



Collingwood United Soccer Club

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Tobacco Free Policy

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Background

The Collingwood United Soccer Club 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 industry products 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 being tobacco free when they see role models, leaders, coaches and individuals modeling and respecting tobacco-free living. A tobacco-free environment is important to keep youth from trying, and using, tobacco industry products.

Commitment

We believe that soccer is a sport that promotes physical activity and healthy living and is not compatible with tobacco industry product use. Tobacco industry products use in all its forms is considered the single most preventable cause of premature death and disease in Canada. Our organization has a responsibility to provide a healthy environment for all those involved in our sport, and to model positive health behaviour with regard to tobacco use.

Policy

Activities including but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, festivals, practices, training sessions, events and other performances sanctioned by our organization will be tobacco-free. The use of all tobacco industry products by players, volunteers, officials, coaches, leaders and spectators is prohibited during any organization-sanctioned events. Our organization will not accept funding from the tobacco industry.

Definitions

Tobacco-free means no smoking, snuffing, dipping or chewing tobacco industry products by players/participants, coaches/leaders, parents, spectators and officials within 9 metres (30 ft.) radius of any Collingwood United Soccer Club activity. This policy will also include Cannabis as per our Cannabis policy.

Scope and Location

The Collingwood United Soccer Club tobacco-free policy will apply to all activities including but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, festivals, practices, training sessions, events (e.g., fundraising, meetings, press conferences, etc.) and other performances sanctioned by our organization. Locations for each of the activities may vary, however our policy will apply to all locations while the Collingwood United Soccer Club sanctioned event is ongoing.

Policy Enforcement

We will enforce the tobacco-free policy to ensure that all those attending and participating in the Collingwood United Soccer Club'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 information materials available at the activity.
2. Train our coaches, players/members, officials and volunteers on how to inform individuals who may be using tobacco about the Collingwood United Soccer Club's tobacco-free policy.
3. Encourage our coaches, players/members, officials and volunteers to respectfully remind individuals using tobacco at Collingwood United Soccer Club activities about the tobacco-free policy.
4. Provide one verbal warning to individuals who repeatedly do not follow the policy. Verbal warning will be delivered by an official representation of the Collingwood United Soccer Club such as member of the executive, official (referee), team coach or manager. The Collingwood United Soccer Club representative will inform the Collingwood United Soccer Club Office Administrator about the verbal warning including the date, location and name of the individual who was warned.

For individuals not heeding a verbal warning, the executive will provide a formal written warning. Following a written warning, further violation may result in disciplinary actions, which could include being banned from all Collingwood United Soccer Club events.

The Collingwood United Soccer Club Board of Directors will review this policy annually.

This policy was adapted from policies and materials from the Play, Live, Be...Tobacco-Free Guide, Elements of Tobacco-Free Policy, the OSA Policy, the Blenheim Community Soccer League, Guelph Soccer and the Central East Tobacco Coordinating Area Network, The Barrie Soccer Club.