

# Smoking ban during organised under-18 sporting events

## Fact sheet for sporting organisations

From 1 September 2016 smoking is banned within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas during an organised under-18 sporting event in Queensland.

### Where does the ban apply?

Smoking is prohibited on land within 10 metres (about two car lengths) of viewing and playing areas during an organised under-18 sporting event. This includes training or practice sessions to prepare for an organised under-18 sporting event, and any breaks or intervals during the event.

### Why does the ban exist?

**The law protects children and young people from the dangers of second-hand smoke.**

Under-18 sporting events attract families with children and young people. The ban offers further protection to the Queensland public—and in particular, children and young adults—from exposure to harmful second-hand smoke.

Children's health is particularly affected by smoke, with exposure increasing the risk of ear infections, respiratory illness and asthma.

**The law also reduces the adult role modeling of smoking around children and young people.**

Children and young people are more likely to view smoking as socially acceptable when they regularly see people smoking.

Banning smoking in areas used by children and young people will help to make smoking less visible and discourages young people from taking up smoking.

### What is considered an under-18 sporting event?

Under this law an 'organised under-18 sporting event' is:

- organised in advance
- organised or intended for, or predominately participated in by, persons under 18
- conducted by a professional or amateur sporting body or educational institution.

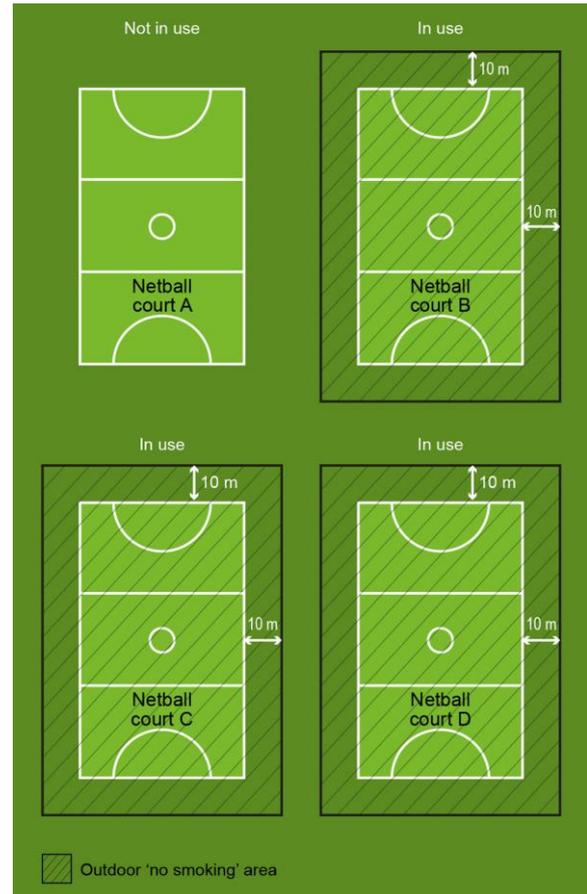
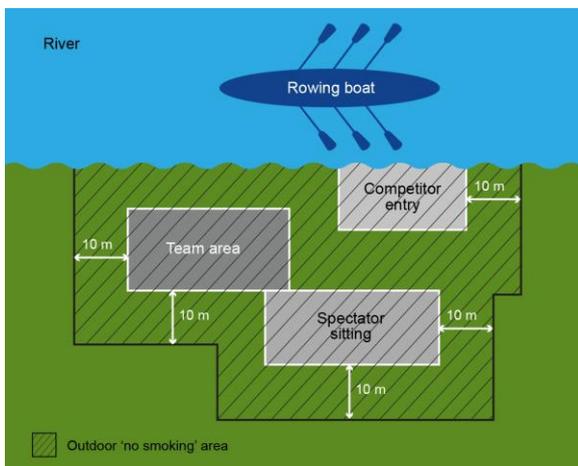
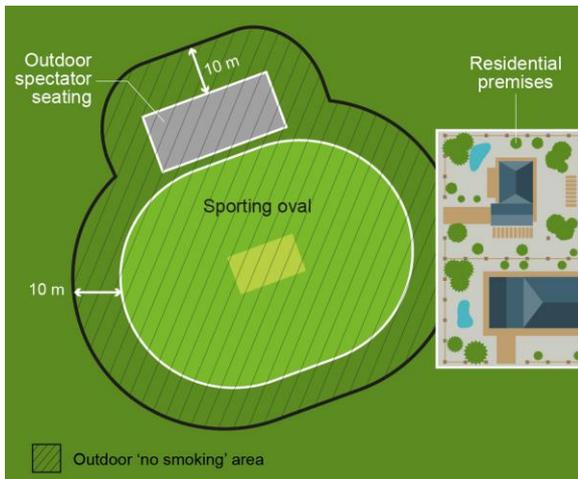
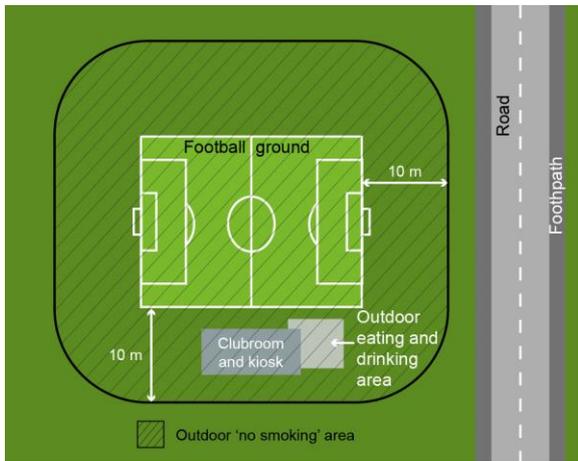
### What are the viewing and playing areas?

These can include:

- a court, field or oval marked for use to play 1 or more sports (e.g. a soccer field, a cricket oval, a tennis or basketball court)
- a running track
- a racing track for bicycles
- a textured surface used for athletics
- any area, seating or other structure provided for persons to observe players and competitors at the playing area
- any area reserved for players, competitors, umpires or other officials for a game being played at the playing area
- any waiting or warm-up area for players or competitors waiting to enter the playing area.

For example, if there are courts or ovals next to one another, the sporting ground is considered to be the court/s or oval/s where the actual under-18 sporting event is taking place.

These diagrams show examples of where the ban applies.



## How will I know when the ban applies?

The smoking ban applies when an under-18 sporting event is taking place. To help you determine whether an under-18 sporting event is taking place, consider whether:

- children under 18 years old are playing in a match, game, or other event conducted by an amateur or professional sporting body or educational institution
- participants are wearing sporting uniforms
- there is supervision that may consist of coaching, officiating or umpiring of under-18 people
- a whistle, siren or other alert is used to indicate the match, game or event has started or finished.

Under-18 sporting events are likely to be described as age-limited, for example 'under-18s' or 'junior'.

There may also be 'No smoking' signage displayed at the venue to inform you of the ban.

Note that the ban also includes training or practice sessions to prepare for an under-18 sporting event, and breaks and intervals in play.

## Are sporting clubs expected to enforce the ban?

Management, staff and volunteers of sporting clubs are not expected to enforce the ban and are not empowered to do so.

Compliance with the ban is expected to occur through the public education and awareness campaign and changed community expectations.

Sporting clubs can support and encourage compliance by raising awareness of the ban. This can be achieved by displaying no-smoking signage, providing promotional resources to staff, volunteers, parents and visitors and including information regarding the ban in communication materials such as club newsletters.

## How will the ban be enforced?

There is strong community support for banning smoking at public places regularly attended by children. This means most people will comply with the smoking ban and typically encourage others to do so.

The laws are enforced by Queensland Health environmental health officers, who can provide advice about the tobacco laws, respond to possible breaches and issue individuals warnings and on-the-spot fines. Local government officers can also enforce the law and issue an on-the-spot fine.

To report a possible breach of the legislation, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

## What penalties might apply?

The maximum penalty for someone breaching the legislation is twenty penalty units, with an on-the-spot fine of two penalty units.

As at July 2016, the penalty unit amount is \$121.90. This amount increases annually. For more information on current penalty amounts call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

## How can I find out more?

For more information visit:

[www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/default.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/default.asp)

## What resources are available to promote the ban?

Sporting clubs can access no smoking signage free-of-charge by calling 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Electronic versions of the signs, factsheets and resources about the changes to the tobacco law can be downloaded and printed from:

<https://publications.qld.gov.au>