The National Center for Spectator Sports Safety & Security (NCS4)

The University of Southern Mississippi
National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security

Vision

To become the Nation’s top academic resource center developing security infrastructure systems and processes that will model solutions supporting multiple sports venue environments
The National Center is the first academic institution in the United States building capabilities among those responsible for sports events and security management through research, education and outreach.

– U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
NCS$^4$ has been awarded over $9.4$ million in competitive grants from state and federal government agencies.

"Research conducted at the National Center has already paid off, identifying gaps in the education and training of current sports event management professionals."

— U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
Academic Programs

• Masters Degree in Sport Management with an emphasis in Sport Event Security Management
• Graduate Certificate in Sports Security Management
• National Sport Safety and Security Management Certificate Program
Scholarly Activity

• Nationally and internationally refereed journal publications
• Invited Presentations
• Textbooks:
  – *Security Management for Sports and Special Events*
  – *Sport Facility Operations Management: A Global Perspective*
National Training Programs

- Sport Event Risk Management
- Sports and Special Events Incident Management *
- Sport and Special Event Evacuation Training and Exercise

* Delivered in Collaboration with TEEX/NERRTC
SportEvac provides sport managers, decision makers, policy makers, and emergency response teams with a computer based modeling, simulation, and visualization training system to aid in their “what-if” scenario management, planning, and training.
Venue Staff Training Program

A new training course designed to enhance safety and security efforts by

• building security staff awareness
• improving sport security standards
• enhancing the capabilities of planning, emergency response, and evacuations

Available for Ushers, Ticket Takers, Gate Security, Parking Attendants and Guest Service Representatives. 

Coming Soon: Hospitality and Concessions
The Institute for the Study of Sports Incidents (ISSI) is the research and analysis unit of NCS$^4$. ISSI’s mission is to build the most comprehensive worldwide database of sport incidents involving spectators, while ensuring the appropriate protection, privacy, and security of incident information.
The National Sport Security Laboratory (NSSL) was established in 2010.

The lab’s mission is to advance sports security by serving as a focal point offering:

- Opportunities for security observation and practice
- Technology tests and experimentation
- Evaluations of feasible security solutions applicable to sports operations
National Sports Safety and Security Conference & Exhibition

An annual event dedicated to information sharing, best-practices and access to solution providers.

The gathering of top professionals in the field provides an environment dedicated to security/safety technologies, products, services, and education.
Interscholastic Athletics and After School Activities

• 11 million boys and girls participate in interscholastic athletics and after school activities

• 336 million fans attended high school games in football and boys and girls basketball
Interscholastic Athletic Events and After-School Activities

• Meeting held at NCS4 on November 2, 2012

• Attendees
  – National Federation of State High School Associations
  – National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
  – Mississippi High School Activities Association
  – Mississippi Office of Homeland Security
  – Five School Districts
Summit Findings

- Gaps related to Emergency Response Preparedness
- Evacuation/crowd management Capabilities
- Lack of education/Training

- Goal
  Build Safer, more Secure high schools and surrounding environments in support of sports and after-school events

- Objective
  Develop a Curriculum, Explore Vulnerability Assessment Tools, Test a Staff-Training Model and Introduce the Concept of Continuous Improvement
Mississippi Pilots

• Test Goals/Plans
  – Conduct vulnerability assessment
  – Conduct training for school district administrators
  – Conduct training for event staff
  – Develop materials to educate “Safety”
  – Develop accountability
  – Continuous improvement model

• Conducted pilots
  – Lamar County School District
  – Hancock County School District
  – Biloxi School District
Summary of Pilots
Common Issues

• Communication across organizations/stakeholders
• Training for event staff/workers
• Facility designs/layouts
• Developing/exercising emergency plans
• Crowd management and evacuations
• Screening process (persons, bag checks)
• Weather concerns
• Expectations for fans/attendee conduct
• Lack of human resources-more school resource officers
• Gap between local law enforcement and campus security
Action Steps
Support

- Mississippi High School Activities Association
- National Federation of State High School Associations
- National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
- Attended President Obama’s Meeting on “Now is the Time”
- Mississippi Association of Secondary School Principals
- National Sports Safety and Security Conference and Exhibition- Task Force Session
National Risk Management Training and Certification

• Standardize Sport/After-school Event Risk Management Practices for High Schools

Vulnerability Assessment
Training for Administration, Supervisors
Training for Event Staff
Educational Materials for Athletes, Parents and Spectators
Continuous Improvement Model
Methodology

• Modify Sport Event Risk Management Course, DHS/FEMA for online/onsite format
• Minimum of four representatives from each high school participate in course
• Select representative per district to coordinate continuous improvement model
• Representative trained at state high school association meetings (train-the-trainer workshops)
Next Step