



MELBOURNE
RUGBY CLUB

Smoke Free Policy

The Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club

Effective date 15th April 2015

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Policy Governance

Approval	The Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club Committee is authorised to approve this Policy.
Effective Date	15 th April 2015 Updated 5 th of March 2018
Related policies	Internal The Rules of the Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club Vision, Mission & Values, and Code of Conduct Alcohol Management Policy Safe Transport Policy External Victorian Tobacco Amendment Act 2013 Good Sports Level 3 Accreditation requirements ARU Code of Conduct World Rugby Regulations
Legislation	For the avoidance of doubt, this Policy will not contravene any federal or state legislation, and will be updated should there be any conflict.
Review	A review will be conducted by the committee on an annual basis, or earlier if necessitated by external changes of the Policy.

Definitions

The following definitions are provided without limiting the ordinary and natural meaning of the words. For the avoidance of doubt, words that are not described below should be read in the context of their ordinary meaning.

ARU	Australian Rugby Union Limited
Member Union	Rugby Victoria Limited (Rugby VIC)
Club	The Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club (MRUFC)
Member	A player (including an amateur or non-contract player), a referee, touch judge or other match official, a selector, coach, trainer, manager or other team official, or an individual involved in the organisation, administration or promotion of Rugby including a director, other officer or employee of a Rugby Body.

Guiding Statement

The Club recognises that environmental (second-hand) tobacco smoke is a health hazard and the Club has a duty of care to protect non-smokers from this hazard when on Club property.

Smoke free areas reduce the social norm and acceptance of smoking. They also support smokers who are trying to quit by reducing the ability to smoke in social circumstances.

Outdoor smoke free areas help to reduce the amount of cigarette butt litter (reducing clean-up costs, fire risk and children's health risk).

Smoke free environments are also advantageous in attracting new members as well as positively promoting the club in the community.

New Victorian legislation (Tobacco Amendment Act 2013) bans smoking within 10 metres of a sporting venue that is an outdoor public place during underage (U18) competitions, training or practice sessions, or any break or interval during these underage activities.

This Policy shall apply to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players, spectators, visitors and other volunteers and/or or staff of the MRUFC.

Our Vision

To create a positive environment that is the best rugby experience in Victoria.

Our Mission

The Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club is committed to providing the opportunity for our members and the local community to enjoy Rugby Union and all aspects of the game. We also desire to create a centre of excellence for Rugby Union to foster development for the future of the sport.

Our Values

The Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club is committed to the provision of a high level of participation, safety, family and community spirit and opportunity in Rugby Union throughout our local community and Victoria. It aims to provide all members with fair competition; access to high standard coaching, grounds and facilities, and equity at all levels.

Our Aims

To field competitive teams in a club environment where they can enjoy themselves both on and off the field. To develop a strong sense of unity in the club and local community.

General

Cigarettes and other tobacco products will not be sold, including from vending machines, at any time at or by the club.

All members will refrain from smoking while involved in an official capacity for the club, on and off the field.

The Club will not provide, or assist in the provision of tobacco products on Club property, promote club activities with tobacco in photos or other media, or place its members in harms way due to tobacco products.

Smoke Free Areas

The Club requires the following areas to be smoke free:

- all indoor areas that the Club uses, be they under the executive control of the Club or not;
- all outdoor playing/training areas;
- all spectator areas (standing and seated, covered and uncovered); and
- all canteen, catering and eating areas.

Where possible, smoke free areas will be signed for easy use.

Functions

Club functions, including social, fundraising events and meetings, held in the clubrooms are to be smoke free.

Club functions, including social, fundraising events and meetings, held away from club facilities are to be smoke free wherever possible.

If provided, smokers may only smoke at outdoor designated smoking areas and are to dispose of cigarette butts safely before entering facilities.

Non-compliance

All club committee members will enforce the smoke free policy and any non-compliance will be handled according to the following process:

Initial warning: the person will be advised the purpose of the Policy, the legislative requirements and the health benefits the Club is promoting. Explanation of the club policy and the Victorian tobacco laws to the person/people concerned, including identification of the areas in which smoking is permitted.

Second or further offence: Continued non-compliance with the policy should be handled by at least two committee members who will use their discretion as to the action taken, which may include asking the person/ people to leave the club facilities or function to ensure compliance.

Policy Promotion

The Club will promote the smoke free policy regularly by:

- Displaying the Policy through accessible means (website, clubrooms etc.)
- Promoting positive smoke free messages through the club's social media.
- Placing non-smoking signage in prominent locations both indoors and outdoors.

The Club recognises the importance of educating club members, particularly players, of the benefits of implementing a smoke free policy and will endeavour to provide information to assist this process.

Policy Review

To ensure this policy continues to be relevant for club operation and that it reflects both community expectations and the provisions of legislation, the Policy will be reviewed annually by the Committee and amended as required to reflect the changing needs of the club environment.