



## SMOKEFREE POLICY



### RATIONALE

AFL Victoria recognises that exposure of non-smokers to tobacco smoke (passive smoking) is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected. Passive smoking can lead to serious illnesses in adults such as bronchitis, lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. Children can also develop chest illnesses and asthma from exposure to tobacco smoke. Accordingly the following policy has been developed by Football Victoria to protect the health of all concerned.

The TAC Cup competition acknowledges its leadership role in the sport of Australian football and aims to be a good role model for affiliated clubs. The move to go SmokeFree also complements the TAC Cup competition's desire to create a healthy family and community friendly environment. AFL Victoria believes 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 environment in our competition. Under common law AFL Victoria has a legal duty of care to ensure that employees, volunteers, 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. Victorian legislation also states that enclosed dining areas must be SmokeFree.

### WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE POLICY

This policy applies to all TAC Cup members, administrators, officials, coaches, players, visitors and volunteers of the TAC Cup competition. This policy also applies when these groups are representing the TAC Cup competition or attending any TAC Cup facilities, functions, or events such as State and National Championships.

### TIMING

This policy is effective from January, 2002.

### FACILITIES

The following facilities and areas are to be designated SmokeFree:

- Administration and office areas
- All change rooms and toilet blocks at the AFL Victoria's headquarters
- Indoor spectator viewing areas at the MCG
- All eating areas at the MCG

## **FUNCTIONS**

All official TAC Cup functions will be 100% SmokeFree. Such functions include:

- Dinners
- Fund-raising events
- Prize givings
- Meetings
- Social occasions
- Any other event or function

## **ADVERTISING MEDIUMS**

The following mediums will remind patrons about the TAC Cup's SmokeFree policy:

- Non-smoking signs
- Invitations
- Dinner menus
- Announcements
- Function speeches

Ashtrays will be removed from function rooms where TAC Cup functions will be held.

Cigarette butt bins will be provided outside to encourage smokers who smoke in outside smoking areas, to dispose of their butts appropriately.

## **REPRESENTATIVES**

The following TAC Cup representatives are to refrain from smoking while in uniform and/or while acting in an official capacity for the TAC Cup competition.

- Staff
- Officials
- Volunteers
- Representative players
- Coaches
- Trainers

## **NON-COMPLIANCE STRATEGY**

The following five step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches the TAC Cup's SmokeFree policy.

Assume that the person is unaware of the SmokeFree policy.

A TAC Cup representative will approach the person breaching the policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking and remind them about the SmokeFree policy.

If the offence continues then the most senior official or most senior 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 facility. The letter will outline the TAC Cup's policy on smoking and state that if the patron continues to breach the policy then he/she will be asked to leave. The TAC Cup's

management committee will sign off on the letter. This letter will be pre-written and kept ready for use at TAC Cup's headquarters and at functions and events.

If the offence does continue then the patron will be escorted out of the facility by staff and/or a senior association/league representative.

Under no circumstances should the TAC Cup's SmokeFree policy be breached, no matter who the offender is.

#### **SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Tobacco products will not be sold at any of the facilities or events under the direct control of TAC Cup clubs.

#### **AFFILIATED CLUBS**

The TAC Cup will actively encourage and support its affiliated clubs to also be SmokeFree.

#### **JUNIOR SPORT**

The following steps will be taken to ensure that all junior sport under the control of the TAC Cup is conducted in a 100% SmokeFree environment.

- All coaching courses will highlight the importance of role modelling SmokeFree behaviour to junior members
- All affiliated clubs will be required to have all junior competitions and events 100% SmokeFree. This includes all indoor and outdoor playing areas
- All junior events and competitions directly sanctioned by the TAC Cup will 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 reviewed six months after its introduction and then on an annual basis thereafter. Doing this will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.