



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECTATOR SPORTS SAFETY AND SECURITY

Established in 2006, the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS⁴) is the nation's only academic center devoted to the study and practice of spectator sports safety and security.

NCS⁴TM



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI**

The NCS⁴ is located in the Trent Lott National Center at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM), a top-tier (R1) Carnegie classified institution for its very high research activity. The Center is partially funded by grants from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The NCS⁴'s strategic priorities are guided by a National Advisory Board and industry Advisory Committees.

Our Mission

We support the sports and entertainment industries through innovative research, training, and outreach programs. Our mission is realized by working closely with diverse organizations and subject matter experts to better understand the threat environment, identify vulnerabilities, communicate risk-mitigation techniques, and close capability gaps.

Our Vision

We will be a leading partner with government, private sector, and sports and entertainment organizations to create and deliver critical resources for enhancing safety and security.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The NCS⁴ offers national and international training and certification programs.

- ▶ A partnership with the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) National Emergency Response and Recovery Training Center (NERRTC), funded through FEMA, promotes in-person courses for multi-agency teams preparing for sports and special events. Courses focus on risk management, incident management, evacuation and protective measures, crisis communications, crowd management, and staff training and development.
- ▶ The Certified Sport Security Professional (CSSP) designation sets practitioners apart from other professionals. The certification is awarded to individuals who meet experience and education criteria and pass an exam relevant to sports safety and security management. Earning a CSSP validates knowledge in critical domain areas and demonstrates a commitment to professional development.
- ▶ **NCS⁴ LEARN** provides eLearning professional development opportunities for all staff levels, including frontline staff, supervisors, and organizational leaders. Organizations can enroll and monitor their teams in asynchronous and customizable learning experiences. The course catalog includes the following:
 - ▶ **Frontline Staff Foundational Skills** – introduces frontline staff members to the skills necessary for providing guests with a safe and enjoyable experience.
 - ▶ **Crowd Manager Fundamentals** – prepares venue staff to support crowd management needs and assist occupants.
 - ▶ **Venue Staff Training: Security Awareness** – enhances safety and security awareness among venue and event staff, providing a foundational understanding of safety and security principles for your organization to build upon.
 - ▶ **Senior Leader Course: Sports and Entertainment Security** – outlines security leadership fundamentals in business management, emergency management, planning considerations, legal and regulatory guidance, crowd management, and security procedures. This course is also recommended as a preparatory course for the CSSP examination.
- ▶ A webinar series covers current topics for educational and technology solution awareness.
- ▶ USM's nationally recognized College of Business and Economic Development offers academic degree and certificate programs in sports security management.

RESEARCH

The NCS⁴ applied research goals are accomplished through partnerships with industry professionals and academic programs.

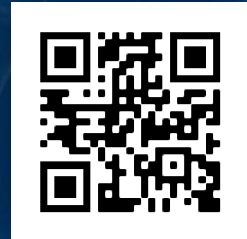
- ▶ The NCS⁴ staff, research affiliates, and colleagues nationally and internationally publish peer-reviewed articles and white papers and conduct workshops and conference presentations.
- ▶ Industry research reports are published on national surveys focused on spectator perceptions of safety and security and venue security directors' operational issues, emerging threats, and technology solutions.
- ▶ A research seminar series shares interdisciplinary research on sports safety and security topics with outcomes applicable to practitioners and academic stakeholders.

» OUTREACH AND RESOURCES

The NCS⁴ collaborates with professional associations, government agencies, academic entities, and the private sector to develop and deliver critical resources and networking opportunities, such as the following:

- An annual conference and exhibition attracts over 500 professionals, including exhibitors and sponsor companies representing all facets of the sport security industry.
- Industry forums are hosted for professional, entertainment, collegiate, high school, and marathon and endurance safety and security stakeholders.
- Best practices, guidelines, and considerations are published in collaboration with industry professionals, working groups, and government agencies, i.e., the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).
- The NCS⁴-sponsored *Gameday Security Magazine* and newsletters keep members abreast of industry trends, solutions, and available resources.
- NCS⁴ CONNECT is the membership platform for individual, corporate, and faculty/student members, permitting access to additional resources and industry contacts.

SCAN HERE OR VISIT
OUR WEBSITE TO
FIND OUT MORE!



NCS4.USM.EDU



» INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

The NCS⁴ strives to optimize the relationship between people, processes, and technologies through collaboration with industry and Technology Alliance partners. The ultimate goal is to connect the operational community with solutions capable of solving problems and increasing efficiencies.

- The Sports and Entertainment Technology Alliance is a consortium of individuals and organizations committed to spectator safety and security excellence through innovation. Members work alongside practitioners and the NCS⁴ to explore how people, processes, and technologies can best contribute to safety and security challenges in a meaningful way.
- The Operational Exercise program allows experts to observe and report on a product's stated capabilities (provided by the solution provider) in an operational or simulated environment.
- The Product Review program enables solution providers to interface with industry stakeholders to solicit feedback from target markets and potential customers related to their particular technology.

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