



POLICY NO. 5	POLICY TITLE: Tobacco Products, Alcohol and Drugs Policy
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Policy 5- Tobacco Products, Alcohol and Drugs Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support and promote the Hamilton Challenger Sports Association (HSCAA) commitment to fostering a healthy, safe, and positive environment for all participants, volunteers, and spectators. This policy sets clear expectations regarding the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and drugs.

Scope and Application

This Smoking Policy applies to all coaches, volunteers, players/participants and parents/guardians of players/participants involved in any HCSA event or function, program, game, practice, or related activity.

Prohibited Activities

All coaches, volunteers, parents/guardians, players/participants, spectators, and executive members must refrain from the following at any time during HCSA activities and on the property where HCSA hosts programming:

1. Smoking any form of tobacco or cannabis
2. Vaping or using an electronic cigarette
3. Using or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including cannabis or other mood-altering substances
4. Possessing alcohol or illegal substances at any HCSA event or facility
5. Attending any HCSA event or function under the influence of any of the above substances

Owner and Operator Responsibilities

In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, HCSA and its facility partners are responsible for:

- Posting clear signage that indicates smoking and vaping are prohibited
- Informing participants and visitors of this policy prior to and during the programming season
- Ensuring compliance by addressing violations and involving appropriate authorities if needed
- Removing ashtrays or similar devices from smoke-free and vape-free areas
- Reporting ongoing non-compliance to local Public Health Units

Enforcement and Penalties

Coaches, Volunteers and Players/Participants

- Violation: Immediate removal from the event and suspension from attending future events pending a HCSA disciplinary review

Executive Members

- Violation: Immediate removal from the HCSA Board for any abuse of tobacco, vaping, alcohol, or drug policies

Legal Enforcement and Fines

Under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, individuals and organizations may face legal penalties:

Individuals

- Smoking/Vaping in prohibited areas: Up to \$1,000 (first offence) and \$5,000 (subsequent offences)

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:

Penalties

Municipalities enforce penalties for violations of smoking policies. Individuals are solely responsible for any penalties incurred.

Approved by Board, Nov12,2025