



## **Guelph Soccer Smoke Free Policy**

### **Purpose and Commitment**

Guelph Soccer recognizes that there is ample research demonstrating the health hazards from exposure to smoke, potential contaminants generated by smoke from electronic cigarettes and the breathing of second-hand smoke. Soccer is a healthy sport and as such we have a responsibility to all players, participants, volunteers and the community to demonstrate healthy choices. Guelph Soccer has developed this policy in the best interest of the health and safety of all players, participants, volunteers and the public at large.

### **Policy**

All games, activities, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, and events sanctioned by our organization will be smoke-free. The smoking of plant-based products, electronic cigarettes or any similar device including snuffing, dipping, or chewing tobacco by players/participants, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators and officials within 9 metres (30 feet) of any Guelph Soccer activity is prohibited.

We will promote the smoke-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 manuals provided to coaches/managers every year so that all new and returning participants, their parents/guardians, coaches and officials are aware of the policy.

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

- Encouraging all coaches, players/Members, spectators and parents/guardians to respectfully encourage any individual who is violating the policy to voluntarily comply with the policy prohibitions.
- Consistently applying consequences to individuals who repeatedly violate the policy - repeated violations by players/Members, parents/guardians, spectators or coaches/managers may result in a verbal or written warning from Guelph Soccer.
- Following a written warning, the individual violating the policy again may be brought to the Club for disciplinary action 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.