

Rathburn Area Youth Tobacco-Free Policy

Rathburn Area Youth (RAY) 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 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 children and youth gain positive images of tobacco use when they see role-models, leaders and individuals who they respect using tobacco.

COMMITMENT

We believe that basketball is a healthy sport that promotes physical activity and healthy living. Players, coaches and volunteer involved in our RAY basketball program have a responsibility to model positive health behavior with regard to tobacco use. In addition, it is against the law in Toronto and Ontario to smoke on sport fields and at entrances and exits of public buildings.

POLICY

All activities including, but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, practice, training sessions, events (e.g. fundraising) and other performances sanctioned by our organization will be tobacco-free. Furthermore, our organization will not associate its activities with any tobacco industry promotion/activities.

Definition: Tobacco-free means that the use of tobacco 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, waterpipe/hookah, bidis, electronic cigarettes and kreteks.

SCOPE AND LOCATION

Rathburn Area Youth's tobacco-free policy will apply to all activities including, but not limited to games, tournaments, competitions, practices, training sessions, events (e.g. fundraising) and other performances sanctioned by our organization. Locations for each of these activities will vary; however, the policy will apply to all locations while our sanctioned activity is taking place.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

We will promote the tobacco-free policy at all of our activities as follows:

- Provide a copy of the policy and an explanation to coaching staff/leaders. Coaching staff/leaders will explain the policy to parents/caregivers.
- Review and share the policy with other organizations/groups who may participate in our activities.

- Include the policy in all orientation and information packages provided to coaches, officials, players, members, volunteers and teams/organizations attending or participating in our activities and/or using our facilities.

- Make the policy visible throughout the year using various channels/opportunities including information on our website, banners/signage at events and encouraging coaches and all players to promote a tobacco-free lifestyle.

POLICY ENFORCEMENT

We will enforce the tobacco-free policy to ensure that all those attending and participating in Rathburn Area Youth's activities have access to a tobacco-free environment.

We will use the following steps to enforce our policy:

1. Post information about the policy where our activities take place, using signs, banners and promote it in other materials available at the activity.
2. Encourage our coaches, players/members, officials and volunteers to respectfully remind individuals using tobacco at Rathburn Area Youth (RAY) 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 RAY such as a member of the executive, referee, team coach or manager. The official representative will inform RAY about the verbal warning including date, location and name of the individual who was warned.
4. The official representative will provide a formal written warning to the individual. Following a written warning, the individual violating the policy again may be brought to the attention of RAY for future disciplinary actions.

POLICY APPROVAL

The policy will be reviewed by Rathburn Area Youth Council/Members annually.

Approved by:



Russ Ford, Executive Director
LAMP CHC

Policy approved: Date: September 28, 2016

Policy Revised: N/A