



Tobacco-Free Policy

Effective Date: May 1st, 2010
Dated: April 24th, 2010
Signature: Aaron MacGillivray
Position: Board Chair

Commitment:

Guelph Soccer recognizes that there is ample research demonstrating the health hazards of the use of tobacco products, including smoking and the breathing of secondhand smoke. Soccer is a healthy sport and as such we have a responsibility to the players, participants and the community to demonstrate healthy choices. Guelph Soccer has therefore developed this policy in the best interest of the health & safety of the players, participants, and the general public.

Policy:

All games, activities, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, events and other performances sanctioned by our organization will be tobacco-free. Tobacco free means no smoking, snuffing, dipping, or chewing tobacco by players/participants, coaches/leaders, parents, spectators and officials within 9 metres (30 ft.) of any Guelph Soccer activity.

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

- Having coaches explain the policy to players/members and provide parents with a letter to review and share with others who may come to their game, practice or tournament.
- Including the policy in the startup package provided to coaches every year so all new and returning participants, their parents/guardians, coaches and officials/managers know about the policy from the start.
- Making the policy visible throughout the year using various messages, including a page on the website, banners/signs at events, and encouraging coaches and all players to promote an active, healthy, tobacco-free lifestyle.

We will reinforce the tobacco-free policy at all our activities by:

- Encouraging all coaches, players/members, and parents to respectfully remind someone using tobacco about the tobacco-free policy.
- Consistently applying consequences with people who repeatedly break the policy – repeated violations by players/members, parents/guardian, spectators or coaches may result in a verbal or written warning from the association executive. Following a written warning the individual violating the policy again may be brought to the Club for disciplinary actions which could include being banned from all Guelph Soccer events.

Note: Under the Smoker-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), smoking, or holding lit tobacco, is banned on all elementary & secondary school properties in Ontario.