**GEELONG SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

**SMOKE FREE POLICY – APRIL 2012**

**Rationale**

The Geelong Softball Association recognises that role modelling can have a significant impact upon the junior members of the club and smokefree areas make smoking less visible and less socially acceptable. The Geelong Softball Association Inc. believes that such an environment and image will be advantageous in attracting new members as well as positively promoting the club in the community.

The Geelong Softball Association Inc. recognises that exposure of non-smokers to environmental tobacco smoke is irritating and hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected. Even in outdoor areas, where people tend to congregate, the presence of people smoking can present a health risk to non-smokers. There is also evidence to suggest that smokefree areas support smokers who are trying to quit as well as reduce their overall cigarette consumption.

The Geelong Softball Association Inc. also recognises that outdoor smokefree areas help to reduce the amount of cigarette butt litter and provide a substantial cost saving through reduced clean up costs and reduced fire risk. Discarded cigarette butts pose a risk to children’s health due to swallowing discarded cigarette butts, which has the potential to cause vomiting and other symptoms of nicotine poisoning.

Legislation and the legal duty of care also provide clear reasons to have a smokefree club. Under common law the Geelong Softball Association Inc. has a legal duty to ensure that employees, volunteers, members, players, officials and visitors are not exposed to potentially harmful situations.

Occupational health and safety legislation requires employers to keep workplaces they are in charge of safe and without risk to the health of any person.

Accordingly, the following policy has been developed by the Geelong Softball Association Inc.

**Who is affected by the policy**

This policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players, visitors and volunteers of the Geelong Softball Association Inc.

**Timing**

This policy is effective from 12 April 2012.

**Smokefree areas**

The Geelong Softball Association Inc. requires the following areas of Stead Park Corio to be smokefree:

* all indoor areas (Victorian legislation states that enclosed workplaces must be smokefree)
* club and social rooms
* administration and office areas
* changing rooms
* toilet blocks
* spectator viewing areas
* playing areas
* eating areas
* grandstands and spectator viewing areas
* near open windows (ten metre radius around open windows)
* near entries and exits of buildings, facilities and the ground (ten metre radius).
* all spectator areas during junior (16 years and under) events
* Smokefree areas will be clearly signed and promoted in club materials.

**De-normalising smoking for junior players**

Members of the Geelong Softball Association Inc. are to refrain from smoking while they are acting in an official capacity for the club or while in club uniform.

**Supporting members who smoke**

Geelong Softball Association Inc. will promote the Quitline and Quit courses on club materials.

**Non-compliance strategy**

The following five-step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches the Geelong Softball Association’s smokefree policy:

1. Assume that the person is unaware of the smokefree policy.
2. A club representative will approach the person breaching the policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking [or move to a smoking area] and remind them about the smokefree policy.
3. If the offence continues, the offending patron must be made aware that if they don’t stop smoking then they will be required to leave the sporting ground/facility. The most senior staff member or most senior club representative present should verbally warn them, and if possible, hand over a formally written letter. The pre-written letter will be pre-signed by the management committee and kept on the premises so that copies are readily available. It will outline the Geelong Softball Association’s policy on smoking and state that if the patron continues to breach the policy then s/he will be asked to leave.
4. If the offending continues, then the patron will be escorted off the ground/facility by staff and/or a senior club representative.
5. Under no circumstance should the Geelong Softball Association’s smokefree policy be breached.

**Sale of Tobacco Products**

The Geelong Softball Association Inc. will refrain from selling tobacco products.

Club officials will refrain from supplying tobacco products to young people and children.

**Policy review**

This policy will be reviewed yearly after its introduction and then on an annual basis thereafter. This will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.

*(Taken from QUIT Victoria resource in development)*