs, and by legal actions (I can write a lot about this <http://pitchinvasion.net/blog/2010/09/14/the-israeli-trust-movement-its-all-about-the-community/>).

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

There were very few, Nothing serious and of long duration. Sometimes against sponsor's colour, sometimes against uniform, but it's not a main issue.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Full stadiums at 15:00 on Saturdays



## ITALY



- ▶ **Capital:** Rome
- ▶ **Language:** Italian
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 59.6 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 20
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1 Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

The death of police officer Raciti in Catania, in February 2007, has dramatically affected using banners, flags, drums and choreography at Italian stadiums. Initially, a decree prohibited any kind of banners, flags or choreographic material. On April 4, 2007, the following approved law only prohibited banners that incite violence or racism.

However, the "Osservatorio sulle Manifestazioni Sportive" adopted an internal regulation prohibiting banners & choreography unless they are approved by the police one week before the match day. This rule is still valid although some 'uncontrolled' choreography did happen and messages were brought up by using t-shirts to form sentences.

In order to present a banner or a flag you now need to send out a request to your club seven days before the game. The request will then be examined by the police who will decide whether to allow the banner or not. Same has to be done for choreographies.

During the 2009/2010 season, it seems that – although the norms have not been changed – flags are now allowed inside stadiums even without official requests.

Although some pressure has been put on authorities in these past two years (2009), and the situation has changed a lot since then, the regulation still applies. In certain cities authorities might not be as strict as they were two years ago, or the fan groups themselves might have decided to "go the official way", but these days the situation in the stadiums is still not easy. No colours, no atmosphere. Quite sad.

As for away games, in general away fans face a rather tough scenario when travelling. When away fans are actually allowed to attend the game (and this is not always the case), police authorities are often aggressive in order to prevent any type of contact between rival groups. Fan groups can't decide on where to have a rest, what route to take etc. In particular, certain police squads are known for provoking and welcoming conflict (Celere di Padova, di Roma, etc.). Furthermore, away stands are certainly not welcoming areas: often wired and fenced, in some particular cases there aren't even any toilets or food/drink facilities. Now, since last season, away sections allowed only fan card holders. The majority of travelling fans don't have that and are hosted in home fans sections escorted by a chain of stewards.

2012: Everything still the same...

### 2 Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Stadium bans are imposed on a national level. It's the local police that registers the offence and imposes the ban. It is important to know that the ban does not follow a regular trial, as it is considered not a penalty but an administrative sanction. Therefore it is generally imposed without a chance for the supporter to defend himself in court. If a fan does eventually go to court for the offence he's been charged for, this often happens a long time after the offence was committed, while the ban in the meanwhile was still applied and carried out.

Police authorities can apply a "preventative ban" on an individual who is considered a possible offender, and such a ban does not require a concrete event or offense in order to be applied.

On a national level, there is an "Osservatorio", officially coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior ([www.osservatoriosport.interno.it](http://www.osservatoriosport.interno.it)) which is responsible for the security at football matches and monitors incidents, arrests and ban statistics. The "Osservatorio" has a central register of "potentially dangerous fans". Additionally, in this past year there's been a lot of work by the "Osservatorio" and the authorities in trying to create a "tessera del tifoso" (supporter's card), highly criticized by most fan groups as a project meant to monitor fans and prevent certain groups and/or individuals from attending football games.

More info on: [http://www.osservatoriosport.interno.it/tessera\\_del\\_tifoso/index\\_tessera\\_tifoso.html](http://www.osservatoriosport.interno.it/tessera_del_tifoso/index_tessera_tifoso.html)

The "Tessera del Tifoso" will become official from the next season 2010/2011, after the first tests. Fans will have to be card holders if they want to buy tickets for away games in the away fans sector. The Osservatorio declares that having the card will be the only secure way to follow the team away: even when there will be limitations and prohibitions for travelling fans, as it has been the case in the last couple of years, the Osservatorio states that card holders will be allowed to travel.

One of the last games of the 2009-2010 season however proved this statement to be ridiculous. For Genoa-Milan only Milan card holders were allowed to buy tickets for Genova, which should have granted total security for this high-risk game. Regardless of this, the Chief of Police of Genova the night before the match decided that the game would be played behind closed doors, preventing not only Milan card holder fans from travelling to the game, but also the thousands of Genoa fans who had every right to see their team playing!



In all this, the “Tessera del tifoso” remains highly criticised not only by supporters, but also by players, coaches and club owners.

- Fighting, attacking the police, getting somehow involved in violent conflicts with other fans, throwing objects, invading the pitch (not for celebrating), displaying not only violent/offensive or racist but any type of unapproved symbols/banners larger than 1.5 m, ‘disguising’ your face, entering the stadium without a proper ticket, using smoke bombs/flares/fireworks, etc.: All these ‘offences’ are relevant inside and outside the stadium, even on the way to an away game.
- Stadium bans are valid on a national level, for all games of your team or all competitive games in any sports. The ban can be handed out “con obbligo di firma” or without. In the first case, it means that you have to present yourself at your local police station from one to three times during a home or away game. A stadium ban can last from a few months (very rare) to more commonly one to five years.
- Any banned fan is indeed registered in a national database.
- Being on the central database does not lead to consequences in itself, apart from being monitored before particular matches and/or international tournaments such as the Euro or the WC. Concerning bans, fans have often no chance to defend themselves in court, while bans with “obbligo di firma” might require the supporter to present himself to the police station up to three times on every match day.

2012: Everything still the same...

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

The introduction of stewards has replaced police forces inside stadiums, with beneficial results. Outside, it is still the police who check fans before they leave their city to away games.

Sometimes police cars escort supporters during their away trip, deciding if and where supporters’ buses are allowed to stop.

Upon arrival in the city of the game, the police keep rival fans separated and monitor their behaviour using video cameras, while stewards search the fans at the entrance (both home and away fans).

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

Ultras groups generally have a whole set of friendships and rivalries and support certain common issues. On the other hand, there has been only one so-called network of groups throughout the years, called “Movimento Ultras”. Founded in 2003, M.U. led various initiatives, from common banners to national demonstrations in Milan and Bologna. It also prepared an official document containing various issues and suggestions on how to change the football system,

repressive regulations, dealing with fan interests to economic problems within football (TV income, fan relations, games schedules, etc.). After a lot of work and commitment the network gradually vanished with most groups going back to their local activities and campaigns. After the latest regulations were passed in 2007 many groups broke up or decided to change the way they supported the team (no flags, no banners, etc.) as a way to protest against what was considered the usual unnecessary repression. Only a few groups agreed to ask for permission for their banners, and this aspect actually created tensions with other groups who considered this behaviour not in line with the so-called “mentalità ultra”.

2012: The introduction of the fan card also has had an effect on relationships among ultras’ groups: the ones who oppose it and the ones that have accepted to subscribe it. Being a very important issue, each group’s position about it has become part of their identity and so of their relationship with the others. So you can respect an enemy group that fights the fan card and dislike, another fellow group who accepted it.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Generally, there are banners on a local or common national level. “Progetto Ultrà”, an organization working nationally on such issues since 1996, has led various initiatives throughout the years, from political lobbying and trying to get laws modified in parliament to grassroots initiatives with fan groups. Recently there hasn’t been much work done on these topics throughout the country. As for clubs, they are rarely involved because bans are a police/court issue, so they are not really concerned with these problems and only rarely they do take the fans’ side in case. Clubs are also forbidden by law to have relationship with their fans.

2012: Everything still the same...

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

Pyros are definitely not allowed inside stadiums. Their usage was tolerated in the past, but this has changed in the last couple of years. Fans identified using flares or other pyro elements are often sanctioned with stadium bans, although they are not always prosecuted in court for that, and clubs are fined if their fans use pyros or firecrackers.

There’s a particular regulation for flags, concerning especially the rod length. Much depends on the police officials and stewards you find outside the stadium.

2012: Everything still the same...



**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

In theory, Italian stadiums in Serie A and Serie B are supposed to be all-seated stadiums, with nominative tickets assigning a seat to each spectator. In practice, especially in the curva (end), no one seems to care and fans go on watching the game standing as they always did, making therefore the time-consuming and fan-unfriendly process of nominative tickets absolutely unapplied, alias a joke. In any case plans for the future do look at all-seated stadiums, and not much attention has been paid to safe-standing models.

2012: Everything still the same...

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

2012: Sorry, I can't find any figure about the whole Serie A... I'd say that in Italy tickets are still quite affordable. The prices are not as in German, but they're also far from the Premier League excess. The biggest clubs usually charge more than the smaller ones. You can find tickets for the „curva“ (the end) priced about 10 Euros. The main stands can cost up to 100 Euros, or more for the „VIP area“.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Since last season Serie A has been spread on 4 days: there are 1 game on Friday night, 2 on Saturday (1 at 18 and 1 at night), 6 on Sunday (1 at 12.30, 4 at 15 and one at night) and 1 on Monday night.

Schedule can be changed due to special needs of clubs playing in European competitions in the next week.

Serie B plays on Saturday at 15.30 hrs (a change from the classic "Sunday at 15.00" schedule, that had fan groups fighting for almost a couple of years with no success), with 1 game played on Friday night and one on Monday night.

Match days are generally scheduled minimum 3 weeks in advance – but decisions can be modified later.

TV rights obviously play a great role in defining fixtures, while playing in the Champions' League on Tuesday often leads to that club's game being moved to the Saturday. Police has played a role in the past too, moving a fixture on real short notice to a weekday afternoon, in order to prevent away fans from travelling and reduce the risk of conflict, or asking for particular "at risk" games not to be played at night. One of the latest derbies in Rome proved this to be still the norm, with a night derby moved from 20.30 to 18.00 for security reasons.

2012: Everything still the same...

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

Professional club must be by law the Italian equivalent of private Ltd companies (more in the 3° and 4° leagues) or public Ltd companies. Most clubs in the first two leagues are public Ltd. companies but they have a shareholder that holds with a vast majority of the capital and a few minority shareholders. This is the typical Italian capitalistic ownership structure, based on family relationship, in every industrial sector. Only 3 clubs are listed, Juventus, Lazio and Roma but even their ownership is really concentrated.

Together with ownership goes the control of decisional process, very concentrated, too.

Sponsors may be influent when they provide a good % of the revenues and/or are also minority shareholders.

Local administration are important in the way that they own almost every stadium, and also that most owners buy clubs in order to do business at local level so they need some form of help from the local authorities.

Fans can be influential only in very important moments, but it's not frequent at all.

2012: Everything still the same...

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

Not by now. Stadium name rights can't be sold. Many fans are however aware of cases like the Salzburg one.

2012: Everything still the same... but the trend is towards commercialization of course

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Freedom to go to away games for everyone!!!



# LATVIA

- **Capital:** Riga
- **Language:** Latvian
- **No. of inhabitants:** 2.2 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 10
- **Part since:** 2011    ► **Last Update:** 2012

**1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?**

In Latvia we don't have any special restrictions to get material in stadium.

**2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?**

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

There are no state run central register of potentially dangerous fans. Violence against other fans can lead to a stadium ban, it mean restriction to go inside the stadium.

**3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).**

Police escort at away games, and that's it.

**4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?**

To support Latvian national football team, organised fans are uniting themselves in stadium, staying together, main objective: to be as loud as possible to support our team together.

**5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

We have good relations with national football federation and they always support fans. There are no claims and repressions against fans in Latvia.

**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles/flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

Usage of pyrotechnic in stadiums is not tolerated in our country. Sanctions: you will be ejected of stadium.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

We don't have standing areas, but it is allowed to stand in fans' sectors either for home fans or away team fans. Let's say up to 20 % from total are standing spaces.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

3-30 EUR. Yes everybody can afford those prices.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Pretty long time in advance our match days are usually definitely scheduled. TV is responsible for the match day fixtures.

There are 5 matches every weekend (Saturday and Sunday) in Virslīga (Latvian football league) and can be splitted different ways with match times from 14:00pm till 19:00pm.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

Clubs' owning are based on sponsorship and patron base.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

NO

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

To feel again this great atmosphere to participate as a football fan in EURO or World final tournament and support Latvian national team live.



## MACEDONIA

- ▶ **Capital:** Skopje
- ▶ **Language:** Macedonian
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 2.0 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 12
- ▶ **Part since:** 2011    ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

**1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?**

Fans in Macedonia never have problems with using scarves, flags and banners. It is important just to be without unsalted messages.

**2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?**

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

In our country home fans have privileged positions on many aspects compared to away fans.

It is practice that away fans enter the stadium 15 minutes after the beginning of the match and the same at the end: before the final whistle they must be out of the stadium. The police use repression in many cases to discipline fans which don't like to go out. Away fans watch approximately 60 minutes of the match.

In Macedonia we still don't have law about banned fans.

**3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).**

Police pay maximum attention to fans and have attention on away fans in last decade instead of before that we had period with incidents. They overreact a lot without reasons and beat all fans for mistakes committed by one or two.

**4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?**

In Macedonia there isn't any kind of network; that is a big problem for promoting our goals.

**5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

A lot of groups protested last year together against bans of away fans which is the most restricted law promoted by FFM (our football federation). Fans also present banners with same subject on matches.

**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

By the new law pyrotechnics is prohibited but fans use pyrotechnics without problems at all. Sometimes away fans are faced with repression if some policemen find torches. They will confiscate it but without aftermath.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

We have enough space which is caused by past periods. Back then a lot of fans couldn't enter the stadiums because there was only small capacity and big interest in football. Now the situation is that we have ruined stadiums with no clear separation of fans' and spectators' areas.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

Cheapest tickets and mostly regular is 1,5 euro and almost every one can afford. Most expensive is for some matches of the national team when prize is around 10 or sometimes even 15 euro.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

In our country Sunday rules were changed last years due to the needs of junior teams. They need to play on the same day as the first team. It is also regulated by the needs of TV but in lower percentage because league is not interested in TV without spectators and sponsors.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

Most of the owners are sponsors and they have main role in leading the clubs. Also self-government owns few clubs in our country. Fans don't have any influence in decision process, there are just rare examples where their votes are counting.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

Marketing almost doesn't exist in our country. And we don't have problems with changing names of the clubs especially biggest and most famous. There are rare examples of second division village clubs where owners (modest businessmen) have influence to change something.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Cop is magical place and sea of scarves and banners just complete filling of unquiet boat... It is a place where every one has same value and it is not important if you are miner or doctor, rich or poor. All of them have one wish and their hearts beat for one club and share one same goal. In my example it's Pelister and that's how I came back on the moment in late 80's and beginning of the 90's when ultras movement become the mainstream way of life.



## NETHERLANDS



- ▶ **Capital:** Amsterdam
- ▶ **Language:** Dutch
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 16.8 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 18
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

The restrictions fans can face are mostly determined by the FA and some by the clubs themselves. Some clubs don't like drums in the visiting section because their own supporters don't like it so they forbid visiting fans to take them along. Flags, banners larger than 1 square meter have to be fireproof and poles can have a maximum size of 8mm thick and 150cm long and have to be made of a flexible material which isn't hollow.

At this point regulation in Holland has improved since more things have become possible because clubs see it helps to increase the football atmosphere.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

In Holland all stadium bans are registered by the CIV (Central Informationpoint/information point Hooliganism). Both the police and FA have access to this database. Clubs can only see the stadium bans of their club, not all of the bans. The list of offences which can lead to a stadium ban is very large and usually counts nationwide. Local stadium bans can be given for smaller offences and are usually not registered in the CIV system. Consequences of a stadium ban are: not allowed to see any games of your club, can't visit games of the national team, a fine and in case of a large incident a criminal record.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

If a match is regarded as category C the away supporters would most likely be confronted with several security measures:

- they will be searched twice (not by the police but the police is there to check it);
- they will be obliged to travel to away stadia by train or bus;
- they will not be allowed to have alcohol or drugs (marijuana is legal in the Netherlands) at the stadium or during the bus or train journey;

special safety walls between home and visiting fans.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

There are several contacts between ultras of different clubs. Mostly how to cope with certain rules or to help each other out with other problems they meet. Most of the supporters' groups are busy with themselves and their club. (Inter)National interest is very low although some supporters have contacts in other countries but these numbers are small.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Over the years, the last national supporters' organisation SOVS has tried out every form of protest: demonstrations, match boycotts, petitions, lobbying, meetings with politicians, etc.

However, it is very hard to make supporters' voices be heard. This is mainly based on a constant negative media attention. The media is just not interested in constructive statements of supporters. They are only interested in riots or other kinds of disturbances. This is why supporters are now actively trying to change the media's view of things and create a more detailed public opinion. Supporters are usually treated like animals; most people also feel that supporters deserve that. Supporters want to point out that supporters should be treated differently. Most supporters are honest and "clean" fans. They are not the ones you need all the extreme measures for. As soon as the media realise this, we could get rid of most of these measures.

It's the same for the supporters' clubs which have to cope with the negative image of supporters. As official delegates of the supporters we try to take down some measures around matches at the security meetings between both clubs. We join these meetings, which are about six weeks prior to the game, as an official interlocutor to defend the supporters' rights. Clubs are aware of the negative image and the difference between hooligans causing trouble and the supporters who actually intend to visit games. Clubs have become more aware of the importance of fans in the stands. Next step is to convince local and national politicians.

As for the question; we try to get some more freedom and less regulations by attending several meeting (FA, local police, club) during the season but as long as the fines from both national FA and UEFA are high the club is not fond of giving us slack.

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles/flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

Pyrotechnics and flares are only tolerated if used by a professional company in a possession of a permit. Any kind of use of fireworks on the stand leads to a stadium ban for 18 months and a 450€ fine.

### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

Just a couple of stadiums have standing areas. These areas must meet certain safety rules imposed by the Dutch FA on top of the UEFA regulations. Therefore the percentage of standing areas is relatively small although they create the best atmosphere. There is no experience with standing and seating areas as in Germany where it is allowed to stand during national or international games.



## 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

The cheapest one is € 17,50 and the most expensive costs € 60,50. It varies due to seating in the stadium and due to the opponent. The cheapest season ticket costs € 217 and the most expensive costs € 623.

The cheapest ones are affordable for everyone but the higher priced ones only for the supporters with a larger budget.

## 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

Before the calendar is fixed the FA sends a calendar with possible match dates to the clubs and local authorities. They can reply and can pass on their wishes regarding the dates. Don't can't or want to play at home on a certain day etc. The FA inventories all the wishes of the clubs and authorities and makes a final calendar, taking into account the interest of the right-holders. Afterwards the calendar is fixed and published by the FA. This is about a month before the season starts. After that, there are hardly any short-dated amendments or it has to be because of public safety imposed by the local authorities. Most of the games are set on Sundays (12.30hrs of 14.30hrs) and a few on Saturday. Every team has to play at least one game on Friday night because of TV rights.

The biggest responsible party fixing the match dates are the local authorities since they have to give permission to the clubs to play the game/organise the event.

## 10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)

Most of the clubs are companies; Ajax is the only one on the stock exchange and Vitesse the only one which has an owner. The influence of supporters is as big as the board allows.

## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

About 50 % of the stadiums have the name of a sponsor and almost every clubs has renewed their logo in the last 30 years.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

It used to be fairly easy to go to a game:

it was easy to get a ticket for a (home)game without needing to be registered by your club or FA through the so called 'club cards' and easy to visit an away game without needing to travel by regulated transport. It would be great if some of that easiness could return but it's probably wishful thinking.

# NORTHERN IRELAND

- ▶ **Capital:** Belfast
- ▶ **Language:** English, Irish
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 1.8 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 12
- ▶ **Part since:** 2011

## 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

As an international supporters' group, we can only answer in relation to that aspect of Northern Irish football. The Irish Football Association has a 'Code of Conduct' which fans must adhere to in terms of their behaviour. Items and behaviour which express racism, sectarianism or other forms of intolerance are unacceptable.

## 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

The Department of Justice at the Northern Ireland Assembly recently introduced a new Bill, which included provisions on sports spectator conduct. There was some opposition to this and the AONISC (Amalgamation of Northern Ireland Supporters Clubs) campaigned for it to be amended.

The legislation was changed somewhat, however offensive chanting, throwing missiles onto the pitch and entering the pitch without permission remain offences. These are acceptable.

## 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

For international away games, we usually work with the Irish FA, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Foreign Office and other relevant authorities in the host nation/city to ensure that adequate security is in place. This also allows us to build up an understanding.

## 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

This is not relevant to our organisation.

## 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

One recent example of our opposition to unnecessary restrictions by authorities, was shown when Northern Ireland were asked to play three games in Dublin in February and May of 2011.

The first game in February allowed tickets to be placed on general sale, which attracted an element who did not support or adhere to the generally accepted levels of conduct by our fans.

This received much negativity in the local media. For the two games in May, greater restrictions were placed on methods of travel and ticketing – at much greater cost to the fans.

The authorities have chosen to disregard the opinions which we expressed before the first game. They have listened perhaps there would have been fewer problems and no need for such tougher measures for the other matches.

The AONISC called for a boycott of the latter two games, and this was widely supported with only 120 attending the first match and 48 attending the second. This was from a potential of 10,000 fans.

## 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

These are not tolerated.

## 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

Games at senior club level and international level are controlled by the relevant local authority and this restricts the number of permitted standing spaces. No standing is permitted at international level.

## 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

Unfortunately no update 2012.

## 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

This is an issue for club football, which our organisation isn't involved in.

## 10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)

At club level some are controlled by members which have an opportunity to vote on issues including the membership of the management committee/board.

Two good examples are Cliftonville and Crusaders. They have in recent years introduced newer representation onto their board(s) and this has helped them to appear more progressive, better organised and to develop closer links to their communities and fan base.

There is currently one supporters' trust in Northern Ireland – at Glentoran FC. They also have a community trust which works closely with the surrounding community.

## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

None.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

Unfortunately no update 2012.



## NORWAY

- ▶ **Capital:** Oslo
- ▶ **Language:** Norwegian
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 5.0 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 16
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

The tournament regulations of the Norwegian FA (NFF – [www.fotball.no](http://www.fotball.no)), in fact gives the registered supporters clubs the right to participate at the security meeting that is held three hours before kick-off. In Norway, there's usually one independent supporters' club per football club, in some cases with fractions. The supporters' club has good relations to the football club so that they usually attend these security meetings, especially when playing away games. Flags are usually no problem (if the pictures or texts are offensive in terms of sexism, violence or racism they are prohibited, of course). Two or three supporters are usually admitted to the inner lane at the pitch to wave big flags if wanted (kick-off, goals). Banners and advertising do not always go that well together, but tournament regulations states that both home and visiting supporters are entitled to places to hang banners. The home fans might have a bit more freedom at their own pitch, but on the whole everyone is treated the same, except for the possibility of appliance for usage of pyro – which is restricted to home fans.

2007: There are restrictions, for example as regards the thickness of plastic flagpoles. About one year ago this problem didn't exist but then a sudden strict message from the police/NFF made supporters exchange all thick flagpoles with thinner ones.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

There is no state-run register, but we are heading in that direction. Stadium bans are being imposed and the three last years we've seen a dramatic rise in its use.

You can be banned from the stadium for football-related violence and racism on the stadium, or by invading the pitch and/or illegal usage of pyrotechnical articles.

The measures depend on the circumstances: a ban for a couple of matches to a lifelong sentence (that is still to be heard of). The NFF hopes to make such bans nationwide but if you are banned in Oslo, you shouldn't have problems watching your favourite team play away in Stavanger (maybe if you're not in the away supporters' end). The authorities are watching closely the development of football related violence, yet the problem is currently non-existent at the moment. According to briefings before the season of 2011, the FA stated that there had been NO incidents within the stadia for the 2010 season.

There is no official central register, yet.

Bans are not a too big issue for most supporters – it's closer to the fact that it could be used more often as a help for the supporter clubs when certain elements are scaring people away from dedicated work. In some cases, stewards from the visiting team have made contact with the home team to ban certain persons. There have been attempts of forcing supporters' clubs to name persons on pictures, but most are reluctant to do so.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

In Norway, the police used to stop caring from the moment the supporters left the stadium. Lately this has changed and the police usually knows ahead of the matches where known troublemakers of rival teams meet.

2007: For instance Brann-VIF this year: After losing the game 3-1, away fans were on six buses on their way home and one of the tunnels out of Bergen was temporarily closed due to construction work. The away supporters were told by the police that if they wait for half an hour they would have given permission to cross it. In fact, they had to wait two and a half hour before the police let them through. Behind the tunnel there is only one place where you can eat. After that place the supporters had to drive three more hours before an open petrol station appeared. So when the busses stopped at this place, the supporters were told that the police would not to allow them to stop there. The police said that there was a high risk for the place being trashed and looted.

After the 2009-season, there were some incidents where the Valerenga fans were exposed to police dogs within the stands, which is not common in Norway.

The latest years, many supporters' clubs have started to bring their own stewards for both: home and away matches. The responsibility of stewarding remains with the club that the supporters come from. This means that if the supporters have made an agreement with their club, travel costs etc. will be covered by the club. This has developed into a healthy atmosphere in the stands, as police and poorly educated stewards are not present in the supporters areas unless requested by the fans' stewards themselves for particular reasons.

## 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

Depends on the definition that is made on what it means being an Ultra. This might not be defined the same way in Norway as in other countries.

Supporters' clubs around the country founded the Norwegian Supporters' Alliance (NSA) in the beginning of the 90's. The organisation fights for the right to give supporters a stronger say in the areas where we often had to struggle with the FA and media. It's a democratic organisation. NSA represents thirty-something supporter clubs, a total of 44.000 fans.

The supporters' clubs often use dedicated tifo groups and singing groups for visibility on the stands – working together. In some cases – but not always, these are the groups that refer to themselves as Ultras.

There are also Ultras' groups with various reputations. Some are dedicated to fans culture – and some on the edge flirting openly with the casuals.

Mostly, Ultras' groups and the supporters' clubs come to agreements that make the stands usable for most fans either way, and as violent groups no longer tends to hide behind the naming of being an Ultra, much tension between Ultras' groups and the supporters group have eased. Instead of focusing on the problems between the groupings, the essential seems to be based on the areas which the groupings have as common interests.

2012: We've seen that many Ultras groups now cooperate with the supporter clubs in things like stadium atmosphere, and also even on away trips. This might be due to the fact that the Ultras groups now have stronger fundamentals, and the feeling of threat between the groups is not at all the same as before.

## 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

The Norwegian Supporters' Alliance (NSA – [www.fotballsupporter.no](http://www.fotballsupporter.no)) does in fact good relationships with the NFF. The NSA can directly talk to those who are making the decisions (they do not always listen though). Some years ago, the NSA has seen a clear tendency that the authorities were afraid of racism and football-related violence to reach the northern shores in full force.

And so the authorities are harassing supporters that are flirting with the ultras' culture. The NSA wants violent and racist supporters to be sanctioned, but not groups as a whole. The NFF and most of all the clubs don't have enough information about the supporters' culture to make the right decisions. The NSA has to challenge that.

2009: In June, NSA signed an agreement with NTF (the clubs' organisation) and NFF (the Norwegian FA) to, amongst other things, make NSA take part of the decision-making process related to adjustments made in tournament rules (league and cup) and security rules.

The agreement also binds the three parties to be involved in the

process of making supporters' culture stronger, look at challenges related to low attendances on matches recent problem) etc.

One of the main ambitions that the agreement is founded on is to make the parties aware of the individual aims and interests and areas of expertise that others might have – in order to develop Norwegian football.

2011: Recently, the FA stated that this was not a particular problem, while media tried to make a story out of how horrible Norwegian fans might become – based on an incident from Malmö, Sweden.

2012: The FA still states that this is not really a problem.

## 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

For several years, organised pyrotechnic has been allowed in Norwegian stadiums.

In case of violations to these rules, sanctions in the form of fines can be given. Lately, other sanctions have been considered, but never conducted.

Here are the main terms on how to get an allowance:

- A general allowance of the stadium has to be given, based on an inspection with the fire department, the police and the owner of the stadium to identify areas that are suited for the purpose. This could, according to the regulations, be anywhere in the stadium. The area(s) must be documented to the Norwegian FA. This has to be done at least 3 weeks before the first arrangement.
- For each match where pyrotechnic is planned to be used, an application must be sent to the Norwegian FA two workdays before the match. The fire department, the police and the owner of the stadium must be informed at least one workday before the match. The application for the match must contain the following:
  - Application must come from an official or acknowledged supporters' club
  - Type and number of pyrotechnical material
  - What area that will be used
  - Detailed explanation of the use
- On match day, this is the procedure: the material is to be handed over to security responsible in a fireproof box before the security meeting. The security responsible should also inform about this on the meeting, and make sure that the material matches the application.
- Pyrotechnic material can only be used in the time before kick-off
- When used, metal buckets containing sand must be available. The area also has to be physically or naturally separated from the crowds. Security distances at least 1 meter.
- After use, all pyrotechnic material must be moved to a secured area that is pointed out by the security responsible.

Just now, flares were also used up on the stands, with allowance from the FA. The supporters were backed up by their clubs, in order to get the allowance. These days, the application that was used towards the FA, is being copied and spread with the wind.



## 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

We have standing areas, but the “quality” of the area varies a bit. Our aim is to have safe standing, without any seats at all, but many clubs are reluctant to remove seats completely due to costs when the stadium is used for other purposes/European tournaments – and the diffuse regulations on this area regarding the percentage. Some people also are afraid that standing will be banned completely, but recently we’ve seen a positive trend. Seats have been removed from 3 stadiums (stadiums that have been renewed/built recently), including on the national arena, and have been replaced by the good old wave-breakers. Lovely!

Ironically, both the fans and the FA agree on the fact that while we’re standing anyways, the standing should be done in a safe way (NO SEATS!) – but the clubs are the ones holding back for financial reasons. For one of the national matches in 2009, the NSA refused to sell any supporter tickets, due to the fact that the FA “officially” had to change the description to “seated tickets”. The result was that the FA no longer wanted to change the description of the supporters’ area, and we still got to see the match standing up.

2012: The tendency of forcing clubs to have certain percentage of seated tickets is about to turn!

## 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

In the top league, the cheapest season ticket is around € 150 for home fans, buying separately, you might pay just below € 20 (all inc. expenses and tax). There’s a rule saying that tickets on the away stand should not be more than the cheapest home ticket. The most expensive is around € 40. Cup matches are usually cheaper, around € 13, at least for the first rounds (and some times free for season ticket holders).

## 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

We’ve had some back and forth the last few years, mostly due to TV-rights, but also some adjustments made. After 2010 season, NSA launched Friday to be a better alternative than Monday for playing matches, in addition to Sunday and Saturday. The response was to use BOTH!

After a nationwide campaign by supporters, “Fotball I Helgen” (“Foot-ball In the Weekend”), things have changed, and there are no matches on Mondays in the top league:

Top-league:

Friday: 7 pm

(Occasionally) Saturday: 4 pm or 6 pm (TV)

Sunday: 6 pm (main) + 8 pm (TV)

When needed: Wednesday: 7 pm (main)/Thursday: 7 pm (TV)

First division:

Most matches Sunday 6pm, but a few matches on Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Sat when TL isn’t available for TV or similar.

The moving of the match day is mostly done by the TV-stations. A few of these reschedules are not too good, considering the risk/history of the games, but putting great matches on Mondays are also in many cases bad for the atmosphere and engagement. Our country is not so big, but it’s long – and the roads make travelling harder than many can imagine. Public transport like trains, are also kind of hard to use for away trips in many cases.

A match in the top division can be moved until 4 weeks (increasing of 1 compared to former seasons) before the match (except when international matches conflicts with kick-off). Usually the dates are set in “batches” as the TV channels choose the matches amongst themselves. Recent years, we’ve had several matches that were moved after the deadline, and also after the TV-match schedule was set – which is of course very unfortunate. We’ve complained to the FA several times, but the FA usually just puts the blame on the content of the media agreement, and doesn’t seem to take too much action on this point.

Earlier, we’ve also seen some examples where clubs have agreed to move a match, without considering the travelling supporters. In one of the cases, this resulted in a refund of some of the travel expenses related to plane tickets etc.

We have one very special day with great traditions for the top league and 1. division; May 16<sup>th</sup>. Moving single matches to other dates due to TV broadcast, has been tried for years and unfortunately, they succeeded a couple of years ago.

There were also some incidents lately where the FA and the media decided to give a shit about the supporters and move/decide matches after they were already determined.

## 10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)

The club itself is 100% member based, while a separate company owns most of the club’s assets.

In Norway, the clubs are the ones that are entitled to the right of playing in the league, while the money lies in the shareholders.

There are examples of clubs where supporters have cooped the AGM of the sport club, in order to get decision-making roles within the club. This is something that can “easily” be done by Norwegian supporters as a state of emergency. Some years ago, NSA tended to buy a couple of shares (where available) in order to receive some reports to see that the clubs were run professionally.



## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

There are several examples of the clubs selling the name of their stadiums. Some names are completely horrible, and some are actually quite adjusted to the local habitant of the club. One of the worst examples comes from a couple of years ago, when one of the teams sold their traditional Cup-final song to be a commercial jingle.

We've also had a sponsor for the national team, being a new sport section of one of Norway's biggest newspapers (VG), called «the pink pages». The result was a whole lot of pink caps on the regular stands – which was both horrible and a total disgrace!

No colours or emblems have been changed, maybe except for a couple of matches where clubs have played in pink shirts to support the fight against cancer.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

The grass root – as simple as that: local players with true feelings for their team, dedicated people working (voluntarily) around club, money out of focus – and clubs where the supporters feel close and valued to the clubs. Nostalgia!



## POLAND



- **Capital:** Warsaw
- **Language:** Polish
- **No. of inhabitants:** 38.5 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 16
- **Part since:** 2008   ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1 Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

**Scarves.** Only when security or police find the content aggressive/discriminative. Then it may end up with a ticket and entry ban. Overall this doesn't consider too many people and it seems the authorities haven't got an overzealous approach, but sometimes incidents are caused because of that, especially with derby games. There is no standard procedure in this case so a lot depends on individual case handling.

**Flags.** Those on poles are usually carried inside the stadium without difficulties by home supporters in the more fanatic sections (especially when local ultras have decent relations with club authorities, then even banned items may go in), but less welcome in the more expensive enclosures where 'persistent standing ban' is even introduced. Overall this kind of elements is still quite common, but tendency is to make them less acceptable.

**Banners.** Just like with flags, those are usually allowed in, but their content is more thoroughly checked and more and more often any kind of historical or political/ideological content raises doubts. Overall probably most of them do get inside, but match delegates (during games) or League Commission (after games end) may penalize some of them. In theory all content that is 'not related with the game' is prohibited, but all hangs on individual interpretation.

**Other tifo materials.** Confetti and streamers are unfortunately more and more often treated as possible threat to game play as their throwing onto the pitch may force stopping it. Huge banderas/flag covering parts of the stadium aren't prohibited and if consulted with clubs, should enter stadiums without problems and be exposed.

**Curse words.** According to Polish law using such words in public is a felony with tickets up to 500 zł (€ 110). Supporters caught on abusive chants or even swearing loudly may get evicted from the ground or even arrested and given a stadium ban. This almost never happens as obviously everyone with the players and coaches included uses these words, but there are specific stadiums where this kind of overzealousness is seen.

**Face covering.** This new position was established in 2009. It is prohibited to cover one's face during a game if attempting to make identification more difficult for authorities. This is very general, though, and no solid application exists so far.

**Away groups.** Fans visiting other stadiums may find it difficult to get their tifos inside as there is no unified procedure and a lot is dependent on the approach of host club, police and security authorities. And since there is absolutely no control over the application of law by those, literally everything can happen. So very often fans are let inside with all or most their elements, but sometimes everything is forbidden just in case any pyrotechnics may be brought in.

To end, there are no regulations considering scarves, flags and other tifo materials. Only pyrotechnics and cursing are legally forbidden. The rest depends on interpretation. However recently (May 2012) police headquarters in Warsaw decided to ban all large flags and even smaller elements as there have been cases when pyrotechnics were lit from underneath or behind those elements. This is not legally justified according to most constitutionalists, but is explained by the police as an extension of the 'face-covering ban'. To date has not been introduced by any club, but police threaten to make stadiums empty and government has just given them the power to close any stadium on short notice...

### 2 Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

2009 - 2011 legislation ahead of Euro 2012 establishes two kinds of bans. Court banning orders and club banning orders.

**Court bans** may last up to 6 years. Most often they are connected with heavy fines in excess of monthly earnings and the obligation to visit the local police station. For repeated offenders electronic ankle bracelets are to be introduced. The banning order's range depends on court's judgement. May involve only home games of specific club, a city, region or may go nationwide.

**Club bans** are shorter with 3-year maximum duration, but their application isn't clear. Clubs may give out bans for literally every breaking of stadium regulations, while no institution is overlooking what is included in those regulations. Thus sometimes the banning decision raises questions. Supporters can then appeal to the League Commission and practice shows this body act wisely and overturns doubtful decisions. However they may not influence future banning decisions of clubs, they may only advise clubs to change their approach.

Clubs may issue bans only for games in which they take part.

The list of offences leading to court banning orders is long. In practice bans were even imposed for taking a different seat than on ticket allocation (without blocking it for someone else) or using abusive language. However those are rare cases. Mostly stadium bans are given to people who try to enter stadiums illegally, smuggle prohibited items (pyrotechnics, alcohol, sharp objects, etc.) or act aggressively when inside. Of course lighting flares, vandalism, violence, pitch invasions and some discriminative actions are treated with this measure as well.



**Ghost games.** Since 2011 voivodeships (regional authorities, assigned directly by prime ministers) have the right to make each game be played in front of empty stands. Not only if there is misconduct during the game, but also if there is any misconduct during any games of the teams in question in recent history or in fact any reason to believe that misconduct might arise during the course of the game that is to be played. In practise that means voivodes can stop any game from having an audience if the local police HQ claim there is a risk group taking part and causing a risk of incidents. This does not always mean violence risk, it may also mean pyrotechnics, face covering or prohibited items brought to the stands.

Since 2011 Poland has a central database of all supporters attending games in the Ekstraklasa (to be expanded to I Liga in 2013 and lower within several seasons). Every attempt to buy a ticket is thus recorded and kept in this database, operated by the Polish FA (PZPN) and Polish telecom (currently Orange). Clubs issue their own ID cards (some use it for marketing/loyalty/paypass, etc.), but all need to gather data on supporters and transfer it to central database. While I write this it's still not working right, but only several clubs don't issue ID cards physically, though they still keep record of people entering the ground. Keep in mind, this is a list of all fans, not only 'risk groups'. It is argued by authorities that this kind of list will allow eliminating hooligans as banning orders are part of the register and if someone is given a ban it is to be introduced in the database and practically eliminating such person. Effectiveness of this measure hasn't been proven to the public so far, though.

There are grounds to believe that unofficial 'black lists' also exist as some police officers claim they do while talking to supporters. There are special police groups working on fan bases and supposedly infiltrating hooligans. But their means or results are not made public.

Separate ID lists are used for away travelling supporters and need to be sent to the host team ahead of the game for them to be able to check the people entering with the list.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Tendency is to send out large numbers of officers in riot gear to show readiness for any violent incidents, but that obviously depends on game status and attendance. Along with pre-Euro 2012 legislation police was brought back inside stadiums (until 2011 they were prohibited to enter unless security couldn't cope with the situation), but the same legislation gives no information as to what they should do while inside. In case of any incidents not only the police, but also security guards (even those without license) are allowed by law to use truncheons, tear gas or handcuffs against supporters with law specifying that a supporter arrested inside stadium cannot file a complaint on a violent arrest. At high risk games water cannons and less commonly mounted police are deployed.

Away games tend to have a very complicated scenario. To give an example of how many measures are used, this is an example. While coming to the train station all fans are searched, have faces and ID's recorded. After arriving to the destination they are loaded

onto buses or herded to form a solid marching group, surrounded by police. With massive escort they arrive at the stadium where they may be searched and checked for ID accordance that they aren't able to see even half the game. Of course it may be more pleasant than that case, but then again it may turn ugly as there is no control over police practice and provocations are not rare.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

"Ogólnopolski Związek Stowarzyszeń Kibiców" (OZSK, Nationwide Federation of Supporter Associations) was founded in 2007 and is still a young federation. At the moment of writing this, supporters of 53 clubs are part of it with 42 of those represented by official member associations. OZSK is to present supporters' interests to highest officials and work on improvement of supporters' situation nationwide. To date they launched several nationwide campaigns, mostly to protest restrictions.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Most actions seem to be done at local level with supporters fighting for their own goals in their environment. However at times they take action together and this may result in really large nationwide campaigns covering several leagues, possibly even hundreds of stadiums. Some of those actions are more formal and create a campaign, like a huge action for pyrotechnics in 2007, but more often they are more like spontaneous protest movements like 2011 (against closing stadiums and increasing repressions by the government) or 2012 (showing displeasure over Euro 2012).

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

Using pyro in Poland is strictly forbidden. Until 2009 this rule was already in place, but wasn't followed much. However since new legislation ahead of Euro 2012 this ban is treated with utmost care. When flares are lit, police even take DNA samples or fingerprints to find the ones responsible. There are cases when clubs ban even drums, flags and other elements from entering the stadium, arguing there may be flares smuggled inside.

Using or even trying to bring flares inside results with arrest and a fast trial. Unless someone is hurt in association with this incident (which doesn't happen), outcome is usually a stadium ban from 2 to 6 years and a fine of several thousand zloty (nearing € 1.000 at highest points, to my knowledge). May also result in needing to report at the police station during games.

There are incidental cases when flares are tolerated and don't result in penalties, but not anywhere near the big games.



**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

Standing sections are strictly prohibited in Poland since 2009, when legislation demanding all viewers to have individual, numbered seats was introduced. However even this is still not always applied with police and municipalities at times turning a blind eye. Mostly in smaller stadiums when budgets of both clubs and municipalities don't allow conversion into all-seating stadia.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

Even with Euro 2012 prices in Poland shouldn't be considered too high on regular basis. It would be fair to say cheapest tickets without any discounts start at around 20 zloty (€ 5) for the Ekstraklasa and end around the 80 zloty (€ 20) mark. Of course there are exceptions. Most expensive club in Poland is currently Legia Warszawa with lowest ticket price at 30+ (7 EUR) zloty for fanatics and up to 120 zloty (28 EUR) for best spots (not premium seating, though).

Overall prices seem to be acceptable and no hyperinflation came so far along with new stadiums that have been opened in recent years. We may expect that this will change when/if clubs start to sell out their stadiums, but we aren't close to that point, yet.

Sadly, not many clubs think about proper discounts for youth, students, seniors and families. This tendency is improving fast, though.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Most games are scheduled with proper advance of two weeks at least, but changes do occur. Unfortunately since 2011/12 season Polish Ekstraklasa started playing in Friday-Monday mode, while previously each round was ending on Sunday. Games are rarely played earlier than 3 pm in the top league with 9 pm being probably the latest.

In lower leagues it's more traditional with less Monday fixtures (though mid-week rounds are common) and games played usually with natural light, so earlier than in top tier. Only starting 2012/13 season floodlights will be obligatory for all clubs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier.

The splitting is completely dependent on TV and that is made clear publicly with Monday games being announced as a step towards western standards. Ekstraklasa is broadcasted by Canal+ and their interest is given priority.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

Unfortunately Polish clubs are owned mostly either by single investors or municipalities with other forms less frequent. With investors, "wannabe-Abramoviches", the situation is very dynamic and depends on individual cases. Some are only interested in results on the pitch and completely don't care what happens in other aspects. Then some easily get discouraged and leave their clubs, sometimes leading to those being ruined. There are however some that seem to be consequent and thinking of development. To my knowledge fans have a lot more to say in municipality-ran clubs (or where local authorities at least have distinctive shares), but overall first one to have any right to speak is the one with most money. Polish clubs, without exceptions, are poor compared to their western counterparts and the pressure for chasing the west is very visible. In some cases sponsors/investors completely don't care about supporters' feelings and, for example, change their clubs' names.

Recent years have seen a huge increase in fan-owned clubs. Those are mostly sides re-established after previous owners lead them to fold or as sign of conflict. Thus they all start from low leagues, but some show really decent results, like Hutnik Krakow, who advanced to the IV league in 2012.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

Unfortunately, all too many. In lower leagues, where football clubs have almost no money, name or colour changes are quite common – hard to find a league that wouldn't have a team like this. In fact, even the I Liga (2nd league) has a clown-team, Polish Hoffenheim, but without any taste or concept – Termalica Bruk-Bet Nieciecza. Just last year a renowned team, Górnik Łęczna was renamed to GKS Bogdanka, to satisfy the president of local coalmine.

There are also clubs who bought someone else's licence to get higher, like Polonia Warszawa or Lech Poznan, turning football into franchise.

But on the other hand there also are signs of some clubs' support fighting back. Wisla Plock didn't accept changing colours from blue to red to satisfy sponsor's plans. Clubs from Gorzow and Olsztyn returned to their historical names after having been renamed for various reasons.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

The spontaneity of what goes on – no stewards telling to sit down, no jingles after scored goals, no unreasonable precautions that make games harder and more stressful instead of enjoyable. This would give so much space for creative support and positive fanaticism (sigh).



# Portugal

- **Capital:** Lisbon
- **Language:** Portuguese
- **No. of inhabitants:** 10.6 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 16
- **Part since:** 2009    ► **Last Update:** 2012

## 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Ultras' groups can only enter the stadium with their material if there are "legalised", as fans' associations, so they can be responsible, legally, for their group acts.

Non-ultras' fans can enter with their material as long as it is not made of any dangerous material – like iron, etc.

## 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Pitch invasion, for example, can be sanctioned with the requirement to play in a foreign stadium with a minimum distance, previously decided by the Federação Portuguesa de Futebol (Portuguese FA).

There are bans concerning fans, regarding participation in violence and other disorder or for using pyrotechnic or bringing it into the stadium (for pyrotechnics the first procedure is fines). The bans can be expressed as an obligation for any individual to present himself at his local police station when the game starts to be sure he is not at the game. If he wants to leave the country and his club is playing, he should notify the police in advance.

You can be added to the central register for pitch invasion, use of pyrotechnic, participation or inciting violence, etc.

Having to be at the local police station during the games, not being allowed to be present at any sports events, fines, etc. can be sanctions.

## 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Police escort at away games.

Dedicated spotters for each ultra group.

Deciding if and where people can have a break during the trip.

## 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

No. There was one called "Ultras Portugal" once sponsored by the FA which was managed by Sporting and Porto ultras, while Benfica ultras left sometime after the foundation due to several problems. But this was a long, long time ago. Maybe 15 years.

## 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

We try to defend our fans as best as we can, giving them legal sponsorship for free. A few years ago, after the defeat against Bayern Munich in the Champions League, a group of supporters was denied the chance of showing a banner (non offensive one) by the stewards and the police.

We reacted hard, officially complained and from that point on, there was no more censorship in those actions.

The clubs support in the following was:

Sporting, in the above example, didn't react trying to do only "damage control" management.

We work for the club to be better, not to be supported by it. That issue was never brought to the table in any AAS (Associação Adeptos Sportinguistas) meeting.

## 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

No, as mentioned above.

## 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

No, none.

## 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

Ticket prices vary from club to club and there is a maximum cap imposed by the League. There is a clear trend on the ticket prices coming down due to the crisis and the need of clubs to have more people in their stadiums.

The possibility of "everybody" being able to afford it is close to none since we are living in difficult times – economic wise – and people feel it differently, depending on their condition.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments /delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Usually, the match days are scheduled two weeks in advance. All games scheduled are public and usually it is not changed afterwards. Having the problem, some time ago and even in the beginning of this season, of scheduling games from Friday till Tuesday, this is changing and the league is now trying to reduce this scope from Friday till Sunday night.

The pressure is, evidently, from the pay-per-view sports channel, which is owned by an important shareholder of the three biggest clubs – Sporting, Porto and Benfica. There are cultural reasons, financially based, behind this power as well.

**10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

Generally clubs are owned by their members. The biggest clubs in Portugal – Sporting CP, Benfica and Porto – are listed on the stock exchange secondary market and there are differences between them concerning the percentage of capital in the hands of their members:

- FC Porto => members have 15 % of the capital
- SL Benfica => members have 40 % of the capital
- Sporting CP => today members have 90 % of the capital, but there are several financial operations going on that will lead us to a 40 % in a five years period.

There are two clubs in the second division which are 100 % private. One is Estoril and the owner is a company called Traffic Sports (suggestive name, no? ...)

A club called Naval is also privately owned (100 % by a local business man).

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

No, not yet ...

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Clearly, Sunday afternoon football!



## SCOTLAND

- ▶ **Capital:** Edinburgh
- ▶ **Language:** English
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 5.3 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 12
- ▶ **Part since:** 2009 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

2008: We have problems taking in big banners, sticks & poles and to fly banners. Excuses are used vary from not being fireproofed, too large, slogans up to unsuitable...

2009: I think home and away fans in Scotland are treated the same. Big banners are still a problem and anything with a political slogan is not permitted.

We are now allowed to take flags on poles (for waving about) back into Hampden Park and this helps the atmosphere.

All bags are searched and fireproof certificated are inspected for banners.

The main problem is there is nowhere to put banners in the stadium.

2010: A number of Scottish teams have been working with their fan's groups and allow large banners to be erected within their stadiums, generally this are the same banners which are shown at each home game. There are some exceptions to this, such as when remembering a specific player or anniversary. In addition some clubs have worked with fans to allow the now common 'colourful display' at European matches or cup finals. Away fans tend not to be allowed space to erect banners. The 2009 position re Hampden Park has continued.

2011: It is usually the size and content of any banner which is the subject of any restriction in Scotland. It cannot be politically or racially motivated. There is a big debate in Scotland just now about sectarian songs, banners, crime etc that has even reached the Scottish Parliament. This doesn't affect the supporters of the national team, however it may have implications for football fans across Scotland in what material they can bring into football stadia.

2012: Palestinian flags seen at Celtic Park reasons unknown

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

2008: Even the most trivial defences (standing) can lead to a short ban. Life bans are given for encroaching on the playing field or perimeter.

2009: There is a new offence, a football banning order, which can lead to a two-ten year stadium ban. This also means that whenever there are matches away from the country, you have to hand in your passport and are not allowed to travel. It's a bit complicated with Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales because current legislation means that if you have a stadium ban in Scotland, you have to hand your passport in when England is playing away from home.

2010: The position from 2009 has not changed.

2011: The Scottish Parliament are now looking at measures to increase the minimum jail term for a public order offence both in a football ground and through posting inappropriate material on the internet from 6 months to 5 years. This is still at the consultation period. Apart from that the position has not changed from 2009.

2012: No change

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

2008: Police are generally low profile nowadays with little trouble at stadiums.

2009: There are both police and stewards who look after the safety of fans at matches. Primary contact is with the civilian stewards which is less confrontational.

Police tends to only get involved when they need to.

Scotland fan groups work well with the police and through the SFA security advisor.

Last trouble at home Scotland match was from visiting England hooligans (not fans) back in 1999.

2010: The profile of police at matches continues to be low. Over the years, police have provided instruction for away fans on where to park cars, buses etc. For major matches, Internationals, finals etc. the police issue specific routes for fans of different clubs/teams to use.

2011: Many clubs in Scotland are looking at measures to have police free matches. The number of stewards would be increased. The more high profile matches, there remains a significant police presence. Police intelligence has led to less instances of crowd trouble.

2012: One high profile case in Scotland was the instance where a Hearts fan attacked Celtic manager Neil Lennon.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

2008: I can only speak for ultras of my own clubs – they have links with ANTIRA (anti racist) European groups. There are also discussions with other Scots groups but only one or two in relation at a time to specific matches.

2009: The concept of ultras is not recognised in Scotland. There are however "casuals" groups which are confined to club football and arrange fights and sometimes get together with other clubs for organised fights. This is not so prevalent nowadays though.

2010: Ultras continue to form only a very small proportion of the regular fan base and as such receive little or no exposure.

2011: As above there is no real Ultra culture in Scotland.

2012: Only ever seen an Ultras banner in Aberdeen's support.



## 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

2008: Banners are smuggled into stadium when possible. Bans & repression – we have a lawyer who advises & a trade union steward who attends meetings with the club as an observer in the event of bans etc.

2009: Racist and sectarian banners are rightly removed. All banners are checked by stewards and police. We had to get a special letter from the SFA security advisor for our NoTeamGB.com banner which was apolitical and against the formation of an exhibition team for the Olympics.

2010: The position has not changed from 2009 at International level all banners are checked by stewards and require prior approval. At club level a few club fans have attempted to breach regulations (i. e. smuggling banners into grounds) if the banner is a form of protest such as financial condition or performance of team.

2011: You generally find in Scotland that banners are banned for the right reasons and fans generally respect any rules put in place by the SFA.

2012: Some poor judgement shown by minority of Celtic fans on Remembrance Sunday.

## 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

2009: Pyrotechnics etc. are illegal at football matches in Scotland on the grounds of health and safety.

2011: As 2009, and rightly so. Football is trying to create a family friendly atmosphere and flares, pyrotechnics are a danger to fellow fans.

2012: Very rare to see this but one was thrown on the pitch at Edinburgh derby.

## 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

2009: There are no official standing areas at the top division club matches or international matches. It is an offence to stand at these matches and you can be ejected from the stadium for standing. There are no standing areas at all.

2010: There has been no change to legislation whereby it is an offence to stand at international or top division matches.

2011: As above the majority of top flight stadia in Scotland are all seated, this was made a requirement after the Hillsborough disaster. Some Lower division clubs still have terraces.

2012: Ross County promoted to SPL this season have introduced seats during the close season.

## 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

Ticket prices in Scotland vary enormously with clubs able to set prices largely based on the opposition. Tickets for Rangers v Celtic were up to £40 (50 EUR) last season and the same teams at other grounds attract the highest prices. At Hearts games v Rangers or Celtic were £31 (39 EUR) for example with many other clubs getting close to this price but none lower than £26 (32,50 EUR). (Not a problem next season due to the demise of Rangers) The converse is for some less attractive games like St Mirren v St Johnstone some kids tickets are free and adult prices came in at £18 (22,50 EUR) or less. Some clubs offer cheaper tickets for the unemployed and some clubs let pensioners buy cheaper ticket at age 60 whereas others use age 65. Cup final maximum prices are strangely less than some of the league games mentioned as are Internationals. A recent trend is Friendly matches where ticket prices have been set too high leading to poor crowds,

## 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

2009: Match days are usually defined soon after the fixtures are announced. Changes sometimes happen at relatively short notice but in the main, most fixtures are known well in advance. The police have big influence on the dates/times of contentious matches (like Rangers v Celtic) and this is usually an early KO time.

TV also plays a big part in the fixtures.

2010: Although match dates are set in advance, the tendency for dates/times to be changed is growing, though there is still notice on the change. This is due to TV coverage and requirements. There is a growing frustration on the days and times of matches not staying to the 'traditional' times.

From an international position the biggest concern is the "60 Day Rule" where the home country does not require to name the venue of a match until 60 days prior to the agreed date. This potentially prevents travelling fans from making appropriate arrangements and increases their costs as they cannot or hardly arrange flights / hotels in advance.

2011: I think all 3 (TV, clubs, police) have a hand in match day scheduling. As stated in 2010, there is a huge annoyance in Scotland with the 60 day rule where a nation can leave the announcement of the venue right up until 60 day prior to the match. This costs fans a lot more money and makes it more difficult to travel. This is usually the case with the bigger nations and is also driven by money and sponsorship.

2012: Club fans (particularly of Old Firm) rightly complain of the lack of Saturday at 3 pm fixtures. Rangers fans displayed a banner to this effect at Tynecastle.



**10.** Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)

2011: Clubs in Scotland are usually owned by one individual or even by a consortium of 3 or 4 individuals. Supporters groups are having a bigger say in the running of clubs now and many fans own their own shares in their clubs.

2012: Rangers going bust!!

**11.** Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club...)

2012: Hearts badge changed by Chris Robinson around 15 years ago.

**12.** Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

Standing at games and Saturday 3 pm kick offs.



# SLOVAKIA

- **Capital:** Bratislava
- **Language:** Slovak
- **No. of inhabitants:** 5.4 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 12
- **Part since:** 2009    ► **Last Update:** 2012

## 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Flares and other pyrotechnics are officially forbidden in the stadiums as well as flags with racist and fascist symbols. At some stadiums poles, for flags, are often forbidden as well.

Away fans are treated differently mostly by the police and the security services, often they face different restrictions than the home fans, on what they can or can't bring into the stadium. The police and security services are more aggressive towards away fans as they raid the away sector, sometimes unprovoked, or for lesser offences, which they allow to the home fans.

## 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Recent legislature has created space for a database of "potentially dangerous fans" as well as for the implementation of stadium bans.

Reasons for being entered into a database of "potentially dangerous fans" are quite vague and arbitrary – in practice it can be based from a random police check prior to, during or after a match or not obeying a police order. The consequences are unclear at the moment – it is a thing only a few years old and we do not have info on it being used in practice, as evidence in court or something. It can lead to blacklists or stadium bans and or tougher police treatment.

Stadium bans – again the reasons are quite vague but are linked to "serious offences" usually violent behaviour and or vandalism. As stadium bans are quite a new thing in Slovakia – the first ones have only been handed in the past one or two years, there are only a few people who have them and the legislature is not developed.

## 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

For matches with a large number of away fans, or so-called "problematic" matches, as derbies, the police organize an escort for the away fans.

Again at "problematic" matches (practically any match can be named problematic, by the home team) or derbies, there is a number of riot police present in the away sector, or separating the home and away fans.

Police are almost always present outside the stadium, to separate the leaving away fans from the home crowd.

In general the police are often extremely aggressive and act unprovoked or wait for any excuse. I personally could name many incidents when the police attacked us as visiting fans acting out of proportion.

## 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

There is no major national fans' organization that would unite fans of different groups. In general the level of organization of football fans is very low – only fans of several clubs, try to organize themselves in other ways apart from fan groups or ultra groups. A few have started their own civic associations, in an effort to have some kind of legal platform/recognition.

Tribúny sú naše, try to work with and unite various groups, not just from Slovakia, on various topics, but we only work actively with clearly antiracist, antifascists groups or individual fans – which is not that many unfortunately.

## 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

In the past years, there have been many protests organized by ultra or fan groups against repression. These protests are organized locally, by individual fan groups as there is no national fan coordination network. Work with the clubs is mostly difficult as many protests or initiatives are aimed at the clubs policies and practices and only a few groups around the country have good relationships with their club.

## 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

The use of pyrotechnics is officially forbidden by law and the Slovak FA in the two top divisions, the lower leagues are regulated by local FA's who do not pay much attention to pyrotechnics in their regulations. But at the lower level, most local FA's follow the regulations of the national FA.

There are financial sanctions for clubs, whose fans use pyrotechnics and flares; the fine is from 1000 € upwards.

For some fan groups in Slovakia it is sometimes possible to strike a deal with their clubs, which tolerate regulated use of pyrotechnics at their matches, but this is becoming less and less common.

## 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

As most stadiums in Slovakia are old, standing areas are included. Officially all clubs in the top division have mandatory all-seater stadiums, but as some clubs cannot afford large reconstructions, they are given an exception. Stadia in the lower divisions have mainly standing stadiums, as the regulations do not affect them.

Plans for new stadia do not incorporate standing areas, as yet, but there are only a few planned stadia.

Recently the discussion on standing areas for fan groups is starting to open up, hopefully leading to a change in the Slovak FA policy.

## 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

I personally pay 1 € for a ticket (but my team is in the 4<sup>th</sup> division). The normal top division ticket prices are not that bad, anywhere from 2.50 € to 10 € for the covered terrace for example. The bigger problems are at European matches, where prices are much higher: 2x, 3x even more. For example, two years ago MSK Žilina was playing Champions League Group stage and the home tickets for the match against Chelsea started at 150 € (season ticket holders had 50 % off).

## 9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?

Unfortunately scheduling changes are quite often. In the top division, the rule is a week in advance, but this is not the same for the first and lower division matches, where it happens that the exact time of the match is not known sometimes even a day or two in advance.

Matches are usually held between Friday evening (some TV matches) and Sunday night. Cup ties are fixed for the middle of the week.

Fixture changes are usually determined either by weather conditions, stadium schedule conflicts or TV times. Some matches are not moved for TV coverage, especially the Saturday afternoon matches, but there are alternative TV times – Sunday evening and the largely unpopular Monday evening time, which is very difficult for many fans to attend. In general moving matches for TV coverage, except for the big derbies, lead to a drop in attendance.

## 10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)

Clubs are owned either by private owners or the city/local authority. No major clubs are membership owned. Minor clubs, and some big ones, are owned by the local authority or the city. The rest are either owned by private investors or part city/part private, as many clubs are listed on the stock exchange. So in many clubs there are small shares of various partners, yet it is always the dominant partner who has the final word.

The majority of the clubs are home owned – out of the teams playing in the 2012/2013 Corgon Liga (top division) only one is foreign owned.

## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club...)

Well there are many examples. The first big one was the fall of 1 FC Košice, the first Slovak club to play in the Champions League Group Stage, who went bankrupt due to bad financial management and practically ceased to exist, as they had to merge with a minor, village team – Ličartovce. (A side note, Košice are the second biggest city in the country) The club was later restarted as MFK Košice, owned by the city, but with a different logo, kit colour etc. and name.

Cases like this are common in Slovakia a similar fate met Lokomotíva Košice (2 time Czechoslovak cup, 3 time Slovak Cup winners, now playing in the third division after bankruptcy), Inter Bratislava – 2 time Slovak Champion, 1 x Czechoslovak Champion, 6x Slovak Cup winners – who went bankrupt after winning promotion to the top league, now in the second lowest tier of Slovak Football. Or a third example of MFK Petržalka, former Armáda Petržalka, who were forced to move out of their stadium in their neighbourhood, to a stadium 20km away – across town and far away from the fan base. Next season they should return to their own neighbourhood.

Another example, again from Bratislava is of Slovan Bratislava and Inter (two big rivals). Inter went bankrupt and now plays in the second bottom tier on a small stadium. Slovan moved into Inter's previous stadium, which is funny as some of the paint and seats still had Inter colours and emblems and now play there, as Slovan's traditional stadium is literally falling apart and there and no-one is building a new one. Naturally, the attendances dropped, as less and less Slovan fans want to go to the stadium of one of their biggest rivals. An absurd situation.

Changes of name or logo, sometimes even kit colour, are not too uncommon.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

Tough question as there are too many options. Personally I would like to see people on the terraces again to see and cities and towns live on football days, like I remember growing up. No corrupt officials – FA, Club, Referees; no modern “security” - cameras, bans, biometrics and people not sitting at home on Saturday and Sunday watching Premier League or whatever, when they have a match a few minutes from their door.



## SPAIN

- **Capital:** Madrid
- **Language:** Spanish
- **No. of inhabitants:** 47.2 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 20
- **Part since:** 2006   ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

The basis for any kind of restrictions is the "Law against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport" of 2007 which prohibits pyrotechnical material (amongst other things). Any appealing for or provoking illegal actions is prosecuted as well (this also applies to violent criminal actions). Since this law is expressed in quite a general way, the responsible authorities (police, security as well as the "National Commission against Violence") are given a wide ranging power. It frequently occurs in everyday life that drums are confiscated, banners prohibited or flags taken to the stadiums are seized. Indeed, there are big differences between home and away supporters. In general, home supporters have plenty of freedom whilst away fans are exposed to often exaggeratedly strict controls. It might happen that in the Basque country they take away your Spanish ensigns, antifascist symbols might be interpreted as provocative (they might even want you to deliver your sweatshirt) or harmless banners may not be taken into the stadium. There is no comparable requesting or application procedure for choreographies or banners.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Since 1992, there has been the "Great Sport Events Law" (amended in 1993), since 2007 the "Law against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport", which was further developed in 2010 with the "Royal Decree for the Prevention of Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport" among other things they include stadium bans as well as a catalogue of financial charges. Penalties are proposed by the "National Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport" (representatives of sports, internal affairs, the "Liga de Fútbol Profesional" [professional football league], provinces, players, referees) and imposed by the ministry of the interior. In terms of monetary fines they vary from "normal", "heavy" and "very heavy" offences being imposed at an amount of 150 € to 3.000 €, 3.001 € to 60.100 € and 60.101 € to 650.000 € on supporters or clubs. Since there is no exact definition of criminal actions, the decisions taken in the past few years have been arbitrary and harder and harder. This way it might occur that an offence that "cost" 3.001 € two years ago, is now at a "price" of 60.100 € for supporters (for example violent hostilities, the use of pyrotechnics or anti-constitutional symbols). The central file for violent criminals within sports which is intended to be used in the context of the international data exchange is exactly defined thus resulting in raised fines, especially for football clubs, and as a positive feature they are integrating the fight against racism and discrimination into law. For the first time, the realisation of socially preventive measures against racism and violence is brought up, though not substantiated in special actions, but still reflecting a certain change of the political attitude, that is not only acting by using repressive means.

The "offenders' file" potentially involves travelling restrictions or certain obligations to report to the police on the day of the match. A delegation to unauthorised institutions/persons is not allowed, and after completion of the penalty (fines, stadium bans) the data is deleted under the applicable law. The ministry of the interior is responsible for this.

In the meantime, they are imposing stadium bans effective all over Spain. These may last for a period of 5 years (5 months to 2 years, in worst cases 5 years). Furthermore, the clubs may also impose stadium bans on their supporters, as for example they are getting it through in Barcelona (a big part of the "Boixos Nois" have no access to Camp Nou).

It is not always clear what kind of action they will interpret as an offence. For example, it may occur that a fine of 3,001 € is imposed for showing a flag with a cannabis leaf on it, since it could be interpreted as an appeal for an illegal action (as happened once).

In 2006, they imposed fines above average, and certain ultra groups have systematically been observed and persecuted (as for example "Biris" from Sevilla).

Some of the developments included in the Royal Decree passed in 2010 are the new obligation for clubs to have a registry of fans and fan's groups, the adoption of mandatory protocols for security, prevention and control in sports events and the introduction of preventive measures such as education programmes.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

How supporters are treated often depends on whether it is a "risk match" or not. Before the match day, the anti-violence commission decides how to classify the game. Sometimes you can see a general ignorance because they declare games as risk matches although the opposing supporters have been maintaining a good relationship with each other. In consequence, they try to separate the supporters groups and thus avoid friendly meetings.

The presence of police before, during and after matches is quite marginal. However, in case of conflicts with supporters' groups the actions taken on the part of the police are often very brutal.

Usually, away fans arrive in buses which are detained in the cities' outskirts as well as near the stadiums and then controlled and accompanied by the police. In some cases, this is a quite unpleasant event. (for example, physical inspections of women made by policemen, detaining in the bus, no permissions for peeing etc.).

Police as well as many clubs are partly "blind in their right eye" and refuse to acknowledge fascist songs or symbols in the stadiums. Enlightening the police never ended in action. This has resulted in supporters taking the initiative against those fascist events which – of course – ended in penalties against those supporters because they had tried to remove those fascist materials violently.

In case of criminal offences supporters are often selected in a random manner and made the offenders, thus resulting in unjustified stadium bans and fines.

In guest areas the persons responsible for the security often make absurd decisions, as for example prohibiting people from going to the toilet at half-time, or forcing them to leave the stadium altogether before the game has ended or to wait in the area until one hour after the game has ended to organise the departure.

There is no national alliance, since there is such an extreme politicization of the ultra groups, thus making it impossible to unite a left and an apolitical or a right group at one table. Added with the "traditional" sporting rivalries amongst the different political positions it complicates a united proceeding against repression. First steps against racism within Spanish football are being taken. In 2006, there was a first meeting of representatives of 15 antiracist and antifascist ultra groups in Madrid where they decided on a common action within the FARE-Action Week. The idea of a second meeting came up, also dealing with other topics such as "repression" and "modern football". However, there is still a long way to go till supporters find an alliance in Spain and thus be able to realise effective networking.

#### **4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?**

As mentioned before, there are virtually no alliances or activities, thus actions are organized locally only. These actions are very versatile and creative, for example a banner at the stadium, a demonstration before the match, solidarity concerts for affected persons, letters to clubs or the selling of special fanzines and music CDs.

#### **5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

The club's support depends on the prevailing local situation. Some of the ultras' groups are supported by their clubs (to the point of ambiguous insider relationships), some haven't got any direct relationship with their club management. In other cases, the groups don't even want to get any support by their clubs in order to stay independent.

There is no common line between the clubs, except the attempts to control their respective ultras' groups (by conversations up to claiming members' lists). In the last few years, another tendency was the massive support of non-political ultras' groups in order to weaken the politically active groups – a measure working quite "well" in most of the regions and resulting in an important decrease of members of right-wing ultras groups.

The new law requires the clubs to write reports on every match about special incidents, actions taken by supporters, the club, etc. The consequences are still unclear (of course, it may result in supporters' mistrust but may also have a positive effect, for example if clubs are forced to show more social responsibility, have to fight against racism, etc.).

Positive remark: Since 2006, politically responsible persons, especially the ministry for education and science as well as the "Consejo Superior de Deportes" (ministry of sports) are forced to think more about social preventive measures and not only focus on repression. In 2007, for the first time ever, the "Consejo Superior de Deportes" set up an invitation to bid for projects to prevent violence or provide ideas against racism. Furthermore, there is a growing understanding that you can't only face ultra or radical groups by means of violence. And in fact they are searching for alternative ideas of a rather preventive approach.

#### **6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

All pyrotechnic articles are strictly forbidden in all stadiums. According to the law sanctions are not very well defined since the same offence can be qualified as "normal", "heavy" or "very heavy" offences, usually if there is "no damage or clear risk" caused by the use of pyrotechnics, fines will be in the 150 € - 3,000 € range.

#### **7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

No standing areas are allowed in any stadium in Spain. In spite of it, most ultra groups stand without further problems.

#### **8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

Prices may vary significantly among clubs and games. You can go to a first division game paying as little as 10 - 12 Euros for a seat, but there are games in which the cheapest ticket may be in the range of 60 - 80 Euros which is prohibitive for the average fan.

#### **9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Match days are definitely scheduled with 10 days advance although occasionally (i.e. more than 5 times per season for "La Liga" 1st and 2nd divisions) the times may be announced with a shorter notice or changed after the initial announcement. A usual splitting for the match day fixtures for the first division is (1 x Sat 6 pm, 1 x Sat 8 pm, 1 x Sat 10 pm, 4 x Sun 5 pm, 1 Sun 7 pm, 1 x Sun 9 pm and 1x Mon 9 pm). Match day fixtures are set by the TV stations that broadcast the matches and not by the clubs. Although it is stated in the "Sports Law" that these competences belong to LFP.

The Professional League is considering changing kick-off times in La Liga first division from the 2011 - 2012 season on. According to the media, splitting of match day fixtures for the first division would be as follow (1 x Sat 4 pm, 1 x Sat 6 pm, 1 x Sat 8 pm, 1 x Sat 10 pm, 1 x Sun 12 pm, 1 x Sun 3 pm, 1 x Sun 5 pm, 1 x Sun 7 pm, 1 x Sun 9 pm and 1 x Mon 9 pm).



## 10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)

All professional clubs in Spain are incorporated as SAD (limited companies) as obliged by the Sports Law except Real Madrid, FC Barcelona, Athletic Bilbao and Osasuna de Pamplona which are membership-based. The former are usually owned by one or few owners and supporters are broadly ignored and considered just as customers while in the latter the members exert varying degrees of influence (e.g. can elect the board). While most clubs, when obliged to convert into SADs in 1992, fell in hands of local millionaires (sometimes illegally as in the cases of Atletico Madrid and Real Betis) in the last year some clubs have been sold to foreign millionaires (Racing Santander, Málaga CF, Getafe CF).

## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club...)

There has not been such case in Spanish top flight yet but there have been some in lower leagues. For instance, in 2007 2<sup>nd</sup> division club Ciudad de Murcia relocated from Murcia to Granada (270 kilometres away) and was renamed Granada 74 when the club was sold. That same year Unió Sportiva Figueres from 2<sup>nd</sup> division B (Spanish 3<sup>rd</sup> tier of football) was relocated to Castelldefels (160 kilometres away) and changed its name to Unió Esportiva Miapuesta Castelldefels.

In 2011, top flight Spanish club Getafe CF was acquired by an investment fund from Dubai and, according to the media, it may change its name to Team Dubai.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

There are plenty of things Spanish fans miss from the good old times, the atmosphere provided by standing crowds, pyrotechnics and all the missing bits of old fan culture being some of them, but if we have to choose just one we would go for having democracy back to our clubs. If we supporters had democratic channels of participation in our clubs, we could press to recover the rest of the things we miss.



## SWEDEN



- **Capital:** Stockholm
- **Language:** Swedish
- **No. of inhabitants:** 9.4 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 16
- **Part since:** 2006 ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

All flags and banners are checked. Both supporters' groups (home and away) are generally treated equally.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Stadium bans are normally declared to someone for the use of pyrotechnics (maximum of two years) or violence against security staff or the police. Bans always apply nationwide to both the Allsvenskan and Superettan (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division). We have a new law, it's in its second year now: You can be sentenced to jail if you light a flare. No one has been sent to jail thus far.

Members of Ultra or hooligan groups are usually added to a file either in category B (ultras; data only accessible to the club) or category C (hooligans; data only accessible to the police). Basically you only get into trouble if listed as category C. In this case, the police might announce a personal ban for the area around the stadium.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

The buses of away supporters are usually stopped at the edge of the city and escorted to the stadium by the police.

In case of obvious alcohol consumption (for example drinking beer outside the stadium) the police might charge the person in question of being drunk and take it in custody for the rest of the day. Generally the police always show presence at the bar where the away supporters hang out.

The supporters' police usually travel with the fans and try to give the home police a good picture of what kind of supporters it is that travels. Things have really improved in this area and the police are more and more listening to the fans.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

SFSU, "Svenska Fotbolls Supporter Unionen", is setting up a common agenda. The association is targeting every fan group that at least has the same view on basic principles of a responsible and positive fan culture. SFSU represents almost 30 different fan groups with about 12.000 members and the league and FA has declared that they take SFSU as the supporters' organisation they communicate with.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

At AIK Stockholm there are banners and flags as well as self-composed chants to protest against repression. However, as supporters of AIK Stockholm also criticise the board of the club there is no support from that side.

I can't speak for every group in Sweden since they all are acting in different ways. In Malmö we (MFF Support) act more in an organized and perhaps boring way. Hanging a banner upside down is not really working. The people with power do not understand that way of working. The formal way we have taken is working. We have a very good relationship with Malmö FF. There are other very active groups in Malmö which work more than every ultra group does, banners etc. In general supporters are more trying to talk to their clubs and most important the clubs are more willing to talk to the fans.

2010: We have had some problems with the police concerning the game Helsingborg vs. Malmö FF. The police behaved very strange and totally unacceptable. MFF Support has collected stories from our members and we will proceed by setting a meeting with the police in charge at this game.

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

No, it's not legal nor tolerated. Some fans like pyrotechnic, some don't. Sanctions see „stadium bans“ above.

### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

Yes we have standing areas. The proportion varies a lot, from five to 50%. Standing spaces are taken into account if the local supporters' groups are active and know how to influence the plans. The Swedish FA has decided to reduce the proportion of standing spaces to 25% by 2014 referring to „UEFA regulations“. No such regulation exists and the SFSU is working to get rid of this nonsense.

### 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

The prices differ from stadium to stadium and club to club. But generally one can say that in Sweden everybody can afford the price of a football ticket. Prices range from € 10 to € 50 at normal games.



**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments /delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

The scheduling of match days is currently a highlighted topic in Sweden. The league started already in the beginning of March since the Swedish FA wanted a seven-week break during the World Cup. The extremely cold winter made the pitches look like shit. The average attendance has generally dropped the last years and the huge drop this year has finally started a discussion on how and when the games should be played. Match day fixtures are still too much in the hands of TV.

In 2011 the second round fixtures were presented two month before. TV stations are allowed to change the schedule four weeks before the match days. In the past the days varied. The only thing that was sure was the fact that there are no games on Fridays. Nowadays the games are Monday and Wednesday at 7pm, Saturday at 4 pm and Sunday at 3 and 4:30 pm.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner...)**

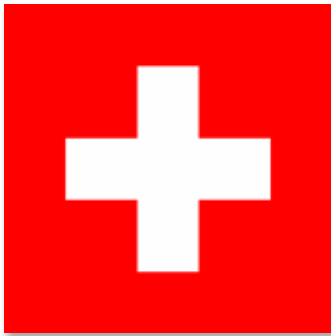
We have a 51 % rule in Sweden. Today there are only 4 top clubs which are companies and only one (AIK) is on the stock exchange. In theory we own the clubs, but the membership democracy in Sweden is in a sorry state. Clubs with 5.000 members still only get 200 people to come to their AGM. SFSU is working on in trying to raise awareness on the importance of showing up and voting. I think we are seeing a rise in awareness and more people are taking an active approach to the running of their clubs. It does vary a lot between clubs.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

Swedish football is not very commercial at all. But the biggest issue is game times.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

This changes from supporter to supporter. But one thing that many Swedish supporters want back is the time when the whole round of games was played on the same day, preferably on a Sunday. As it is now we have games being played every day.



## SWITZERLAND



- ▶ **Capital:** Bern
- ▶ **Language:** German, French, Italian
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 8.0 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 10
- ▶ **Part since:** 2006 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1 Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Most of the German restrictions are being gradually introduced to Switzerland.

- Megaphones are partially prohibited in grounds. Normally, they can be brought with the registration of the name of the responsible person.
- Flagpoles are allowed up to a length of 1.5 m. Also allowed are telescope-poles which do not exceed 1.5 m when retracted.
- Newspapers, magazines etc. (even Panini Albums for children, happened in Aarau) are regularly confiscated in the away stands.
- In some stadiums away fans are not allowed to bring backpacks or other large bags into the away stands.
- In some stadiums fans are not allowed to bring umbrellas into the stadium.
- In several stadiums away fans are not allowed to bring in antifascist banners or flags. The reason for that, which was heard often, was that antifascist banners and flags could provoke fascists and be a reason for conflicts (!).
- Despite beforehand application for displays, they are rarely allowed. Nevertheless, different clubs have different measures here. In Basle, for instance, there rarely are any problems with displays. The club of Grasshoppers Zurich is stricter here.

The supporters of Young Boys Berne have established something which is accepted by the club. At the Wankdorf stadium in Berne, the supporters are actually well supported by the club as their ideas are brought forward and are partially implemented.

### 2 Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Stadium bans exist for some time now. But they have been handled in a relatively reasonable way so far. However, as the EURO 2008 got closer there was an increase in questionable stadium bans.

In 2006, the parliament changed the law for interior security. This change involved a new database. Supporters of different clubs have opposed this change of law by trying to organise a referendum. 50.000 signatures were needed by July 13 2006 to put the referendum on the agenda. In the end, it didn't work out. Nevertheless, 40.000 signatures showed an unexpectedly good result. Especially when keeping in mind that no political party or any people with a deeper understanding of the matter have actively helped to bring it up.

So far, the clubs ratify stadium bans and forward them to the football association who usually turns it into a nationwide ban without any verification. The typical duration is two years.

The way of being registered to the database is arbitrary. There has to be a violent act according to the law. Such violent behaviour would already be proven if a club ratifies a stadium ban. "Reliable" police statements or statements by stewards are enough. No sentence by a court is needed. Those were the main reasons for left-wing parties to show some interest in the referendum.

Measures against people registered to the database are the so-called „Rayonverbote“ (Rayonverbot means that you aren't allowed to enter a certain territory. This may be the area around the stadium and/or other city areas.), an obligatory registration at police offices at different times, the denial of permission to leave the country and preventive imprisonment. This system has a certain hierarchy and stronger measures should only be taken if others don't work out. Such measures can be taken against people starting with the age of twelve!

Until this day, there is no way to appeal a stadium ban by the concerned person. Once a fan is on the nationwide list, the stadium ban can only be reversed by the banning club – which does obviously not happen a lot. In any case, a stadium ban can only be reversed in half time of the duration – at the earliest after one year.

Last year the Swiss football league changed the general instructions for stadium bans for all clubs. Now all clubs first have to hear the suspected person before they can impose a ban. This change was an effort of "Fanarbeit Schweiz" the head organisation of all professional fan workers in Switzerland.

### 3 Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Police are usually careful not to provoke the supporters at the stadium. Arguments only occur with the security staff at football clubs (Apart from intervention by the police when fans have quarrels outside of the stadium, of course). Especially this season it looks like the police changed their strategy. Mostly when the away fans of the bigger clubs arrive in a City a lot of riot police wait for the fans.

Monitoring by special football police agents is well established. While checking an individual stadium ban we found out that four of such agents from the town of the away game came to Berne in order to 'accompany' the Berne supporters to the town of the away game again.

Since 2007 they've established a systematic check of personal data. As a result, for instance, special train coaches containing more than 450 fans from Basel to Zurich were stopped. All supporters were temporarily arrested and checked. In autumn of 2005, police stopped a bus of "Young Boys Berne's Ultras" coming from Zurich on the motorway. All travellers were searched. Supporters saw an increase of such incidents before the EURO 2008.

2010 fans of Young Boys Bern were attacked by the police after a game in Zurich. Before the attack of the police there was no violent action of the fans. Later the police said that they only looked after a drunken woman. But a few fans already helped this person, and the police attacked these fans very rude. After that some fans began to throw stones at the police. There were 5 fans injured by police action.



For a few years now, clubs have to send delegates of their security stewards to away games.

Since 2011 there are a few professional fan workers most initialized by the fans (Basel, Berne, Lucerne, Zurich, St. Gallen).

Since then there is also a rule that the club which wants to ratify a stadium ban, first has to consult the person which should be banned and give him the chance to advocate himself, if the person wants, also with a professional fan worker.

Some clubs and the fan workers of these clubs have initialized a project called "second chance" where fans with a stadium ban can visit again the home games of the club according to some special requirements (as an example: they have to wait minimum 30 minutes after the finish in the stadium accompanied by a fan worker.).

#### **4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?**

In Switzerland, there is no network which works beyond club borders and single supporters' groups. Recently there are now some meetings of the biggest fan scenes in Switzerland to controvert the new regulations which are made by politics to tight the national regulations against violence at the stadiums. During the approach to set up the mentioned referendum the organisation "fansicht.ch" ("fans' view") was founded. It collects cases of random stadium bans and supports the persons concerned with legal and (if possible) financial matters. The founder is Pascal C., football fan and journalist of the weekly paper "WoZ".

#### **5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

There are recurrent banners of critical content. But most such activities are not co-ordinated on a nationwide level due to the lack of a permanent network. As far as they are able supporters of "Young Boys Berne" try to oppose unreasonable stadium bans at their club. Most of all, those stadium bans are implemented by a different club which makes it more difficult to approach. Work with fans still has to be developed. The clubs, the football association and football league's association are not interested in changing this at the moment.

They even tried to implement a security restriction before the season 2007/2008. It said that away fans should only be able to buy tickets at their own club by showing their ID cards. Thanks to the contacts that were made during the mentioned organisation of the referendum all supporters' groups nationwide stood together in a boycott against this measure. The league's association had to give up due to the massive pressure of the supporters and finally cancelled the restriction. At the moment there are new discussions in progress because of bigger clashes after games between Basle and FC Zurich and Young Boys Berne and FC Sion.

Police and politics are not stopping on trying to find new restrictions. They still (or again) are working on ideas such as fan cards

(away tickets can only be bought with this personalised card), forbidding special train on away games, non-alcoholic games etc. Politics try to tight the regulations against violence in stadiums. But it looks that also the clubs will fight against those new regulations.

It's hard to say how much support the fan clubs get from their own clubs – this depends on who's in charge in the club. But unfortunately most clubs follow the restrictive course of the Swiss football league and the political pressure of absolute security. But although there are clubs like Basel, Luzern or Berne who installed projects like "yellow card". These projects allow banned persons to enter the stadium at home. These projects are run by professional fan projects.

#### **6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

The use of pyrotechnical materials is banned in all of Switzerland as it falls under the law of regulation of the use of explosives. Nevertheless, many supporters' groups in Switzerland make regular use of pyrotechnic. Ever since an incident of FC Zürich supporters throwing flares into the adjoining stands of the Basel supporters during an away game in 2007, the public continues to take a dismissive approach towards the use of pyrotechnic. In addition to that, there is the law sanctioning the possession of pyrotechnical material as an act of violence further encourages the public in their formation of a negative opinion. Besides the pressing of charges, a two-year ban is usually imposed.

#### **7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

There are a few older grounds which are mostly terraced and non-seating. (Aarau, Bellinzona, Lucerne) In all new stadiums there are only seated stands, (Zurich, Geneva, Neuchatel) or just one stand for the home supporters (Basel, Berne).

In the second league there are a lot of stadiums with standing areas – mostly because of the fact that you'll only find very small and old stadiums. Until now it is still allowed to have standing areas – also if you're building a new stadium.

#### **8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

For away stands there exist a gentlemen's agreement with most of the clubs in the first league to sell tickets for 25 CHF (20 EUR). Some of the clubs also offer cheaper prices for children or teenagers. Only FC Zurich and Grasshopper Zurich have higher prices for the away stands. For home supporters there are big differences in prices start from 20 CHF (17 EUR) for standing zones up to 100 CHF (83 EUR) for the main stand. Most of the clubs offer special packages for families in so called "family zones" In case of the high life standard in Switzerland most fans can afford the prices. But for teenagers it is still expensive to follow their clubs every week.



**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments /delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

For many now years there has been a new TV contract with a pay-TV channel (Teleclub) and the match days are usually scheduled a few weeks before the season starts. And there normally are only few changes. In the first League (Axpo Super League), there are usually two or three games on Saturday at 5.45 pm and two or three on Sunday at 4 pm. Responsible for the fixtures is firstly the pay-TV channel, followed by the police authorities and at last the clubs may have their say.

Since 2008/2009 the second league (Challenge League) made a deal with a Swiss sports channel and introduced Monday games – based on the example of Germany. These games are often very difficult for away fans as they are forced to get off at work to get there on time – or at home. For the clubs as well it turned out to be quite unlucky as they have less people coming to the games and paying entry on a Monday evening. From begin of the next season the Swiss national television (SF) will broadcast one game in every leg of the season on Sundays. So far the splitting of the match days will be renewed. 2 games on Saturday at 7.45 pm, 2 games on Sunday 2 pm and one game on Sunday 4 pm. Especially the change to 2 pm on Sundays is not really in the mind of the fans.

**10. Who “owns” the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

All professional football teams in Switzerland have to be owned by a stock corporation, normally this means that just a few or only one person own the club.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

A few new grounds get also a new name (St.Gallen: AFG-Arena, Lucerne: Swisspor-Arena, Berne: Stade de Suisse) This Season, Xamax Neuchatel, owned by Bulat Tschagajev became insolvent and the Swiss football league had to revoke the licence and so far only 9 clubs finished the season. Also Servette FC of Geneva had big financial problems. Also there it was one single owner who brought the club to these problems.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

To arrive in a city without hundreds of police officers await you.



## TURKEY

- ▶ **Capital:** Ankara
- ▶ **Language:** Turkish
- ▶ **No. of inhabitants:** 74.7 million
- ▶ **No. of first league teams:** 18
- ▶ **Part since:** 2009 ▶ **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Most materials, except scarves, are forbidden in the matches played in many small cities. In Istanbul there are not many practical restrictions. The treatment of home fans and away fans depends on the city. Local police authority has some practical autonomy for these regulations. Big flags and supporters' banners are generally forbidden by local police authorities.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and/or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Stadium ban is given for insults and violence and depends on the mode of the government policy at that certain time. The ban is usually given for a few matches at most, but sometimes bans last a whole season. On the other hand, in practically, away matches are suitable for banned supporters to support their team. Match tickets are not sold based on individual names. This process is so different from England.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Direct violence (beating and arresting).

Punishment through the use of CCTV (public surveillance cameras) and police cameras.

Fine and custody.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

There is no national supporters' organisation. Internet is the main tool of communication for many fan groups. On the other hand, the informal methods for relation are so widespread in Turkey. Last year a 'platform' has established by 23 club's supporters' groups. Its name is "Brotherhood of Colours Terrace Platform". Rejection of away match bans and Turkish Football Federation's new implementations about league system are the main points of this platform.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

No organized measures. Sometimes local resistance appears, but generally our clubs are not supporting fan's claims. Club administration and some directors give money to fan groups for some reasons. Many fan groups take money from directors. There are no formal links with club and fan groups in generally. On the other hand, there are no real formal relations with 'common' rejection against restrictions among supporters' groups. However, some pioneer attempts are rising day by day.

### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

The usage of pyrotechnic flares during the game is not legal in our country. High money penalty (nearly 500 €, which is really high for our country) is applied by police. It is defined as "dangerous" cause. On the other hand, our country always has "interesting" specialties. "Exceptionality" is reality for us. For example, one match of Ankaragücü, that match symbolized finalize to drop from league, there were 600 flares were fired at the same time at Curva. The match of Fenerbahçe and Galataray, which is the last match of league, there were many flares at the stadium.

The 'sport and violence law' which was accepted last year has got strict rules and harsh penalty about fans crime.

### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

In Turkey Super League matches must be played in all seated stadiums. However, in our country supporters who want to support his/her team passionately use seating areas as standing areas. Fan group members are generally standing on seats in our country. So, many seats are damaged by this process, but this is no solution for this problem. Only exceptionally samples differentiate from general application about Fenerbahçe in Şükrü Saraçoğlu stadium. Our country's most industrialized club is Fenerbahçe and their application about this problem is dissimilar to other samples. Fenerbahçe management prevents supporters from standing on seats with police and private security forces.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

There are many different samples about ticket prices in Turkey. For example in UK, at Premier League or different leagues maximum or minimum ticket prices are relatively close in same 'stage'. You can buy Championship match ticket in the range of 20 and 40 pound (25-50 EUR). However, in Turkey 'big' three İstanbul clubs' ticket prices are different from any other club. On the other hand, you can find many differences in the other clubs. You can find match ticket for Turkish Super League for 5 Turkish Liras (nearly 2.5 Euro) or 300 Turkish Liras (nearly 130 Euro). The cheapest tickets in Turkey are at Gençlerbirliği and Ankaragücü (you can find 5 or 10 Turkish Lira for per match (2.5 or 5 Euro), and you can buy seasonal ticket for 75 Turkish Liras (nearly 30-35 Euro for the whole season); on the other hand Fenerbahçe, Beşiktaş and Galatasaray's seasonal tickets open nearly 500 Turkish Liras (200-250 Euro) and it rises to 8.000-10.000 Turkish Liras (Nearly 3.750-4.500 Euro) for VIP Areas. Trabzonspor's VIP area seasonal tickets were sold for nearly 10.000 Turkish Liras (4.500 EUR) last season (Trabzonspor's cheapest seasonal ticket price was 250 Turkish Liras (111 EUR) at the same season). Except three İstanbul clubs, you can find cheapest Super League match ticket nearly 15-25 Turkish Liras (nearly 6-10 Euro). Lower league's prices are not so difference that. For example there are no big different to Şanlıurfaspor's (last season played at third stage of Turkish football leagues) match tickets' prices and Samsunspor's (last season played top league) match tickets' prices. According to people's economic condition, tickets are not too expensive, except for Fenerbahçe, Beşiktaş and Galatasaray. These clubs' tickets are the most expensive ones.

Last Season Prices (All for Super League):

Last Season most expensive match ticket: Galatasaray, Beşiktaş (Fenerbahçe matches) 400 Turkish Liras (nearly 160 Euro)

Last Season the cheapest match ticket: Ankaragücü (some matches) 5 Turkish Liras (nearly 2 Euro)

Last Season most expensive seasonal ticket: Trabzonspor 10.000 TL (nearly 4000 Euro) (for VIP places)

Last season the cheapest seasonal ticket: Ankaragücü 75 TL (nearly 30 Euro) (for Curves)

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

In our country, match days are scheduled two or three weeks in advance. In our country, all programs are based on three clubs demands' (Beşiktaş, Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe). Official broadcasters that have the TV rights want to show each three matches on different days. For example, Friday night Beşiktaş, Saturday for Galatasaray and Sunday for Fenerbahçe; of course live in prime time. These three clubs and the TV companies dominate the scheduling process and the match program in general.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

In Turkey, clubs generally are associations. However, especially 'four big clubs' have subsidiary companies that are listed on stock exchange, it's practically managed by these companies. Supporters' influence is limited in general. Clubs are officially membership-based, but practically it is only related with the election of a 'patron'.

The influence of supporters or members is limited. However, 2010 many new supporters' groups and associations have started their activity. In Turkey, clubs are controlled by chairmen and this situation gives them an enormous position and power. It is like a 'soft threat' for delegates and supporters. For example: Ankaragücü's ex-chairman and his friends: old directors have debt nearly 100 Million \$ from Ankaragücü and after he had lost his position because of a law suit they wanted money. So Ankaragücü had to pay and last season they had to leave the top league. Ankaragücü's ex-chairman Ahmet Gökçek, is the son of the Mayor of Ankara. It is like 'Third World Type of Industrial Football'. Turkish Football Federation's new chairman Y. Demirören is the former chairman of Beşiktaş and he has debt from 80 Million \$ from Beşiktaş.



## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

Last year, Galatasaray moved into its new stadium that has got the name of sponsor 'Türk Telekom Arena'. The historical stadium and the name of the stadium was changed. The old stadium area had to be sold and a new stadium had to be built in a different area that is far away from the club's historical terrain with a new sponsor. The government supported this attempt. On the opening night of Türk Telekom Arena, many supporters protested against this situation and at the same time protested against the Prime Minister for other political issues. After that the chair of Galatasaray threatened supporters who protest against the Prime Minister.

At Ankaragücü, there are no changing emblems officially but practical they use a new emblem on their team shirts which refers and evokes to the new boss's abbreviation of name and surname. Many supporters of this club protest against this situation. After that, changes became normal. However, the former chairman (after he had lost his position) & his friends wanted 'debt' from the club which is impossible for club. So the club dropped from the league.

In the beginning of the last season there was a lot of speculation about harassment by the courts which dominated the football world of Turkey. After that, official broadcast wanted to change the league system and its status. Play-off system established after this process.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

Day by day the whole world and all things become more money-centred. Of course it is the main problem for all of us.

Passionate for values, colours or history is only related with supporters for today. On the other hand, the rulers' and administrators' of football aim to passionate for only money. We think we cannot 'wish' only football world and supporters, maybe we can 'wish' huge changes for world. 'Good old times' cannot live again. The new commercialized football gives to us 'supporters' who recognize 'bad new times'. It is important to say that there is no solution with individual old day 'wishes' or nostalgia. Maybe collectively we can discuss new collective 'wishes'.



# UKRAINE

- **Capital:** Kiev
- **Language:** Ukrainian
- **No. of inhabitants:** 45.9 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 16
- **Part since:** 2009 ► **Last Update:** 2012

**1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?**

If material is political or have provocative motives it can be a problem to get it inside. With all other stuff, if you don't have problems with your club it won't be a problem to get the stuff in.

**2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?**

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

In Ukraine we don't have a central register. The bans exist only in a few cities like Donetsk, Kharkov. In Kiev I never heard that someone has a ban.

**3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).**

Almost all the time we have an escort in home matches. Police are trying to separate us after the game. Because if there will be a big fight it's a trouble for them, if there will be a little no one will know about it and it's okay.

In away games, when you are going official by bus from the club, you have escort to the stadium and after the game.

Sometimes police are trying to arrest you for nothing – near the stadium or inside – to bring you to police station and took you id fingerprints etc.

**4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?**

I know that organised fans have had an action against modern football and against police brutality. And sometimes fans do same banners in supporting of someone who was jailed or about something they don't like. Like about in Ukraine was an action almost every fan group made a banner "fuck off euro 2012".

**5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?**

It's depends on a problem... for now I cannot say we had a big problems with this. Other fans from other clubs had.

**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

It's illegal. But we can make it if we want. If you get caught after this you will pay money in court.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

We have seats but we don't seat. We stand.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

It's not really expensive, costs very little like 5 or 15 UHA (it's like 50 Cent resp. an Euro and a half) the most expensive it's about 50 UHA (it's about 3 - 4 Euros).

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6 pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

We know approximately time and day 1 or 2 weeks before the game. Responsible is PFL (Profesionalna Futbolna Liha, professional football league in Ukraine). But top teams always play on day off some weak team can play on working day. The time of games can be very different. But it's normal that games are at 18 - 19 hrs. Sometimes we have games at working days at 17.00. It's not normal.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

All clubs in Ukraine are owned by very famous people who work in different business. They use club for status and for their money fraud. It depends – some owners of clubs support fans. Some no. It depends until fans don't make a lot of troubles you have support of club.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

It's all around us here in Ukraine. Some people who have one top club they also may have a few more poor clubs but they play in same league. It's very hard to explain everything what we have here. But the corruption and commercialization is very common here.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

I just can make a wish that I want me team have their own stadium – it's the most needed I think.



## USA

- **Capital:** Washington, D. C.
- **Language:** English
- **No. of inhabitants:** 313.8 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 16 US clubs + 3 Canadian
- **Part since:** 2011    ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1 Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): Scarves are okay for any seat in the stadium as well as flags without poles. If you want to bring in a flag with a pole you need a ticket for an approved supporters' section. All fans are treated equally, opposing fans also have a designated supporters' section in Red Bull Arena. When we travel to other stadiums we are not permitted to bring in flags with poles. Banners and drums are okay in the supporters' section, but security has to approve it.

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): No restrictions on scarves, flags, or banners. The club allows us to store our game day materials in the stadium. There is a ban on pyro but we have tested many types of smoke and found a type that is acceptable to everyone. We have worked with the club for many years now and assured them our messaging will not bring dishonour to them or us.

We have worked out a good deal of responsibility on our end to control our sections and keep them behaved within the general guidelines that the Stadium Operations Staff would like to see. The only thing that is restricted really is pyro in that we can't have flares but we can have smoke bombs in a controlled fashion. It is an on-going evolution to slowly get more and more allowed, and it takes a good record of control and behaviour that can open doors to more pyro.

Away fans are not allowed to have smoke as we are, although some of them have set it off in their sections.

This varies greatly from stadium to stadium, and is a big hassle for travelling supporters. For instance Colorado does not allow flagpoles for visiting supporters, but do for the home support section. In Los Angeles for Chivas USA and LA Galaxy matches all overhead banners must be made of fire-retardant cloth. Also flags may not be larger than 5 x 7 feet (approx. 2 m x 3 m). There the home supporters' groups are limited to a set number of flags and instruments per group and must check in the materials hours before kickoff (the same for away support).

2012: As a result of the smoke bombs and throwing objects onto the pitch at the MLS Cup Final last fall, all Houston supporters' groups face serious restrictions when they travel, they are banned from having drums and flags.

### 2 Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): No, there is no state run register. Bringing flares or a smoke bomb into a stadium illegally can lead to a stadium ban.

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): We do have stadium bans in which the supporter in question is given notice that their tickets are not valid and if found in the section after the ban they face criminal trespass charges. The most common offense that can lead to a ban is the lighting of flares, in which several people were banned for a year as recently as 2006. Acts of racism will also get you banned from not only our supporters' group but also the stadium. The register is strictly with our local club itself and they attempt to coordinate with other teams to make sure that acting out on an away trip is enforced at the home stadium as well. There is no central register.

Stadium bans vary from stadium to stadium, as far as what offences will result in a ban. Pyro is an almost universally accepted ban-worthy offence at most MLS stadiums, as there is no central database, the bans are usually only from one stadium, though the MLS is working to ban supporters who receive a ban from an away stadium from their home stadium as well. Duration of bans is usually a year.

### 3 Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): They do escort to and from buses, we see them on horseback and walking. This is really the only contact we have with the police. Once we are in the stadium, stadium security surrounds us at the opposition stadium. It's the same for our home stadium.

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): We are in constant contact with the heads of security and police liaisons for the home team when we are on the road. It usually consists of one of the supporter group leaders having a conference call with the authorities the week before the trip. When on the road we text message or can email if we see any problems on the way up or we are not going to meet our predetermined arrival time. As soon as we arrive we unload our buses and are segregated from the home fans by security stewards while we enter the stadium. Our recent trip to Seattle we brought our home security with us to act as our first line of security as they know our behaviour and can intervene on our behalf to keep things calm and orderly if the home security decides to take action unwarranted.

The tactic of bringing Portland security guards to Seattle, introduced this year, worked very well, with virtually no incidents with the Seattle stadium security or sheriffs which have been major issues in past trips to Seattle. The Portland security stood between the supporters and the Seattle Stadium Security and made certain fewer fans were seized by Seattle Security/police than on previous away trips. Seattle's stadium will eject away supporters for foul language.

Two years ago when Portland and Chicago fans visited Seattle to see the Chicago Fire play the King County, Sheriffs (police) tackled a woman by the throat before supporters had even entered the stadium. The security also seized many scarves made for the trip with a middle finger instead of Seattle's x-box logo from fans as they entered.

For the first match of the season this year 420 Portland supporters travelled to Colorado, and relations with local police in the stadium were good, as certain supporters acted as contact people.

#### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): We communicate with all the other clubs via private groups on social networking sites. Pre-game tifo display and song coordination is the main focus.

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): We joined together with our heated rivals last year to protest the away travel policy in our region of the country that would have limited each supporters group to only 150 travelling fans for the derby matches. We were successful in our efforts and were able to get more than 500 for each game. We hope to push for more next year.

There is a Cascadia travel agreement between Vancouver, BC, Seattle, WA, and Portland, OR – the Seattle club did not want to allow away supporters, and supporters of the three clubs advocated for more away support. We are now pushing for the clubs to follow FIFA guidelines and reserve 5% of the seats for away supporters in Cascadia.

We have joined together with the majority of other supporters' groups in the country to create a unified supporters union fighting for our common rights as supporters to watch and support football peacefully and without intervention. It is still in its early stages and needs much work but the first form of it can be found here.

<http://www.soccersupporters.org/>

The Independent Supporters' Council works to fight injustices against supporters, and promote supporter culture by advocating for policies that do not impede supporters and supporters' culture. We are in our growth stages and trying to get rival supporters to work together – it has its challenges (as you no doubt can relate to). We are having our third general meeting open to supporters of all professional teams in the US and Canada this fall in Los Angeles during the MLS Cup.

2012: The Timbers Army 107 Independent Supporters' Trust hosted a working weekend for the Independent Supporters' Council in the off-season, and had representatives from supporters' groups of 17 of the 19 MLS teams in attendance. We reworked a ratified the Independent Supporters' Council charter, and discussed issues facing supporters' groups. In March member supporters' groups put on a league wide anti-racism campaign, which was very successful.

#### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): There have been no restrictions; stadium does not want political messages on banners so we don't do any. (annotation of the proofreader: we don't know if it is the FA or the clubs the author is talking about).

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): We support other supporters' groups against unfair treatment from their front offices, security and police. We also are against rebranding of team identities and relocation of clubs. We typically support in the form of a banner, posts on our websites, and sometimes direct calls or letters to the parties in question.

#### 6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles / flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): Fireworks are illegal in some states. We sometimes march towards the stadium with flares in our hands, but we risk being arrested by the police. We are allowed approved pull pin smoke bombs in front of our sections.

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): We've worked with the club to find an approved type of smoke, but pyro is banned. We hope to keep pushing for limited use by known individuals within the supporters' group. If managed correctly pyro can be a safe style of support but we have a long battle in order to get it legalized.

#### 7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): In Red Bull arena it's one seat per person, no standing areas.

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): No, technically there are no terraces in Jeld Wen Feild. However, the entire north end, with 3.500 seats is designated a standing area. Tickets to this area are labelled as such (roughly 20% of the stadium).

I would guess that around 40% of the stadium stands even in sections not officially designated. We don't have actual physical terraces yet, as the budget to convert seats to terraces was not available in the most recent stadium renovation. We hope to expand our supporters' section capacity increased to around 5.000 in the next few years.

At our most recent meeting with the club management I gave them a copy of the FSF's Safe Standing Report. The current situation is that everyone stands but there are still seats in the area, which makes for very crowded conditions.

Timbers Army 2012 Update: We have had our allotment increased to about 5.000 this year. Still no terraces though.

#### 8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?

Portland Timbers Army: The cheapest home tickets are about \$ 20 (16 EUR) per match, but as the stadium is sold out every match there is little opportunity for non season ticket holders to buy tickets. Season tickets are \$ 360 (290 EUR) a year, and the club offers payment plans.



**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments / delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): Games are scheduled at the beginning of the season for all clubs. MLS (Major League Soccer) and TV have all the power.

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): Games are scheduled at the beginning of the season for all clubs by the league. The league works with the clubs at the beginning of the year to schedule. It is a collaborative effort between the stadium's schedule and television. No police involvement.

2012: The only exception is tournaments such as US Open Cup, which are scheduled as the tournament takes place. At the MLS Cup and Supporters Summit in LA last fall supporters expressed their outrage about the new unbalanced schedule the MLS has introduced. TV definitely dictates kickoff times. Timbers play Chivas USA in June at 13.00 on a Wednesday in Los Angeles. Obviously supporters were not considered in scheduling that match. Supporters have lobbied for input in the scheduling process to no avail. Brett Graham of Vancouver Southsiders wrote a paper how the schedule could include one home and one away match with each team in the league.

<http://aftncanada.blogspot.com/2011/11/supporters-papers-show-viability-of-mls.html>

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

All clubs are privately owned business franchises of the MLS.

**11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)**

Viking Army (New York Red Bulls): Red Bull, they built the stadium and changed the name of the team from the Metrostars, to Red Bull. All colours, emblems and names were changed.

Timbers Army (Portland Timbers): Oh yes. The Timbers Army fought hard to preserve our traditions through a stormy sea of many owners from 2001 - 2011. We have fared better than many groups in MLS because we're organized.

The most blatant example of this is the New York Metrostars, who are now known as the New York Red Bulls. Naming rights for stadiums are very common and a revenue source for the clubs, but commercialization is definitely an issue, as is co-option of supporters' culture by advertisers. (Often when the same support groups are experiencing repression by their club their images are used to promote the club).

Last year when the Timbers moved to MLS the club revised the crest into a cartoonish parody of its former self, and the supporters chanted „that's so shitty its unbelievable“ at the unveiling. The club since revised it so it is not so terrible, but it is still not the old crest (which has 35 years of history).

2012: The commercialization of the Rocky Mountain Cup, a supporters' cup purchased by the supporters of Real Salt Lake and Colorado Rapids and contested by those teams has taken place this year. The teams have sold the naming rights to Subaru, so the cup is now the "Subaru Rocky Mountain Cup." A horrible co-option of a supporter based cup.

At the Supporters Summit in Los Angeles at MLS Cup, Budweiser controlled the entire opening reception. Outside kegs were banned from the parking lots of the Home Depot Center before the match where fans traditionally tailgate and party before games, and a large corporate sponsored fanfest was set up there.

**12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?**

Though there have been some improvements since our club has joined MLS, there is too much corporate pressure, and attempts made to co-opt supporters' culture. I would like to see terraces replace seating in the North End in Portland.



## WALES

- **Capital:** Cardiff
- **Language:** Welsh, English
- **No. of inhabitants:** 3.0 million
- **No. of first league teams:** 12
- **Part since:** 2008   ► **Last Update:** 2012

### 1. Which restrictions do fans face when they want to get their material (scarves, flags, etc.) into the stadiums? Are home fans and away fans treated differently? If so, in what way?

It's not allowed to hang flags in certain sections of the stadium because of advertising. Flags on sticks are not allowed. Flares are banned.

At Cardiff City there is a new initiative for 2011-2012 that encourages groups of fans to a so called "Singing section" behind one of the goals. Fans will be asked to bring scarves, banners and wear the club colours more prominently in this section of the stadium. Stewards will be more tolerant in this area of the stadium.

### 2. Are stadium bans imposed in your country and / or do you have a state-run central register of "potentially dangerous fans"?

- Which "offence" can lead to a stadium ban?
- What does a stadium ban mean (duration, regional boundaries)?
- What incidents would add your name to this central register?
- Which consequences could such a registration have for an individual?

Unfortunately there now seems a trend for the police to apply for a football banning order for just about every football related offence, regardless of how petty the offence may be.

If a person is sentenced to a jail term then banning orders could range from 5 to 10 years, if no jail term is given bans will be for a term less than 5 years... usually 3 years.

There are many "offences" that can lead to a banning order including

- unauthorised attendance at a regulated football match (due to a previous ban).
- Running on to the pitch during a game.
- Any offence under section 2 or 2A of the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 (alcohol, containers and fireworks) trying to enter stadiums with fireworks or whilst drunk.
- Any offence under section 12 of the Licensing Act 1872 (persons found drunk in public places, etc.) of being found drunk in a highway or other public place committed while the accused was on a journey to or from a football match to which this schedule applies being an offence as respects which the court makes a declaration that the offence related to football matches.
- Any offence involving the use or threat of violence by the accused towards another person committed during a period relevant to a football match.
- Any offence involving the use or threat of violence towards property committed during a period relevant to a football match.
- Any offence involving the use, carrying or possession of an offensive weapon or a firearm committed during a period relevant to a football match.
- Any offence under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 (harassment, alarm or distress) or any provision of Part III of that Act (racial hatred) committed while the accused was on a journey to or from a football match to which this schedule applies being an offence as respects which the court makes a declaration that the offence related to football matches.

- The list goes on and there are more alcohol and drug related offences that can lead to bans.

All persons on a football banning order are on a central register for the period of ban and the person is prohibited from entering any football league and international ground throughout the whole country when a competitive football fixture is played. That person is not allowed to leave the country on holiday without informing the police first to gain permission from them to check no football matches involving your club or country is being played in the country or near that country. They also have to report to their local police station when Wales and England are playing to produce their passport to prevent from travelling.

### 3. Give us three typical examples of police conduct towards fans (e.g. police escort at away games).

So-called bubble matches: Travel only to a match where you do not receive a ticket until you are on a bus. The police escort you from your ground to the opposition then back.

Sometimes we are left on side of motorways for over an hour waiting for escorts, during this time police take many photographs and videos of the fans, this is called evidence gathering and can be used later by the police if they feel it necessary.

Sometimes we do have good policing where we are greeted by a pro-active policing, short sleeve shirts no riot gear, smile on their faces.

### 4. Do the organized fans (ultras) form a network with fans of other clubs and how does that work? Which functions and objectives do their alliances have?

Supporters' groups do work together through national fans' groups e.g. F.S.F. (Football Supporters Federation) to fight issues that affect fans.

Many issues are tackled and fans can ring help lines if they get into problems with the police.

### 5. What measures do you take against restrictions, bans and repression, as individuals, regionally or even nationwide (e.g. banners)? How do your clubs support your claims and your work?

Very little support from clubs; we boycott, demonstrate, debate, petition on issues that affect fans, to the authorities, sometimes on a national level.

We are currently looking to assist work on a new paper about reforming law that are used against football fans compared to other members of society including other sports fans that get treated far more fairly than football fans.

**6. Is the usage of pyrotechnic articles/flare legal or tolerated in your country? If so, on what terms? If not, what kinds of sanctions are there?**

No pyrotechnics are allowed at games played in Wales as they are deemed as dangerous and any fan found in possession of such items will face prosecution and almost certain banning orders will be imposed.

In 2003 a Welsh football fan was killed inside our National stadium when a missile was fired by another fan during a game.

**7. Do you have standing areas? If so, in what proportion are the numbers of standing spaces to the number of seats? Is the inclusion of an appropriate number of standing spaces taken into account with new stadia?**

Unfortunately not, we have no standing areas in any of our two football league grounds. There are standing areas in Welsh league matches and Welsh Premier league grounds.

No standing spaces are considered in new stadia because all football league grounds in the top two divisions have to be all seated by law. Some clubs do seem more relaxed than others and often you will see the away fans been left to stand during games.

**8. How much is the cheapest ticket and how much the most expensive? Can everybody afford those prices?**

We are very lucky in Wales because the prices are kept reasonable especially if you have a season ticket... The cheapest International tickets can be £10 (13 EUR) adult and most expensive £30 (38 EUR).

At club games it can cost an adult between £12 - £30 (15 - 38 EUR) a game if they have a season ticket but a lot more if paying match per match "on the day". It can cost adults between £25 - £40 (31 - 50 EUR) and this is a club in the Second division (Championship in England) It is far more expensive in the Premier League.

Many fans are more likely priced out of travelling to AWAY games where it can average between £30 - £35 (38 - 44 EUR) a game plus transport.

**9. How soon in advance your match days are usually definitely scheduled? Are short-dated amendments/delays to match day fixtures still possible after that? What does the splitting of match days look like (e.g. 2 x Fri 6pm, 3 x ...)? Who is responsible for the match day fixtures in your opinion (TV, clubs, police)?**

Fixtures are announced two months prior to a season starting. All clubs have the opportunity then to change fixtures. This is based on events that maybe already scheduled in their cities/towns. Then the TV companies pick games they want shown live on television and that really affects the planned games... Television companies dictate schedules in my opinion and occasionally the police also changes dates and times of games (but not often).

Money is so important to clubs that they have to agree to the television schedules. Most games are played with at least a three-day split... e.g. Saturday/Tuesday... or Sunday/Wednesday... Thursday/Sunday etc.

**10. Who "owns" the clubs? (membership-based, listed on the stock exchange, sponsorship, patron, etc.) And what does this mean for decisions concerning the clubs? (How influential are supporters, members, sponsors, owner ...)**

In Wales the two main football clubs are Cardiff City and Swansea City both are run by shareholders and both have a supporters' trust. However Swansea City has a powerful trust that actually owns 20% of the shares and they have a fan representative on the board of directors, this is a unique situation because Swansea is now the first English Premier league club to have this situation.

During the summer of 2012, Cardiff City fans were told that the major shareholders from Malaysia were willing to keep the club financed by loans that they would turn into equity and therefore ensure the club had a future. The total investment will come to £100 (ca. 125 €) million they then said that they needed to increase income opportunities to achieve this and would re-brand the club by changing the first team shirts from Blue to red and changing the club crest. The fans reacted badly and a lot of unpleasant abuse was directed at the owners which resulted in a U-turn, but they issued a statement which included a threat of withdrawing the investment and possibly leaving the club in an impossible position. In a desperate effort to restore the financial backing many fans voted to reluctantly accept the re branding rather than face possible liquidation and the rebranding has now gone ahead.

The power of the owners was plain to see and there are now divisions amongst the fans, some of whom have started a Keep Cardiff Blue campaign (KCB) nearly 90 fans have asked for refunds on season tickets, but in reality 16.000 plus have not, despite the obvious uneasiness about the situation; Its possible everyone wanted to remain blue but many want the club to prosper and are happy to go along with the plans. It is easy to say fight the changes if you are not involved but Cardiff is a unique situation where they play in a very high level of football in a league from another country, so starting again without a stadium at the lowest level may mean that the English league refuse the club entry. It's a strange situation and a great concern but at the moment the fans have no realistic alternative.

Other clubs are mostly run by shareholders although we do have Merthyr Tydfil Football Club which is owned and run by a supporters' trust... They are currently in a very low part of the football pyramid in England but they did move up one division last year and are progressing.



## 11. Are there any examples in your country where football lost against commercialization? (Changing of colours, emblems, name of the stadium or of the club ...)

Clubs are guilty of producing replica kits virtually every season now and designs of club badges have been changed at Both Swansea and Cardiff over the years to make them more "sexy" or commercialised.

We have the top clubs who play solely in the Welsh pyramid of football who have totally changed their names in favour of their owners companies: for example we had a team called "Total Network Solutions" – TNS who sometimes represent Wales in the Europe cup... Their new name is still TNS but now it means „The New Saints of Oswestry Town & Llansantffraid Football Club“. Once they were simply called Oswestry and Llansantffraid.

At the end of the 2011 - 12 season Cardiff City fans were told that the club were to be re-branded and their famous blue home strip was to be replaced by red... Huge anger from fans changed the owners minds but it may cost the club its financial support due to the fact the owners have not been supported in their radical plans to re-vitalise the club... At this time meetings are taking place to come up with a solution.

## 12. Make a wish: What is one thing you wish back most desperately from the good old times as football supporters?

It would have to be standing, but not like the old dangerous terracing. Safe standing would be a great attraction to new fans who never experienced standing in stadiums.

## Thank you! We couldn't have done this without you!

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