

CSSP Highlight



Richard Fenton

Vice President for Corporate Security, Safety and Investigations.

Ilitch Holdings

Richard Fenton, Vice President for Corporate Security, Safety and Investigations, Ilitch Holdings, is the most recent leading industry professional to earn the Certified Sport Security Professional (CSSP) designation. Fenton has over 15 years of experience in professional sports and security management and presently oversees corporate security and safety functions across all of the Ilitch companies, which include the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Red Wings.

Fenton served more than 27 years with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department in Detroit and retired in 2000 as Executive Commander. His strong influence in safety and security planning for the state is apparent, having served on the State of Michigan Fusion Center (MIOC) Advisory Board, the Michigan Infrastructure Coordinating Committee and the Detroit Southeastern Michigan Intelligence Information Center (DSEMIIC) Advisory Board. He also led agency efforts to certify the police department through CALEA and other certification processes. He views professional certifications as a way to enhance both the industry and industry-leaders.

Fenton is an advocate for the CSSP and other professional certifications saying, "On a professional level, it is a recognition that individuals holding certification have mastered a body of work in demonstrated competencies consistent with their responsibilities in the profession. Personally, it is a reflection that you take your responsibilities seriously and in successfully obtaining this certification, it is a reflection of your professional competency." Fenton also holds professional certifications as an American Red Cross First Aid Instructor, Law Enforcement Instructor in the State of Michigan, and SRT & Rapid Deployment Certification.

NCS4 asked Fenton about what he found to be most challenging on the CSSP exam. He reports that, "Everyone taking the exam will find areas that are a natural fit based on their previously completed education and work experience." However, "In many instances, there were two possible answers to questions that could possibly fit, but the applicant would really need to know the material in order to choose the correct answer." Fenton and his CSSP certified colleague, Brad Piros, both participated in the CSSP Review Course before applying for the certification and found the instructors and materials discussed extremely helpful in preparation for the exam.

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Ilitch Holdings is the first sports organization to have two individuals obtain the CSSP credential. The company considers the CSSP program to be important to personal growth for its Operational Executive Staff and intends to make the certification an ongoing component of staff development.

Currently, Fenton chairs the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security National Advisory Board. He is a participant on a number of Department of Homeland Security “working groups” focused on developing best practice standards for various aspects of professional sport venue/facility security including screening, staff background investigations and Safety Act compliance. Rick Fenton still periodically teaches at Eastern Michigan University in their Criminal Justice and Sports Management programs and spends his free time enjoying his three (3) grandchildren. Breadth

If you are interested in learning more about the CSSP Certification, please contact Elizabeth Voorhees at 601-266-6099 or visit www.ncs4.com/cssp