

# Geelong Soccer & Sports Club Smoke Free Policy



1 March 2018

## LEGISLATION

Legislation and the legal duty of care provide clear reasons to have smoke free areas at sporting clubs.

Going partially smoke free will help our club comply with these responsibilities and provide a healthier club environment.

- **The Tobacco Act 1987 (VIC):** bans smoking in indoor workplaces and within 10 metres of an outdoor public sporting venue during an organised underage sporting event or training session. Playgrounds are also now permanently smoke free. In addition, from 1 August 2017, it will be illegal to use electronic cigarettes in legislated smoke free areas.
- **Common law:** the club has a legal duty to ensure that employees, volunteers, members, spectators, players, officials and visitors are not exposed to potentially harmful situations.
- **Role modelling:** can have a significant impact on the junior members of the club. A smoke free policy can make smoking less visible and less socially acceptable, whilst creating a healthier and more attractive environment for new members and sponsors.
- **Effects on others:** Second hand smoke is considered irritating and harmful to the health of other people, even when outdoors. Children may be at risk of swallowing discarded cigarette butts, which may cause symptoms of nicotine poisoning such as vomiting.
- **Smoke free areas:** may support people who are trying to quit or reduce their cigarette consumption. They also help reduce cigarette butt litter and reduce fire risks.

Accordingly, the following smoke free policy has been developed by Geelong Soccer & Sports Club.

## WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE POLICY?

The policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players, spectators, visitors and volunteers of the Geelong Soccer & Sports Club.

## TIMING

The policy is effective from 1 March 2018.

## SMOKE FREE AREAS

The Geelong Soccer & Sports Club requires the entire area of our Club premises and grounds to be smoke free, with the exception of a single designated smoking area located at the east side of the clubroom towards the back of the main car park. Area to be marked out.

This smoke free areas includes:

- all indoor areas;
- all outdoor playing/training/dining/drinking areas;
- spectator viewing areas;
- car parks; and
- in vehicles that are within the boundary of the sporting ground.

Smoke free areas will be clearly signed and promoted in club materials. Smokers will need to use the designated smoking area to smoke. This ensures that everyone who attends the event will be able to play or watch in a smoke free environment.

## POSITION ON ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Electronic cigarettes may be harmful to users and to those exposed to second hand vapour. In addition, the use of electronic cigarettes may give children and young adults the impression that smoking is a normal or desirable behaviour.

This policy therefore applies to both electronic cigarettes and traditional cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes are not permitted to be used in any of the smoke free areas referred to in this policy.

## REMOVING THE SOCIAL NORM OF SMOKING FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS

Members and guests of *[name of club]* are to refrain from smoking in smoke free areas including at away games.

Smoking is prohibited in all smoke free areas. Smoking is allowed in the designated smoking area.

## FOLLOWING THE POLICY

There is strong community support for banning smoking at public places regularly attended by children. This means most people will voluntarily comply with the smoking ban and expect others to do so. Please note that committee members and volunteers will not be expected to *enforce* the new policy and may not be empowered to do so although they may still approach someone who is not following the policy.

When approaching a person who is smoking in a non-smoking area:

1. assume that the person is unaware of the policy
2. politely ask them to move to the designated smoking area and remind them about the policy.

## SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The Geelong Soccer & Sports Club will not sell tobacco products.

## POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. This will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.