

January 2013

Brendon Batson MBE reappointed to Sports Grounds Safety Authority

Hugh Robertson, the Minister for Sport and Tourism, has reappointed Brendon Batson MBE as a Board Member of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority for up to three years, from 8 January 2013.

Biographical details

Brendon Batson MBE

A former professional footballer, Mr Batson was Deputy Chief Executive at the Professional Footballers Association from 1984-2002. During this time, he chaired PFA Financial Management Ltd (1989-2002) and was a Director of PFA Enterprises (1990-2002). He was Managing Director at West Bromwich Albion plc from 2002-2003, and since then has been the Managing Director of Batson Sports Consultancy Ltd. He is also Chairman of the Professional Players Federation, and Chairman of Sporting Equals. He received the MBE in 2001 for services to football. He holds no other public appointments.

Background

The Sports Grounds Safety Authority was established to build on the success of the Football Licensing Authority, an independent public body set up under the Football Spectators Act 1989, and the critical role it played in transforming spectator safety at football grounds in the UK over the last 20 years. As the SGSA, its aim is to expand its advisory functions in relation to other sports and internationally. Its mission is to ensure that all spectators are able to attend sports grounds in safety, comfort and security. The Government has announced its intention abolish the SGSA using the powers of the Public Bodies Act 2011, and to transfer its statutory functions to another public body.

Board Members are appointed by the Secretary of State, and the process has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. Board members receive £255 per day worked, on the basis that they will devote approximately one day per month to the task.

All public appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for defined political activity in the last five years to be made public. Mr Batson has declared no such political activity.