

RVBA SmokeFree Policy

Rationale

The RVBA (Royal Victorian Bowls Associations) recognises that exposure of non-smokers to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (passive smoking) is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected. Passive smoking is associated with a number of serious illnesses in adults, such as bronchitis, lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. Children also have an increased risk of developing respiratory illness and asthma from exposure to tobacco smoke. Accordingly, the Royal Victorian Bowls Association has formulated the following policy to apply to all RVBA facilities, functions and activities. This policy applies to all administrators, members, officials, coaches, players and visitors of the Association when representing the RVBA or attending any RVBA facilities, functions or events.

The RVBA acknowledges its leadership role in the sport of Lawn Bowls and aims to be seen as being a good role model for affiliated Associations and clubs. The continued support to be Smoke Free also complements the Royal Victorian Bowls Associations desire to create a healthy family and community friendly environment. The RVBA anticipates that such an environment and image will be advantageous in attracting new members and positively promoting our sport.

Legislation and the legal duty of care also provide clear reasons to have a SmokeFree association/club. Under common law, Associations/Clubs have a legal duty of care to ensure that employees, volunteer; 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.

Benefits of Being SmokeFree

- Healthy community image of your club or association is developed.
- Reduced risk of legal action from employees, patrons, spectators and participants.
- Attract community support and sponsors, as well as to encourage new members.
- SmokeFree behaviour influences juniors within the environment and allows for positive role models to be created.
- A safer and cleaner environment is created.
- Protect non-smokers from the dangers of other people's tobacco smoke.



Facilities

- All RVBA administration and office areas to be 100% smokefree.
- All greens of play for RVBA events to be 100% smokefree.
- All Change Rooms and Toilets in Clubs to be 100% smokefree.
- All clubs/licensed premises will be 100% smokefree at all times.
- Smoking will also be prohibited in an outdoor dining or drinking area (e.g. a balcony or courtyard) if the area has a roof in place and the total actual area of the wall surfaces exceeds 75% of the total notional wall area.
- Cigarettes will not be sold (including vending machines) at any venue (excluding gaming areas) of where a RVBA event is held.

Functions

- All official RVBA functions (including dinners, fund-raising events, meetings and Social occasions) to be 100% smokefree.
- Invitations, menus, promotional material, etc; to reinforce the smokefree status of the RVBA event.
- Ashtrays will be removed from function rooms when RVBA functions are held.
- Cigarette butt bins will be provided at doorway entrances, encouraging smokers to dispose of cigarettes before entering indoor areas. (However, it is encouraged for smoking to be prohibited on the premises to ensure that a safe and clean environment be created at all times).

RVBA Representatives

- RVBA representative players will refrain from smoking whilst on the green.
- RVBA representative staff, coaches, and officials will be encouraged to remain smokefree whilst acting as an official representative of the RVBA.

Education/Training

A commitment by the RVBA to encourage all Clubs to continue to support and implement the SmokeFree Policy that is currently in place.

Promotion/Communication

Signage will assist in reinforcing a SmokeFree message at functions and indoor/outdoor areas.



Non-Compliance

The following five step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches the (*name of club*)'s smokefree policy.

- 1.** Assume that the person is unaware of the smokefree policy.
- 2.** A staff member or club representative will approach the person breaching the policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking and remind them about the smokefree policy.
- 3.** If the offence continues, then the most senior staff member or most senior club representative will verbally warn them again and hand over a formally written letter. The offending patron must also be made aware that if they don't stop smoking then they will be required to leave the club's facility. The letter will outline the (*name of club*)'s policy on smoking and state that if the patron continues to breach the policy then he/she will be asked to leave. The club's management committee will sign the letter. This letter will be pre-written and kept both behind the bar and in the club secretary's office so that copies are readily available.
- 4.** If the offence does continue, then the patron will be escorted out of the facility by staff and/or senior club representatives.
- 5.** Under no circumstances should the (*name of club*)'s smokefree policy be breached.

Sale of Tobacco Products

The (*name of club*) will refrain from selling tobacco products.

Junior Sport

The following steps will be continued to be taken to ensure that all junior sport under the control of (*name of club*) is conducted in a 100% smokefree environment.

- All coaching courses will continue to highlight the importance of role modelling SmokeFree behaviour to junior members
- All junior competitions and events will continue to be 100% SmokeFree. This includes all indoor and outdoor playing areas.
- Well known elite athletes within the sport will be utilised as smokefree role models.

Policy Review

The policy will be continued to be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with Quit Victoria and the RVBA. This will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.

