



# Smoke-Free Ontario Act

## How the Act Affects: Sporting Areas

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### The Basics

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* prohibits smoking tobacco in any enclosed workplace, any enclosed public places and certain outdoor places in Ontario.

### 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.

### Enforcement

Local public health units will carry out inspections and respond to complaints regarding smoking on and around sporting areas.

## 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).

This fact sheet is intended as a quick reference only and should not be considered to be legal advice. For more information, please contact your local public health unit.

You can also obtain information by calling toll-free:

- **INFOline** 1-866-532-3161
- **TTY** 1-800-387-5559

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For specific information on smoking laws in and around sporting areas, contact your local [Public Health Unit](#).

For more information on the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, please visit the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website: [ontario.ca/smokefree](http://ontario.ca/smokefree)