

CERTIFIED SPORT SECURITY PROFESSIONAL

NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPECTATOR SPORTS SAFETY AND SECURITY



CSSP Highlight:

Michael Patten

Assistant Chief of Police

Yale University

To advance industry standards for professionals working in the field of sports safety and security, the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4) developed and launched the Certified Sport Security Professional (CSSP) certification program. Among the premier group of industry professionals to earn the CSSP credential is Michael Patten, Assistant Chief of Police at Yale University. We asked Chief Patten to share his experience and involvement working in sports safety and security at the collegiate level from a law enforcement perspective and inform our readers of the value certification holds for sport security practitioners.

Patten has worked in law enforcement for the past forty years serving municipal, transportation and university police departments. The majority of his career has been spent in uniformed operations and administration. He has extensive experience as a law enforcement trainer in firearms, incident management and emergency preparedness and specialized as a SWAT operator and commander supervising bomb squad personnel. Chief Patten has been with the Yale University Police Department for 23 years and has worked extensively in sports safety and security throughout his career.

Chief Patten recently received the CSSP designation. We asked him to respond to a few questions to provide our readers with some insight about the benefits of certification.

1) What motivated you to pursue the CSSP certification?

I believe that the field of sports safety and security requires a unique skill set and I recognized the need for standardized credentials for practitioners.

2) In what ways do you think certification benefits you personally and professionally?

I believe it is a personal and professional accomplishment. The certification shows a certain degree of knowledge and experience which is required to attain certification.

3) In what ways do you think certification benefits your institution (department and/or University)?

I believe certification shows the level of commitment of the individual to the profession and benefits the institution through continuing education and collaboration with other practitioners.

4) What part of the CSSP certification exam did you find most challenging?

For me, the most challenging part of the exam was facilities management since most of my prior knowledge and experience has been in law enforcement and emergency management.

5) What other certifications do you hold?

Certified police officer, firearms instructor and police instructor.

6) Please list any other personal interests (hobbies, pastimes, or other professional development activities) that you would like our readers to know about you.

I have always been interested in and participated in sports throughout my life as a player and later as a coach and official. I am currently a certified baseball umpire and now enjoy watching my grandsons participate in sports.

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.