

Tobacco-Free Policy

Background and Rationale

The Pembroke Minor Hockey Association (PMHA) is committed to providing a healthy environment for participants, volunteers and spectators involved with our organization. We recognize that there is significant evidence demonstrating the negative health impacts of tobacco industry products use and exposure (including second-hand smoke from the use of tobacco indoors and exposure to drifting smoke outdoors) and that no level of tobacco exposure is safe. We also recognize that children and youth gain positive images of being tobacco free when they see role models, leaders and individuals modelling and respecting tobacco-free living. A tobacco-free environment is important to keep youth from trying, and using, tobacco industry products.

Commitment

We believe that hockey is a sport that promotes physical activity and healthy living and is not compatible with tobacco industry product use. Tobacco industry product use in all its forms is considered the single most preventable cause of premature death and disease in Canada. Our organization has a responsibility to provide a healthy environment for all those involved in our sport, and to model positive health behaviour with regard to tobacco use.

Policy

Activities including but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, events and other performances sanctioned by our organization will be tobacco-free. The use of all tobacco industry products by players, volunteers, officials, coaches, leaders and spectators is prohibited during any organization-sanctioned events. Our organization will not accept funding from the tobacco industry.

Definitions:

Tobacco-free means no smoking, snuffing, dipping, or chewing tobacco industry products by players/participants, coaches/leaders, parents, spectators and officials within 9 metres¹ (30 ft.) radius of any *PMHA* activity.

Tobacco industry products include any form of lit or unlit cigarette, cigarillos, cigar, pipe, bidi, hookah, clove cigarette or spit (smokeless) tobacco.

Scope and Location

The PMHA tobacco-free policy will apply to all activities including, but not limited to, games, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, events (e.g., fundraising, meetings, press conferences, etc.) and other performances sanctioned by our organization. Locations for each of the activities may vary, however our policy will apply to all locations while the PMHA sanctioned event is ongoing.

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Policy Implementation

We will promote the tobacco-free policy at all our activities by:

- Providing a copy of the policy in all orientation and information packages for coaches, players/members, officials and volunteers. Coaching staff will explain the policy to parents / caregivers.
- Reviewing and sharing the policy with other organizations / groups who may attend or participate in our events / facilities.
- Making the policy visible throughout the year using various channels / opportunities including information on our website, banners / signage at events and encouraging coaches and all players to promote an active, healthy lifestyle free of the use of tobacco industry products.

Policy Enforcement

We will enforce the tobacco-free policy to ensure that all those attending and participating in the PMHA's activities has access to a tobacco-free environment.

We will use the following steps to enforce our policy:

1. Post signs about our policy where our activities take place, using signs, banners and include in information materials available at the activity
2. Train our coaches, players / members, officials and volunteers on how to inform individuals who may be using tobacco about the PMHA's tobacco-free policy
3. Encourage our coaches, players / members, officials and volunteers to respectfully remind individuals using tobacco at PMHA activities about the tobacco-free policy
4. Provide one verbal warning to individuals who repeatedly do not follow the policy. Verbal warning will be delivered by an official representative of the PMHA such as member of the executive, official (referee), team coach or manager. The PMHA representative will inform the PMHA executive about the verbal warning including the date, location and name of the individual who was warned.
5. For individuals not heeding a verbal warning, the executive will provide a formal written warning. Following a written warning, further violation may result in disciplinary actions which could include being banned from all PMHA events.

Policy Approval

This policy will be reviewed by the PMHA Executive Committee annually.

Policy Approved by PMHA

Policy Approved on: *October 19, 2011*

Policy Revised:

ⁱThe 9 meter radius is consistent with the Ontario regulation associated with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act which prohibits smoking within 9 meters of health care facilities.