



Smoke-Free Ontario Act

How the Act Affects: Sporting Areas

Sporting Areas

Starting January 1, 2015, smoking is no longer allowed at publicly-owned outdoor sporting areas, spectator areas, sporting areas and public areas within 20 metres of any point of the edge of the sporting or spectator areas.

This applies to spaces:

- owned by the province, a municipality, colleges and universities,
- used primarily for sports, such as soccer, football, basketball, beach volleyball or skateboarding (with the exception of golf),
- open to the public whether or not a fee is charged to enter.

Owner Responsibilities

The Act requires owners and operators of these sporting areas to ensure that smoking laws are respected. They are required to:

- Give notice to the public that smoking is not allowed in smoke-free areas.
- Post “no smoking” signs at entrances and exits to the smoke-free areas, in appropriate locations and in sufficient numbers to ensure that the public is aware that smoking is not allowed.
- Ensure that people do not smoke in the smoke-free areas.
- Ensure that someone who refuses to comply with Ontario’s smoking laws does not remain in the smoke-free area.

Penalties

Anyone caught smoking on or around these sporting areas may be charged with an offence, and if convicted could face a maximum fine of \$1,000 (for a first offence) or \$5,000 (for any further offence).

The owner or operator of a sporting area who fails to fulfill their responsibilities under the law may be charged with an offence, and if convicted, could face a maximum fine:

- For individuals: \$1,000 (for a first offence) or \$5,000 (for any further offence)
- For owners: \$100,000 (for a first offence) or \$300,000 (for any further offence).