

Provincial Smoking Law for Sports Fields

Smoke-Free Ontario Act prohibiting smoking As of January 1, 2015 the province of Ontario passed legislation prohibiting smoking on sports fields and playgrounds. The goal is to reduce the number of children who start smoking and to protect everyone from second-hand smoke. Smoking is no longer permitted within 20 meters of sport fields and surfaces that are publicly owned. "Publicly-owned" means sporting areas owned by the municipality or city, the province or a post-secondary school. Examples of sports fields include areas for soccer, basketball, baseball, football, skateboarding, tennis, splash pads and swimming pools. **Participants, spectators, parents and coaches must be 20 metres past the perimeter of the sport area and spectator area to smoke.** In addition, it is illegal to smoke on children's playgrounds and 20 metres beyond the playground perimeter. Playgrounds that are part of a residential location such as condominiums, apartment buildings and campgrounds are not included in the smoking ban. Smoke-Free Ontario Act signs will be posted in prohibited locations.