



# **NORTHCOTE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

## **NJFC Smoke Free Policy**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to make the Northcote Junior Football Club and its environs smoke free and to comply with current legislation

### **Rationale**

The Northcote Junior Football Club (NJFC) has recognised that passive smoking (inhaling second-hand smoke) is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected from tobacco smoke. Passive smoking can lead to other serious illnesses such as bronchitis, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and chest illnesses in children.

Accordingly the following policy has been developed by the NJFC to help protect our members and visitors health and complement the NJFC's desire to create a healthy family friendly environment. The NJFC believes that such an environment and image will be advantageous in attracting new members and positively promoting the club in the community.

Legislation and the legal duty of care also provide reasons to have a SmokeFree club. Under common law the NJFC has a legal duty of care to ensure that employees, volunteers, players and officials are not exposed to potentially harmful situations. The Occupational Health and Safety Act also stipulates that employees and working volunteers must have a safe environment to work in.

### **Who is affected by the policy**

This policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players and visitors of the NJFC.

### **Timing**

This policy is effective from 1st April 2014

### **New laws**

From 1st April 2014, under the *Tobacco Act 1987* smoking is prohibited within 10 metres of outdoor public children's playground equipment, skate parks and sporting venues during organised underage sporting events, as well as in the outdoor areas of public swimming pools. This includes training or practice sessions.

The ban also applies to outdoor dining and drinking areas within 10 meters of an outdoor public sporting venue.

For more information:

- visit [www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms)
- call the Tobacco Information Line on 1300 136 775

To view the legislation visit <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/> and search Tobacco Act 1987

Further information can be found by clicking the following link:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms/smoke-free-children-rec-areas/index.htm>

The NJFC recognizes its responsibilities in the relation to the new laws and will, within reason, encourage compliance by any person attending our facilities.

## **Designated smoke free areas**

In accordance with the new laws, the following areas are Smoke Free:

- Areas within 10 meters of the playing arenas
- Within 10 metres in front of the club rooms.
- All areas within the Club rooms
- Administration and office areas
- Changing rooms
- Toilet blocks
- Playing areas
- Eating areas
- Near entries and exits of buildings, facilities, and the ground

The following picture shows the no smoking areas (shaded)



Picture modified from <http://www.ga.gov.au/search/index.html>

## **Behavioural expectations**

The NJFC recognises that role modelling can have a significant impact upon the junior members of the club. Hence, the following individuals and groups are to refrain from smoking while they are acting in an official capacity for the club or while in club uniform:

- Coaches (when coaching or representing the club)

- Trainers (when training players or representing the club)
- Officials (when representing the club)
- Volunteers (when representing the club)
- Players (when in uniform and representing the club)

Coaches and trainers will also speak to junior players about the effects of smoking on performance.

## **Promotion of the policy**

The following mediums will remind patrons about the NJFC's Smoke Free Policy:

- Non-smoking signs
- Club correspondence (newsletters etc)
- Club website

## **How will the ban be enforced?**

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.

Inspectors authorised under the Tobacco Act 1987 may provide information about and, when necessary, enforce the ban. The first priority of the inspector is to make sure smokers understand the ban. Inspectors may not be available to respond to every complaint, but where circumstances allow, may attend in response.

## **What penalties might apply?**

The maximum penalty for someone breaking this law is five penalty units, with an infringement penalty of one penalty unit. As at 1 July 2013, a penalty unit is valued at \$144.36

## **Non-compliance strategy**

The following four-step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches the NJFC's Smoke Free Policy.

1. Assume that the person is unaware of the Smoke Free Policy.
2. The person will be reminded that it is now illegal to smoke with 10 meters of the playing areas and other areas as indicated in this policy and that fines can apply.
3. A club representative will approach the person breaching the policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking and remind them about the Smoke Free Policy. There are leaflets that explain the new laws available in the store room to hand out to people breaching the policy.
4. If the offence continues the club may notify the relevant inspectors authorised to enforce the ban.

## **Sale of tobacco products**

The NJFC will refrain from selling tobacco products.

## **Policy review**

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