

15. PITCH PERIMETER FENCE/WALL

A pitch perimeter fence/wall may not only delineate the playing area from the spectator accommodation but may have to serve as a crush barrier, or in some situations as a barrier to discourage or prevent access to the playing area except in an emergency.

214. The type, strength and height of a pitch perimeter fence or wall will vary according to its location and required function. At one extreme, at a certain type of ground or small stadium used by very few spectators, there may be no need for a perimeter fence or wall at all; or if such a wall or fence exists it may need to consist of little more than a rail to mark the playing area. At the other extreme, at some major soccer stadia, where restriction on crowd movement forms a necessary part of the safety measures, it may be necessary to have a fence which prevents access to the pitch in normal circumstances (see also Chapter 14, paragraph 209) but allows for access in emergency. Even at these grounds however specification of the pitch fence may vary for different parts of the ground.

215. For most major stadia, whether used for association football or other sports, the pitch perimeter fence will be required either to prevent access to the pitch as mentioned above, or at least to discourage attempts by spectators to enter the playing area. Gates or other access points (minimum width 1.1 metres) should nonetheless be provided for use in an emergency and, at those grounds where a perimeter track is used as part of the exit system, for the departure of spectators at the end of an event. Provision of such gates or access points is particularly important to allow full access to the playing area (or track) where it is likely to be used as a place of safety in an emergency. Such gates or access points should be properly stewarded and clearly marked so that immediate access to the playing area or perimeter track can be ensured.

216. If spectators can lean on the perimeter fence it should be deemed a crush barrier and fulfil the conditions of height and