



CSSP Leadership Spotlight



Billy Langenstein, CSSP
Director of Event Services
U.S. Bank Stadium

Billy Langenstein currently serves as the Director of Event Services with SMG at U.S. Bank Stadium. He is specifically responsible for security, public safety and emergency preparedness, medical services, transportation, guest experience and event oversight. Working closely with the Minnesota Vikings, MSFA and the entire community; his goal is to deliver a safe, clean and family experience at each event. U.S. Bank Stadium recently was awarded the SAFETY Act and successfully hosted Super Bowl LII.

Billy is a strong advocate of professional development and is one of the recent industry professionals to earn the Certified Sport Security Professional (CSSP) designation. Billy was introduced to the field of sports and entertainment industry at age 15 when he worked as a water boy for an event security and medical company based in Philadelphia, PA, supporting music and sports venues across the city. As his curiosity and passion for the business grew, he was given more opportunities to learn the field of security and event operations.

After graduating from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and earning a Master's degree in Sports Management from Georgetown University, Billy spent five seasons with the Washington Nationals as the Director of Event Operations where he was responsible for the day-to-day guest experience, parking and transportation, housekeeping and overall event set up and break down operations. Prior to joining the Nationals, he worked as an Operations Assistant with Live Nation assisting with the event operations and production at many of their music venues.

As an accomplished and up-and-coming industry professional, NCS4 was interested to know why Billy decided to pursue the CSSP. "I always look for ways to push myself and be the best I can be," said Billy, who acknowledged that obtaining a recognized and accredited certification would help support his continued professional and career development. He continued, "The certification also supports our organizational goals by displaying to our team members, guests, clients, and partner venues our commitment to securing our venue and creating policies, protocols, and operating plans for the duty of care we must have for everyone."

The CSSP program covers a set of core competencies essential to the sports security profession and provides professionals with a comprehensive understanding about all elements that go into securing an event or venue. The program covers a broad range of topics – including emergency management, event operations, security practices, and legal principles – that are vital to everyone working in the sports and entertainment industry. On a professional level, "The CSSP certification demonstrates professional competence and a level of dedication to the core values and attributes that are needed for successful safety and security programs and leadership," said Billy.

According to Billy, the CSSP exam is not easy “as it truly tests the core competencies and professional knowledge of an individual.” There are areas in each section that could present difficulty based on previous experiences and education. “Everyone will have a general knowledge in certain areas that they might work in daily, but there could be challenges in other areas that are not as familiar,” he said. If the opportunity presents itself, Billy suggests taking the NCS4 preparation class that is offered, saying, “The class was very beneficial as it helped me focus on important content and key topics that I would see on the exam. The instructors and material presented was extremely beneficial.”

Billy avidly seeks ongoing education opportunities to further and strengthen his knowledge and ability to grow in the business. He views the CSSP as a notable recognition for individuals who have furthered their skill set and responsibilities in their profession. Billy currently serves as a member of the NFL Stadium Security Committee led by NFL Chief and SVP of Security Cathy Lanier, the Chair of the Stadium Committee for the IAVM, member of the NCS4 Commercial Sport Facilities Advisory Committee, Advisory Panelist for the CSSP, and member of the Steering Committee for the SIA. He is a Board Member for the Minneapolis Police Activities League and a Master Trainer for Team Coalition. He was awarded the *20 under 40* award by Security Systems News and is the recipient of the NCS4 *Industry Leader under 40* award for both the MLB and NFL.