

The John Smith's Stadium Flags, Banners and Surfers Policy on match days

The Stadium Operator wants to encourage an exciting atmosphere at all games played at The John Smith's Stadium and encourages fans to bring flags, banners and large 'surfing' flags – but these must adhere to the guidelines set by the Stadium's Safety Team, as stipulated below.

Flags, Surfers & Banners - General

1. The Stadium Operator reserves the right to refuse to allow flags, surfers or banners to be displayed, particularly if content is considered to be offensive, discriminatory, defamatory or inflammatory.
2. Any item that the Stadium Operator or any of its employees believe could potentially be used as a weapon and/or compromise public safety is strictly prohibited and will be confiscated.
3. Any item above the area of 600mm x 1000mm must be flame retardant and have a fire safety certificate to prove so, provided in advance of match day.

Flags

1. The flag pole should be no bigger than 7mm in diameter and 1 metre in length. The flag pole material should be plastic and be rounded at the ends.
2. Flags should be presented to stewards prior to entry to the Stadium where they will be inspected and approved prior to entry.
3. The Stadium Operator reserves the right to confiscate any flags brought into the Stadium without being approved prior to entry.
4. Supporters wishing to introduce flags on poles longer than 1 metre must contact the Stadium Operator in advance via email via safety.officers@ksdl.org.uk. Subject to advance agreement with the Stadium Operator, such flags on poles may be waved prior to kick-off but must not obstruct the view of others and under no circumstances are to be waved after kick-off.
5. Flags which are not subject to Section 4 above may generally be waved in the Stadium, however, the Stadium Operator reserves the right, if appropriate, to ask supporters to resist from waving flags in certain circumstances.

Surfers & Banners

1. On occasion, where the Stadium Operator designates a sterile area (e.g. empty block of seats) as available within the Stadium, it may be possible for banners to be placed in the sterile area. Permission to do so must first be obtained from the Stadium Operator in advance via email to safety.officers@ksdl.org.uk or, in circumstances where this is not possible, by a senior steward prior to entry on a matchday.
2. Banners will not be allowed where they may block advertising, signage, exit routes, restrict the views of other supporters or in any way compromise the safe operation of the Stadium.
3. It is the responsibility of supporters who bring banners and surfers into the Stadium to ensure they are securely fastened at all times. The Stadium Operator reserves the right to remove any articles that have not been appropriately secured or become loose during a match.
4. The use of surfers or surfer-style banners designed to be passed over supporters' heads, will not be allowed after kick-off.
5. Supporters wishing to introduce new surfers and banners must contact the Stadium Operator in advance via email to safety.officers@ksdl.org.uk. The banner/surfer must be presented to the Stadium Operator at least three working days before match day with the appropriate fire certificate. The banner/surfer must also be presented prior to entry to the Stadium where it will be inspected by a senior steward.
6. Any surfers or banners brought into the Stadium without being approved by the Stadium Operator will be confiscated.
7. A register of banners and surfers which meet fire safety criteria will be kept by the Stadium Operator. A copy will be given to the Safety Officer to assist stewards in assessing approved articles.
8. The Stadium Operator reserves the right to change this policy as it deems fit or as required by the Local Authority, Football/Rugby Authorities or any other body that helps to determine the safety of spectators at the Stadium.
9. Whilst the Stadium Operator endeavours to take good care of banners and surfers that are brought into the Stadium, it accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage that may occur at any time.