



Understanding the needs and experiences of neurodiverse sports fans

If you would like this information sheet in large print, please contact us by emailing NDfans@natcen.ac.uk.

What is the research about?

The aim of the research is to understand the experiences of neurodivergent people when they attend sports events. This is in order to understand how services or facilities in stadia or sports grounds could be improved in order to be more inclusive of all fans.

To do this NatCen Social Research would like to speak to neurodiverse sports fans to understand their experiences and how experiences could be improved.

This could include anyone with:

- Autism
- ADHD
- Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, or Dyscalculia
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Developmental Language Disorder
- Other neurodevelopmental conditions

Who is carrying out the research?

The research is being carried out by [NatCen Social Research](#), Britain's leading independent research organisation, on behalf of SGSA and Level Playing Field. NatCen has over 50 years' experience of conducting high quality research in the fields of social and public policy.

The research has been commissioned by [Level Playing Field](#) and the [Sports Grounds Safety Authority](#) (SGSA) as the part of a project to re-write Accessibility Guidance for stadia and sports grounds.

What will taking part involve?

- Taking part will involve participating in an **online focus group in February 2021** using the video calling software Microsoft Teams. The focus group will last approximately **90-minutes** and be hosted by a NatCen researcher.
- Each focus group will include up to eight adult participants plus the NatCen researchers.
- During the discussion, you will take turns to speak about your experiences of attending different sports events in response to questions asked by the NatCen researcher.

If you do not feel comfortable speaking in a group setting, you have the option to take part in a **one-to-one telephone interview** with a NatCen researcher. The interviews will last up to **45-minutes**, at a date and time that suits you in February 2021.

To thank you for your time we will email you a £30 digital gift voucher after the discussion.

Carers and parents

We will also conduct a **focus group with parents and/or carers** of neurodivergent sports fans. This is for people, for instance children or those with complex needs, who may not be able to participate themselves. We will ask participants in this group to answer our questions on behalf of the person they care for. Please contact us using the email address NDfans@natcen.ac.uk if you would like to participate in this.

What will be discussed?

During the focus group or interview, we will ask you about:

- Your condition and how it affects you day-to-day
- Your experience of going to sport events (before March 2020), if any
- Anything that affected your experience, positively or negatively
- Suggestions for improvements

There are no right and wrong answers, we just want to hear about your experiences.

What information will I receive ahead of the session?

You will receive more detailed guidance from the research team ahead of the focus group or interview, including exactly what to expect on the day and instructions on how to use Microsoft Teams.

If you have any other questions, please contact the NatCen using the details provided below.

What support is available?

Please mention to the research team any specific needs you have that can be accommodated in the focus group or interview.

- All focus groups will include a **short break**, however you can arrange to have more regular breaks if required.
- You can also tell us if you want **someone else to be with you during the interview or focus group**, such as a friend, parent or carer.
- We can also send you a **video** to show you what attending an online focus group would be like.

How do I take part?

- 1) If you would like to take part, you can **email the NatCen research team directly** using this email address: NDfans@natcen.ac.uk.
- 2) **Or**, you can **tell the organisation or individual who has contacted you** that you would like to participate. By doing so, you will be agreeing for them to share your contact details securely with NatCen.

We will then contact you by telephone to ask you a few questions about yourself, the sports events you attend and anything you might need to help you participate in the study. This is to make sure we include a range of different people who attend different kinds of events. Since there haven't been many sports events happening recently, we'll check that you are happy to talk about events that happened before March 2020.

Unfortunately, as it's a small project, we may not be able to include everyone who wants to participate in the study. After asking you some questions, the researcher will tell you if we're able to include you and explain to you in more detail exactly what will happen next.

Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part, taking part is completely voluntary. If you do agree to take part, you can choose not to answer questions that you do not want to discuss.

If you change your mind and no longer want to take part in the focus group or interview, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting the research team.

What will happen to the information I give?

Everything you provide us will remain confidential, in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. This means we will not tell anyone what you have said.

With your permission, the focus groups and interviews will be **audio recorded** so we have an accurate record of what has been discussed. The recordings will be kept securely so that no-one apart from the research team at NatCen has access to it and they will be destroyed when the research study is finished. You can contact us to withdraw or clarify anything you have said for up to a fortnight after you have taken part.

We will write a **report about our main findings**. In the report we will not use any names or other identifying information about you. However, the organisation that contacted you about the research may know that you participated in the study.

What is the lawful basis for processing the data?

The lawful basis for processing your data is 'consent'. If you agree to take part in the study, NatCen will process your data only for the purpose of this research.

Contact the research team

If you have any questions about NatCen or about this study, please contact the research team at NDfans@natcen.ac.uk or 0207 549 7017. More information about project is available on our website: www.natcen.ac.uk/NDfans.

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