

FSF Cymru advice for supporters travelling to the Principality Stadium

FSF Cymru, FAW and police and stewarding representatives met at the Principality stadium on Tuesday, at the request by Gerry Toms (GT) of the Principality stadium Management, to discuss preparations for the game there against Spain on October 11th.

The last international game at the Principality was 2011, with the exception of the Champion's League Final 2017 most stewards have never done a football match. We discussed in detail how to help the stewards on the gates and some of the regular FAW stewards will also be present.

A general question on if the roof will be closed for the game, this matter falls to Ryan Giggs, unless there is heavy rain / inclement weather on the day.

The Principality is mirroring the Cardiff City Stadium policy on flags. It was noted that No Team GB and Catalan flags would possibly be displayed, after UEFA's decision not to ban the Catalan flag, it was accepted if the flags are non-discriminatory or offensive they would be allowed at the stadium.

Flags are encouraged to be hung over the netting on the first three rows around the stadium as well as allowing them to be draped over the LED boards on the Middle and Upper tiers, providing they do not obstruct fans view of the game in the seats below.

As agreed, an allocation of tickets in the lower North Stand were sold as a designated "Singing Section" where the majority of fans are likely to stand and tickets were sold on that basis, this is a customer service rather than safety issue in that part of the ground, in all other areas of the ground there will be zero tolerance on standing. **Aisles and walkways must be kept clear in all areas of the stadium though.**

It was agreed at the meeting to encourage all fans be at the ground 60 minutes before kick-off – with the gates opening three hours before kick-off.

FSF Cymru asked about any concessionary deals on the food and alcohol to encourage fans to enter the ground earlier, the Principality expressed that they do not have any control over food or drink prices within the stadium. They believe there are some existing food and drink packages available as per other concert / sporting events.

Security was discussed in detail and FSF Cymru expressed concern that it took 90 minutes to enter the stadium at an event last year. GT said they expect 30-45 mins maximum entry into the ground so for us to encourage fans to arrive at least one hour before kick-off as mentioned above.

FSF Cymru asked about issues with bags at the Champions League final, GT said there are generally no bags allowed, those with small bags, such as handbags, will have to go to a separate queue for their bag to be x-rayed and searched. Those

without bags will enter the stadium much quicker and the advice is don't bring a bag unless it's essential.

South Wales Police said there will be a Pyrotechnics search and rather than the general rugby search with wands - there will be a pat down on all fans.

FSF Cymru asked if there can be more women to search our female fans. This will be looked at within the steward's allocation.

It was asked if the big screen could show any part of the game. We were told the match would not run live on the screens, but replays can be played as per UEFA guidelines but not for contentious decisions.

The FAW have paid the coach park fee to the council, where the coaches can now park alongside City Hall. These need to be booked through Adam Gilliatt in advance he can be contacted on adam.gilliatt@cardiffcityfc.co.uk, if you are coming by private coach and want free parking please get in touch with Adam ASAP.

There will be barriers at the railway station at the end of the game to filter supporters to correct locations. There are over 39,000 tickets already sold and there are estimates this will rise to 40-45,000, there are no Spanish fans allocated tickets but around 600 are expected at the stadium supporting Spain, probably UK-based.

Source: Meeting between FAW, FSF Cymru and Principality Stadium Management, Principality Stadium, 2:30pm 2nd October 2018.