OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

Rides at winter events: when riders make the ride unsafe

Swings collided on a fair ride in Georgia, three people went to hospital from a fair in Rotherham, and how to brief, watch and stop the rides at your winter event

Correct as of 9 November 2026

SUMMARY

Rider conduct is a risk you can plan for.

3 hurt when swings collided [1]



A person raises a hand towards a moving chair swing ride in mist. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

OTAS

The facts, as reported

3

hurt when swings collided [1]

3

to hospital from
a Rotherham fair [3]

2.5 m

swing out height to enclose [9]

What was reported

GEORGIA, 7 NOVEMBER

- Swings collided as it slowed [1]
- Deputies: seats held after warnings [1][2]
- Parents at the control panel [1]

ROTHERHAM AND LOUISIANA

- Three to hospital, cause not public [3]
- Tub door open in motion [6]
- How it opened not proved [7]

The gate

Rules given every cycle



An attendant stands at the gate of an empty chair swing ride at night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

02

Scope of this Insight

WHAT IT COVERS	WHAT IT DOES NOT
Rides at your event	The cause of any incident
Rider conduct and the stop	Ride design or engineering
The first ten minutes	Legal advice

03

What UK guidance says

DUTY AND CHECKS

- Promoter keeps the site duty [9]
- Current DOC and insurance [9]
- Stewards do not run rides [9]

RIDER CONDUCT

- Ignoring rules can be foreseeable [9]
- Notices and PA back the rules [9]
- Stop the ride if needed [9]



The operator

Clear view, clear authority

A hand rests on a ride control desk beside a red stop button. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

Paperwork before build up

FOR EACH RIDE	AND
DOC checked online [17]	Rider rules
Insurance [21]	Getting riders off [9]
Risk assessment [9]	Named controller

05

Who owns what

ROLES	NOT
Organiser: whole site [9]	Stewards on controls [9]
Controller: the ride [9]	Spectators at the panel
Operator: the stop [9]	Two rides, one operator [9]
Steward: the public [9]	

06

From a rule to a stopped ride

1 Rules given

2 Rider warned

3 Ride stopped

4 Rider removed

5 Logged and reported

OTAS guidance, drawing on HSG175 paras 285, 286 and 321 [9].



The queue

Where the rules are set

People queue along a barrier at a lit wheel ride at night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

07

Signs a ride is running beyond its controls

OTAS guidance, drawn from the reports and HSG175.

01 Rules only on a sign

02 Warnings without a stop

03 Operator cannot see it all

04 Crowd at the controls

05 No plan after a stop

08

Stop the ride triggers

RIDER CONDUCT

- Instruction ignored [9]
- Restraints interfered with [9]
- Crowding at the gate [9]

RIDE AND WEATHER

- Noise or vibration [9]
- Wind, rain, lightning [9]
- Anyone hurt or distressed [9]

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Five stages, from the booking to the incident



STAGE 1

Book

DOC, insurance, rules

STAGE 2

Lay out

Space and access lane

STAGE 3

Brief

Every day, every ride

STAGE 4

Watch

Walk the rides

STAGE 5

Respond

Stop, clear, close

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.



The access lane

Kept clear for an ambulance

A steward with a radio stands in a clear lane between barriers. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

What to do at each level

Operational	Tactical	Strategic
Rules at the gate	Agree the stop	Check every ride
Tell the operator	Walk the rides	Plan the access lane
Keep the controls clear	Brief the first ten minutes	Name who decides

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Readiness

BEFORE OPENING

- DOC checked for every ride
- Access lane walked
- Stop signal tested
- Brief given

DURING AND AFTER

- Walk the rides
- Watch the weather
- Log and debrief

“

Do not start the device unless you have positive confirmation that it is safe to do so.

HSE, HSG175, paragraph 320 [9]

Where the facts come from

1	WRDW News 12, teens forced Columbia County fair ride swing out of control, 7 November 2026	wrdw.com
2	CBS Newspath via Local 12, Georgia fair swing ride disrupted, teens charged, 8 November 2026	local12.com
3	BBC News, children and woman injured on fairground ride, Maltby, 12 September 2026	bbc.com
4	Greatest Hits Radio South Yorkshire, officers respond to injuries at Maltby Crags Fair, September 2026	hellorayo.co.uk
5	WBRZ, both girls thrown from Ferris wheel in New Roads recovering at home, November 2025	wbrz.com
6	WBRZ, state fire marshal to change inspection protocol after New Roads Ferris wheel accident, 12 November 2025	wbrz.com
7	WAFB, documents outline potential reason for New Roads Ferris wheel incident, 4 May 2026	wafb.com

Where the facts come from

8	WAFB, New Roads Ferris wheel incident drives Louisiana carnival ride safety reform, 8 April 2026	wafb.com
9	HSE, HSG175 Fairgrounds and amusement parks: Guidance on safe practice, third edition, 2017	hse.gov.uk
10	HSE, HSG175 publication page	hse.gov.uk
11	HSE, fair organisers	hse.gov.uk
12	HSE, employers of fairground ride controllers	hse.gov.uk
13	HSE, safety of members of the public on fairground rides	hse.gov.uk
14	HSE, keeping children safe at fairgrounds	hse.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

15	**HSE, event safety, amusements and attractions**	hse.gov.uk
16	**HSE, event safety, put crowd controls in place**	hse.gov.uk
17	**ADIPS, check a DOC**	adips.co.uk
18	**ADIPS, frequently asked questions**	adips.co.uk
19	**The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain, fairground safety**	showmensguild.co.uk
20	**The Purple Guide, amusements, attractions and promotional displays**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
21	**Dover District Council, event planning, fairground and amusement rides**	dover.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

22 **NAFLIC, National Association for Leisure Industry Certification** naflic.co.uk

23 **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, section 41, public entertainment licences** legislation.gov.uk

Web sources opened 9 November 2026 and labelled with their publisher.

OVER TO YOU

If a rider ignored your attendant tonight, would your operator stop the ride, or wait for the cycle to end?

If you need support with planning rides and attractions at your winter event, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

OTAS Live Ltd.

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