



## **NFL Public Safety & Stadium Access Policy** **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why did the NFL and its clubs adopt this policy?**

The League and clubs review their public safety and stadium security policies every year looking for ways to improve them. The Committee on Stadium Security and Fan Conduct leads this review and obtains a wide range of information to assist in doing so. The committee strongly believed that it made sense to adjust our policy to enhance public safety and make stadium access more efficient by limiting the size and style of bags carried into the stadium. This was reviewed with the clubs at the May League meeting and will be implemented by every team.

This proactive measure both will enhance safety inside and outside the stadium and speed the security screening process for all NFL fans. The public deserves to be in a safe, secure environment. This is about both safety and improving the overall fan experience.

### **Was the attack at the Boston Marathon factored into this decision?**

The tragedy in Boston was taken into account, certainly, but the NFL updates and improves their policy every year. It has evolved through the years to adjust to the realities of public safety. The NFL had been discussing a new approach to bag restrictions well before the Boston Marathon incident and has come up with a way to change it that will actually make access more convenient for fans than it has been.

### **Are other venues limiting bags?**

Yes. In fact, some like the University of Michigan, Penn State, and Michigan State University do not permit any bags. The pat downs and metal detector screenings of all individuals entering NFL stadiums provide an additional level of safety for fans. The limitations on bag size and style is a further enhancement for convenience and safety.

### **How does the new policy improve public safety?**

There will be a secondary perimeter around the stadium where security personnel will check for prohibited items or bags being carried toward the stadium so those situations can be corrected immediately. This establishes a protected buffer area for fans in plaza-level areas and at the queues for stadium entry. Prohibited bags will be turned away. Any prohibited bag inside the second perimeter will be highly visible and more quickly resolved.

The clear bag is easily and quickly searched and greatly reduces faulty bag searches. It also supports the Department of Homeland Security's *"If You See Something, Say Something"* campaign.

### **How does this make it more convenient for fans?**

The NFL's *ALL CLEAR* policy will enable us to move fans through our security check points even quicker. It will make checks much easier, allowing staff to be more efficient and effective with searches. There will be less time spent standing in lines at the stadium gates and fans will be able to get to their seats well before kickoff. Fans also will enjoy an improved sense of safety and shorter hassle-free lines.

### **What if I do not have a purse or bag of any kind?**

The Ravens are making 50% of their gate entries *"Express Lanes"* for those fans without bags. All the main gates (A, B, C, and D) will be half *"Express Lanes"* and half bag check lanes.

### **Will teams be selling team identified bags to fans?**

There are a variety of options, including a clear 12" by 6" by 12" bag with no commercial identification or an inexpensive Ziploc bag. In addition, fans may carry their own small clutches. For fans who wish to purchase Ravens logo bags, they will be available at all the team stores on game day (Sections 100, 105, 113, 121, 126, 134, 140, 146, 203, 227, 208, 507, 519, 534 and 546) as well as at [shop.baltimoreravens.com](http://shop.baltimoreravens.com).

### **How many bags can each person bring into the stadium?**

One large clear bag – either a one-gallon Ziploc style bag or the 12" by 6" by 12" clear bag – plus a small clutch. The larger clear bag must be a standard 12" by 6" by 12" made of clear PVC vinyl and is easily searched. The one-gallon Ziploc bag is readily available, inexpensive and easily searched. The small clutch allows privacy for small personal items and also is easily searched.

### **Can fans carry cameras, binoculars, smart phones or tablets separately from the clear bag?**

Yes. Binoculars or a phone or camera can be carried into the stadium so long as it is not in its own bag. This is not a restriction on items that fans have been able to bring into the stadium. It is only a restriction on the type of container used to carry items.

### **Are seat cushions allowed to be carried into the stadium?**

Seat cushions without a back or pocket are allowed as well as inflatable seat cushions. Seat cushions that are large in size and could be manipulated to conceal items are prohibited.



### **What about bringing blankets in cold weather?**

Fans will be able to bring blankets by tossing them over a shoulder or arm, making them easily screened by security personnel.

### **Why haven't more stadiums and arenas adopted this kind of policy?**

The NFL is the only professional sports league that has a comprehensive set of best practices for stadium security certified by the Department of Homeland Security as anti-terrorism technologies under the United States Safety Act. As such, other professional sports leagues look to the NFL as the leader in stadium and large venue security. Other stadiums have watched the NFL closely and followed, to the extent possible, security enhancements pioneered by the NFL. We anticipate that many more stadiums and arenas will soon adopt this policy.

### **What happens if I show up at the gate with a bag that is not permitted?**

Fans carrying bags that do not meet the criteria will be turned away from the stadium well before they reach the gates. Please note: Prohibited bags cannot be brought into the stadium empty to be utilized after being checked at the gates. Only clear bags and small clutches are allowed inside and outside the stadium.

### **If I have certain items that I need to bring into the stadium for medical reasons that won't fit in the clear bag, what do I do?**

An exception will be made for medically necessary items like oxygen tanks, medical devices and aids (colostomy bags, etc.) after proper inspection at the medically designated lines at all the main gates.