



Tobacco Free Policy

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE **Football Ontario** is committed to providing a healthy environment for participants, volunteers and spectators involved with our organization. We recognize that there is significant evidence demonstrating the negative health impacts of tobacco use and exposure (including second-hand smoke from the use of tobacco indoors and exposure to drifting smoke outdoors) and that no level of tobacco exposure is safe. We also recognize that children and youth gain positive images of tobacco use when they see role-models, leaders and individuals that they respect using tobacco.

COMMITMENT We believe that *football is a sport* that promotes physical activity and healthy living. Players, coaches and volunteers involved in our *organization* have a responsibility to model positive health behaviour with regard to tobacco use.

POLICY Activities including but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, events (e.g., fundraising) and other performances sanctioned by our organization will be tobacco-free. **Definition:** Tobacco-free means that the use of tobacco by players/ participants, coaches/leaders, parents/caregivers, spectators and officials is prohibited during all activities sanctioned or engaged in by our organization. *Tobacco products include:* cigarettes, cigars, pipes, cigarillos, tobacco chew, plug, or snuff, hookah, bidis and kreteks.

SCOPE AND LOCATION *Football Ontario's* tobacco-free policy will apply to all activities including, but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, events (e.g., fundraising) and other performances sanctioned by our organization. Locations for each of these activities will vary, however our policy will apply to all locations while *Football Ontario* sanctioned activity is ongoing.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION We will promote the tobacco-free policy at all our activities by:

- Providing a copy of the policy and explaining it to coaching staff. Coaching staff will explain the policy to parents/caregivers.
- Reviewing and sharing the policy with other organizations/groups who may attend or participate in our activities.
- Including the policy in all orientation and information packages provided to coaches, officials, players, members, volunteers and teams/organizations attending or participating in our activities and/ or using our facilities.
- Making the policy visible throughout the year using various channels/opportunities including information on our website, banners/signage at events and encouraging coaches and all players to promote a tobacco-free lifestyle.

POLICY ENFORCEMENT We will enforce the tobacco-free policy to ensure that all those attending and participating in *Football Ontario's* activities has access to a tobacco-free environment. **We will use the following steps to enforce our policy:**

- 1.** Post signs about our policy where our activities take place, using signs, banners and include in information materials available at the activity.
- 2.** Encourage our coaches, players/members, officials and volunteers to respectfully remind individuals using tobacco at *Ontario Football Alliance* activities about the tobacco-free policy.
- 3.** Provide one verbal warning to individuals who repeatedly do not follow the policy. Verbal warning will be delivered by an official representative of *Football Ontario* including member of the executive, (referee), team coach or manager. *Football Ontario* representative will inform the *Ontario Football Alliance* executive about the verbal warning including the date, location and name of the individual who was warned.
- 4.** The Executive will provide a formal written warning to the individual. Following a written warning, the individual violating the policy again may be brought to *Football Ontario* for disciplinary actions which could include being banned from all *Football Ontario* events.

