



Smoke Free Policy – June 2025

The purpose of this policy is to make the Northcote Junior Football Club and its environs smoke free and to comply with 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, in accordance with Victorian Department of Health guidelines, to help protect the health of our members and visitors and complement the NJFC's desire to create a healthy family friendly environment.¹

Scope

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

Designated smoke free areas

The NJFC recognises its responsibilities in relation to smoke free legislation and will, within reason, encourage compliance by any person attending our facilities.

In accordance with legislation, the following areas are Smoke Free:

- The playing areas and areas within 10 meters of the playing arenas
- Within 10 metres in front of the club rooms
- All areas within the Club rooms including change rooms, and toilets
- Eating areas
- Near entries and exits of buildings, facilities, and the ground. The following picture shows the no smoking areas (shaded)

¹ <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/tobacco-reform/under-age-sporting-events-smoke-free-and-vape-free>



Behaviour expectations

The NJFC recognises that role modeling 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.

The following four-step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches this policy:

1. Assume that the person is unaware of the Smoke Free Policy.
2. 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.
3. The person will be reminded that it is illegal to smoke within 10 meters of the playing areas and other areas as indicated in this 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 not under any circumstances sell or promote tobacco products.

Last updated: June 2025

This version supersedes the former version of this policy/code of conduct.