



Fact Sheet For Recreation Organizations

This fact sheet is specific to sport and recreation organizations that have an existing commitment to tobacco-free sport and recreation with a policy, and that use or rent Ontario school property. For information about developing an overall tobacco-free sport and recreation policy, see the steps on how to develop policy in the Play, Live, Be... Tobacco-free Guide.

Smoking or holding “lit” tobacco anywhere – indoors or out – on all public and private school property, anytime, in Ontario is banned in Ontario under the *Smoke-free Ontario Act* (SFOA). This law includes:

- All playing fields on any school property
- Any vehicles parked, or coming onto school property
- Smoking by anyone – parents, visitors, students, spectators

The legislation is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week. While it applies to lit tobacco, use of chew tobacco is strongly discouraged. The fine for smoking on school property is \$305. The local Public Health Unit is responsible for enforcing the law, however every organization that uses school property has a role to play in ensuring that children and youth are protected from second-hand smoke, and that individuals using school facilities and property understand and comply with the law.

TFSR POLICIES

Many organizational TFSR policies exceed the restrictions put in place by the SFOA because these bans include all types of tobacco use, not just smoking or holding “lit” tobacco (typically cigarettes, cigars, or pipes). The SFOA is an important tool that supports TFSR policies, but not as extensive as most organizational TFSR policies. Enforcement of TFSR policies on school properties should include the SFOA as part of the overall enforcement plan.

USING SCHOOL PROPERTY? WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Make sure staff, volunteers, coaches, officials and participants know that smoking is not permitted on school property. Most people will follow the law when they know about it. Your organization can:

1. Include school properties that are used by your sport/recreation group in information you share about your existing tobacco-free policy (for example coaches’ information package, participant’s registration package, website, etc.).
2. Ensure that announcements before/during games are made at games that take place on school property.
3. Prior to using school property, visit the location and check the visibility of required signs. Often, the signs are limited to the building and/or parking area and do not make explicit that all school property (including playing fields) are covered by the law. Discuss with school/board representatives your organization’s need/requirement for signage.
4. If signage is not adequate or explicit on school property that is used by your organization, use “temporary signage” (for example, banners) that can highlight the tobacco-free policy while your organization uses the property. This temporary signage can also be used at tournaments/other activities to highlight your tobacco-free policy.

ENFORCING TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL PROPERTY USED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION

If your organization rents or uses school property, enforce your tobacco-free policy on school property using the same mechanisms as those used generally, however, you can include information about the *Smoke-free Ontario Act* to support your tobacco-free property with regards to smoking. Consider including the following phrases in your organization’s enforcement policy:

- The *Smoke-free Ontario Act* bans smoking, or holding, lit tobacco on all Ontario school property, including playing fields. Individuals who are found smoking on Ontario school property can receive a fine of \$305.
- Where there are repeated infractions of the *[organization’s name]* tobacco-free policy on school property, the Executive will contact the *[name of local public health unit]* to attend activities on school property and enforce the SFOA.