

Safety tips for visitors to sporting events

Prevention advice

Ask the Event organisers or the security staff about existing safety measures. Whilst this should ideally be done well in advance, it is never too late. At sporting events, too, it is common sense rather than cowardice to circumvent potential threats.

I feel threatened or am being attacked. What should I do?

- Join others in a group. Watch each others' back and provide mutual help and support.
- Move along the crowd's edge to get to your destination.
- Draw the attention of others by shouting ('Don't touch me'; 'I'm being attacked') or using personal alarms or whistles.
- Enlist the help of third parties such as bystanders, other visitors to the sporting event or security personnel. Address them directly ('Hey, you in the blue jacket. Help me!')
- Seek refuge in safe establishments, such as first-aid stations, the police station in the sports stadium or vendors' stalls.
- Call police on 110.

I am witnessing inappropriate or menacing behaviour towards others. What can I do?

- Do not hesitate to directly ask other visitors to the sport event or security personnel to intervene.
- Do not put yourself at risk.
- Call police on 110.

I feel threatened or am being attacked. What about using weapons for self-defence, such as mace or other defensive sprays?

Police take a dim view of the use of weapons such as defensive spray. Hesitant or slow deployment can have serious consequences. might take the weapon from you and then turn it on you. If you mace another person and cause injury, you might be subject to a criminal investigation. Please note that some weapons are covered by the Weapons Act. Although they may be carried in public in certain circumstances, under section 42 of the Act they must never be brought to a public event . Non-compliance is a criminal offence. Contact your local police station for more information (<https://polizei.nrw/wachenfinder>).

What else should I keep in mind to stay safe when visiting a sport event?

- Friends and family should look out for each other (buddy system)
- Order your drink from bar staff and take it only from them
- Don't let your drink out of sight.
- Be wary when offered food or drink in an open container by someone you do not know.

- Do not accept any 'harmless' medication like painkillers from people you do not know.
- Be careful and seek help when strangers are trying to help a vulnerable member of your group or family and are about to lead that person away.

Who can help when the going gets rough?

- Draw attention to yourself and your situation. Ask other visitors to the sport event, security staff or paramedic to intervene and help

- If a crime has been committed, call the police on 110.
- If you feel sick, ask staff, security or paramedics for a doctor. The emergency line is 112.

Advice for friends and fellow visitors:

- In an emergency, do not leave victims to their own devices. Other visitors to the sport event can be summoned to get paramedics. A range of substances can be detected in the body by over-the-counter test kits, readily available at pharmacists'.
- If in doubt, call police without delay on 110.