



Ontario Soccer Association Adopts a Tobacco-Free Policy

The Ontario Soccer Association received a Play, Live, Be Tobacco-Free Seed Grant in the summer of 2010 to support their two-pronged approach to introducing a tobacco-free policy. Firstly, all Ontario Cup, Futsal Cup and Indoor Cup games will become tobacco-free and secondly, tobacco-free team policies will be developed as part of their Club Excellence Award criteria.

Matthew Greenwood, Special Projects Coordinator stated “The focus right now is on education. The policy isn't intended to isolate smokers from a sport they love. The emphasis is on raising awareness and politely requesting that users of tobacco products move away from the area of play and that the centre of all our decisions should be on what's best for the participants.”

Beginning this winter with the Indoor Cup and Futsal Cup, no person will be allowed to use tobacco products within a nine meter distance of the field of play. This will also apply at the outdoor Ontario Cup 2011, where Club Development Team members will monitor the introduction of the policy across soccer pitches in Ontario. The policy will safeguard over 11,000 athletes and countless spectators from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, sets a good example for youth and will help prevent them from starting to use tobacco products.

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