

Appendix 1 – Cage report

Cage Report for Sheffield Hallam University Track 4th July 2021

Report completed by:- David Smith - Level 2 official

Introduction

The Sheffield Hallam facility was used for the Northern Senior League held on 4th July 2021. On arrival at the track and inspection of the Schelde construction cage it was found that both curtain gates were inoperable due to the gate operation ropes being crossed.

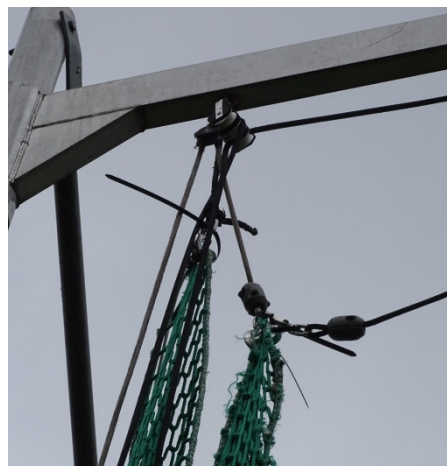
The left hand gate

This was quickly sorted by lowering the net and untangling the ropes such that the ropes moved through the pulleys without being twisted with adjoining ropes. It was also observed that the net forming the gate was too short such that the gate operation rope was being pulled down diagonal to connect to the net and not vertically down to form the mouth of the cage reducing its effectiveness. It can be clearly seen from the photo that the corner rope connection is incorrectly positioned causing excess tension in the gate netting and reducing the extent the gate can be closed.



Right Hand Gate

The right hand gate had similar issues with crossed ropes such that as the net had been raised the crossed ropes had become tightened against each other. We were unable to operate the gate for the left hand thrower or lower the net to sort out the problem.



Actions by Officials

To allow the competition to proceed, a risk assessment was carried out by the officials and mitigations were put in place for the lack of operation of the right hand gate for the left handed thrower. The athlete's distance was taken into consideration and the probability of the hammer reaching the track was extremely low. Additional measures were put in place to restrict access to that area of the track while the athlete was making his attempts.

Cage Gate Anchor Points

The cage gate anchor points have been changed from the original design and are now steel eye bolts which protrude above ground level by approx 40mm. The original ground fixings had problems with maintenance in keeping the holes free of dirt and debris but were generally close to the ground and were not a significant trip hazard. The new Eyebolts protrude above ground level such that a discus thrower tripped over the hazard at the weekend and has injured her knee.

At a minimum this hazard and the square concrete foundation should be painted yellow to highlight the hazard but I feel the design should be reviewed by EA and any changes completed by the installer free of charge



Cage Inspection

The cage has recently had a Track Mark inspection conducted by Sport and Play and the cage signed off safe to use.

Comment

If the officials looking after the event did not have experience of this type of issue it would have been likely the hammer event would have been cancelled.

The ground staff had little understanding of the problem but following discussions they committed to resolve the problems identified.

Identification of the trip hazards requires discussion with ground-staff to paint eyebolts and surrounding concrete. After the incident the officials placed small orange cones on the protruding anchor points to prevent any other athlete tripping over them when entering the cage.