

SMOKE-FREE ORGANISED CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND UNDER-18 SPORTING EVENTS

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND VISITORS

Q SMOKE FREE ZONES

From 1 September 2023, smoking is banned within 10 metres of organised children's activities. This complements the existing smoking ban at under 18 sporting events in Queensland.

The law applies to all smoking products including electronic cigarettes.

Where does the ban apply?

Smoking is prohibited on land within 10-metres of activity, viewing and playing areas:

- at organised children's activities including any time the activity is being provided to children,
- at organised under-18 sporting events, including training or practice sessions, and any breaks or intervals during the event.

What is considered an organised children's activity or under 18 sporting event?

An organised children's activity is:

- conducted by an association or club,
- organised for the participation of children,
- organised in advance.

For example - supervised outdoor activity or instruction from Scout or Girl Guide clubs, dance or exercise clubs, adventure or nature play associations.

Note: the meaning of organised children's activity in the law does not include excursions or attendance at general public events or street parades.

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 is an activity, viewing or playing area?

Activity areas for children's activities include the part of a park or similar area of land being used being used for an organised children's activity.

Viewing and playing areas for under-18 sport 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.

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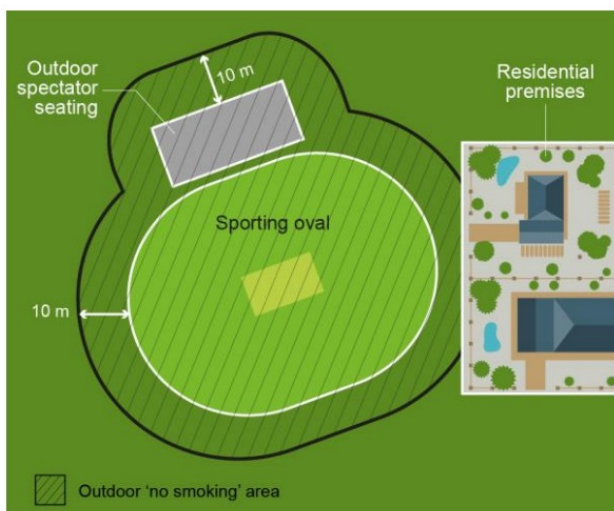
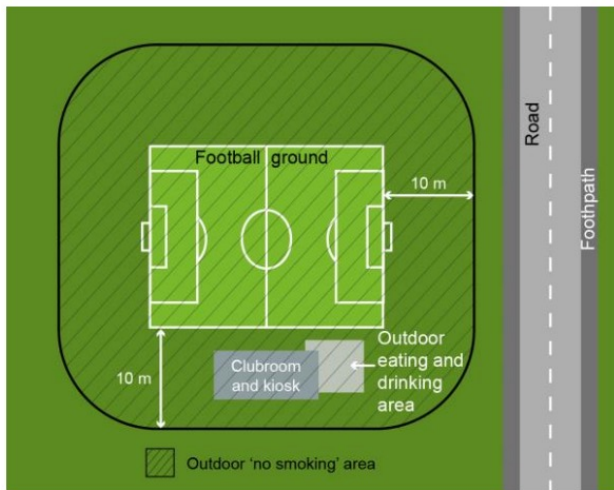
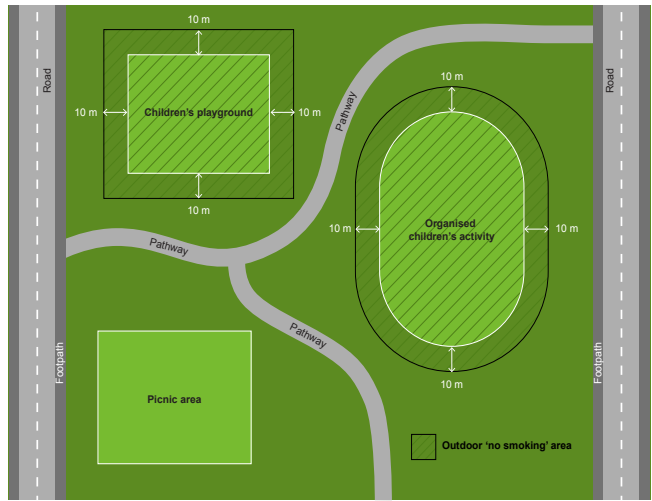
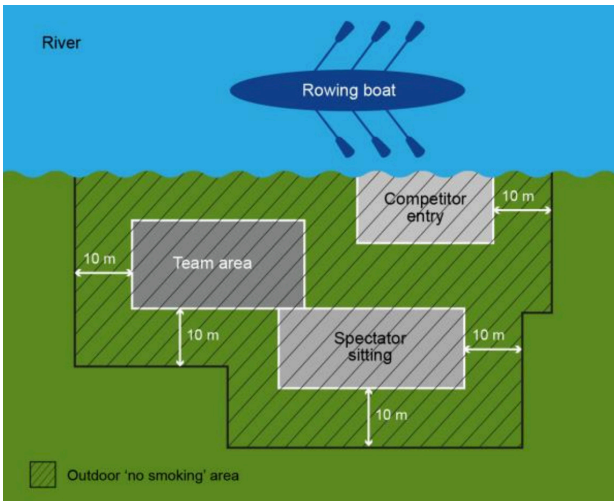
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For example, if there are courts or ovals next to one another, the sporting ground is considered to be the court/s or oval/s where the actual under-18 sporting event is taking place.

These diagrams show examples of where the smoke-free area applies.



How will I know when the ban applies?

To help you determine whether an organised children's activity or under-18 sporting event is taking place, consider whether:

- an area for activity has been marked out in a park or similar area and children are participating in an activity,
- children under 18 years old are playing in a match, game, tournament or other event conducted by an amateur or professional sporting body or educational institution,
- participants are wearing sporting or club uniforms,
- there is supervision that may consist of club representatives, instructors, coaches, officials, or umpires for children's activity or sport events,
- a whistle, siren or other instruction is used to indicate the activity, match, game or event has started or finished.

Organised children's activities or 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 or near the activity or event to inform people of the smoke-free requirements. Signs that you may see are below.



Why does the ban exist?

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

Organised children's activities and under-18 sporting events attract families with children and young people. The ban offers further protection to the Queensland public—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 adult role modelling of smoking and vaping around children and young people.

Children and young people are more likely to view the use of smoking products as socially acceptable when they regularly see people using them. Banning smoking and vaping in areas used by children and young people helps make the habit less visible and discourages young people from starting to smoke or vape.

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 smoke-free requirements 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 with warnings and on-the-spot fines.

An on-the-spot fine of two penalty units may apply to someone who smokes within a smoke-free area. The maximum court penalty is twenty penalty units.

To report a possible breach of the legislation, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or use the online complaints form available at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/penalties/reporting-a-possible-breach-of-smoking-laws>.

How can I find out more?

For more information about smoke-free laws in Queensland you can call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/smoking-laws>

Would you like to quit smoking?

To improve your chance of quitting smoking or vaping for good, it is important to plan ahead. You may find these tips helpful:

Get support

Quitline's trained counsellors are available seven days a week to help you through the process of quitting – call Quitline 13 QUIT (13 7848) for free information, practical assistance and support.

Talk to your health professional

Discuss quitting smoking with your nurse, doctor or general practitioner and plan your quit strategy together.

Consider using pharmacotherapy

Different products are available to help you quit smoking. Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) includes patches, gum, lozenges, inhalers and mouth spray.

¹ As of 1 July 2023, the penalty unit amount is \$154.80. This amount increases annually. For more information on current penalty amounts call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

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