



SMOKE-FREE SPORTS POLICY

Doc. No.	BCSA-POL-012
Rev.	0
Originator:	D. Hawkins
Checker	I. Toellner
Approver:	C. Craig
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Sport and recreation organizations play a vital role in the health and well-being of our communities. Participation in sport and recreation activities not only benefits one's physical health through physical activity, it also contributes to psychological health, through feelings of accomplishment and a sense of belonging that comes from being part of a team or club.

The air we breathe has a great impact on our health and a participant's physical abilities. Cigarettes and other tobacco industry products counteract the health benefits gained by participating in sport and recreation activities. Exposure to second-hand smoke also puts one's health at risk since there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke.

Big Country Soccer Association has developed this policy in the best interest of the health and safety of the players, participants, and the public as well as to support the Canadian **"Respect in Sport"** requirements for establishing a safe and healthy environment for youth soccer in Big Country Soccer Association.

Policy

The smoking of plant-based products, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, or any similar device including snuffing, dipping, or chewing tobacco by players, team and game personnel including coaches, athletic trainers, managers, game officials and spectators is prohibited. This applies to all practices, training, and game sites and is considered to begin upon arrival and ends when one leaves. This also includes all soccer related activities such as team functions, fundraisers, banquets, clinics, and special events regardless of location.

Furthermore, no spectator shall smoke within 20m of any player, team bench, or sideline; failure to comply could result in their removal from the game or practice.

We promote the Smoke-Free Policy for all our activities by:

1. Making the Big Country Soccer Association member communities, coaches/ team personnel, game officials and parents, aware of the Smoke-Free policy at the start of each season through annual communications through the Big Country Soccer Association website and social media news-blasts.
2. Having coaches explain the policy to players/ members and parents/ guardians and ask them to explain the policy to others who may come to their activities.
3. Making the policy visible throughout the year using various messaging methods:
 - Promoting through our Association's Social Medias and including in our news-blasts to our members.
 - Parental self-monitoring to ensure that youth engaged in the sport of soccer are doing so in a safe and healthy manner.

We will reinforce the smoke-free policy at all our activities by encouraging all team personnel, players, spectators, and parents/ guardians to respectfully encourage any individual who is violating the policy to voluntarily comply with the policy prohibitions.



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**Help protect
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