



Tobacco-free Policy

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Ottawa Jr67's AAA Hockey Club 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 use and exposure (including smokeless tobacco products and 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 youth gain positive images of tobacco use when they see role-models, leaders and individuals that they respect using tobacco.

COMMITMENT

We believe that hockey is a healthy sporting activity that promotes physical activity, good mental health, social wellness and healthy living. Players, team officials, board members, development program consultants, families and volunteers involved with our Club have a responsibility to model positive health behaviour with regard to tobacco use.

POLICY

Activities including but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, events (e.g., fundraising) and other performances sanctioned by our organization will be tobacco-free.

Definition: Tobacco-free means that the use of tobacco products by players/ participants, coaches/leaders, parents/caregivers, spectators and officials is prohibited during all activities sanctioned or engaged in by our organization.

Tobacco products include: cigarettes, cigars, pipes, cigarillos, tobacco chew, plug, or snuff, snus, hookah, bidis and kreteks.

SCOPE AND LOCATION

The Ottawa Jr 67's AAA Hockey Club tobacco-free policy will apply to all activities including, but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, special events (e.g. ceremonies, fundraising) and other events sanctioned by our organization. Locations for each of these activities will vary, however our policy will apply to all locations while the sanctioned activity is ongoing.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

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

- The Club Tobacco Free policy will be introduced to players and families annually during registration night;
- Each Board member, Team Official, Player/Family, Training Consultant and volunteer with the Club will sign a Tobacco Free pledge form (annually) and will honour the Tobacco Free policy;
- Team Officials will promote a Tobacco Free environment;
- Each player will promote the Tobacco Free campaign by wearing the "Play, Live, Be Tobacco Free" patch on the Away Jersey (left arm above the number);
- The Board will incorporate the Tobacco Free policy into registration material and contracts (i.e. coach, consultants); and
- Annually, at the Ottawa Jr 67's Day, a space will be provided to Ottawa Public Health to promote the Tobacco Free message and provide other healthy lifestyle messages.

POLICY ENFORCEMENT

We will enforce the tobacco-free policy to ensure that all those attending and participating in the Ottawa Jr 67's AAA Hockey Club'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. Encourage our coaches, players/members, officials and volunteers to respectfully remind individuals using tobacco at Club activities about the tobacco-free policy.
3. Provide one verbal warning to individuals who repeatedly do not follow the policy. Verbal warning will be delivered by an official representative of the Club including member of the Board, team coach or manager. The team official/representative will inform the VP Operations about the verbal warning including the date, location and name of the individual who was warned.
4. Should an additional warning be required for a subsequent action outside of the policy, the Discipline Chair (VP Operations) will provide a formal written warning to the individual. Following a written warning, the individual violating the policy again may be brought to the Board for disciplinary actions which could include being banned from all Club events.

POLICY APPROVAL

This policy will be reviewed by the VP Operations annually.

Approved: Jan 2013

Revised: (date)

References:

www.playlivebetobaccofree.ca - A Guide for Developing Tobacco-free Sport and Recreation Policies and By-laws

Appendix 1: Participant's Pledge Form