

## **A POLICY TO REDUCE**

SMOKING, PASSIVE SMOKING AND THE EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE IN THE CLUB.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Sebastopol Bowling Club Inc is a smoke free (including vaping) venue in the Gaming Room, Bistro, Members Lounge, Function Room, and all workplaces.

There are three designated smoking areas, one is located off the gaming room, the other is located off the sports bar and the third is in-between the two grass greens. Smoking (including vaping) is NOT permitted within 4 meters of any entrance.

The object of the policy is to:

- assist the Club to meet its obligations under the Tobacco Act (1987) as amended
- encourage non-smoking as well as to
- educate members, patrons, and employees of the club about the effects of passive smoking and environmental tobacco smoke.

Significant benefits will arise by supporting the policy and assisting the club in its endeavours to designate smoke-free areas within the club.

In developing this policy, the club has realistically considered the nature of the workplace, in particular: -

- The physical layout of the club
- The nature of the work and its emphasis on hospitality and customer service
- The availability and effectiveness of ventilation in Designated Smoking Areas

In line with current studies that have confirmed a potential link between passive smoking and an adverse range of health issues caused by environmental tobacco smoke, the club is committed to a non-smoking policy that isolates smoking to particular areas within the club.

In recognition of the legislation and the current ETS issues within the club movement, an assessment of the general club work area has been undertaken to determine arrangements that will provide a number of smoke-free areas and, where smoking is permitted, will minimise exposure to environmental tobacco smoke for all persons within the club.

### **2. POLICY GOALS**

The goal of this policy is to encourage non-smoking, and to highlight the potential risks associated with passive smoking, identify and establish various smoke-free designated areas within the club. This policy is also aimed at educating members, patrons and employees of the club on the various benefits, which may arise from the implementation of the club policy through a number of strategies. These strategies include carrying out an assessment of the club environment in relation to Environmental Tobacco Smoke, the designated non-smoking areas within the club and educating staff and members/patrons through meetings, memos, notice boards and signage.

### **3. WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE (ETS)**

ETS is a combination of exhaled mainstream smoke and side stream smoke.

- Mainstream smoke is the smoke that smokers inhale directly from their cigarette. Exhaled mainstream is the smoke that smokers exhale.
- Side stream smoke comes from the end of a lit cigarette and contains much higher levels of many carcinogens and other toxic substances than exhaled mainstream smoke. Eighty-five percent (85%) of ETS in an average room is side stream.

ETS has been found to be a potential irritant to the eyes and respiratory tract and to many people has an offensive odour. Some evidence suggests a link between ETS and the contracting or aggravating of a range of illnesses including:

- Cardio-vascular disease
- Lung Cancer
- Asthma
- Acute irritation of the respiratory tract
- Bronchitis and pneumonia

### **4. STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING ETS**

The Club has a duty of care under Occupation Health and Safety legislation to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all employees. The club also has a responsibility to ensure the Tobacco Act 1987 (as amended) and Regulations are strictly adhered to with regard to smoke-free gaming and dining areas within the club.

Strategies for reducing exposure to ETS include: -

- Inform and educate employees about the policy and its objectives

Consultation with employees during the development and implementation of a workplace program on smoking is essential for its success. In this regard staff will be involved in the process from the outset through representation on the Workplace Safety Sub-Committee. All employees will be provided with training about the policy and its objectives, so they are fully positioned to provide advice and assistance to members and patrons regarding the policy and its goals.

- Inform and educate members and patrons about the policy and its objectives

Members, patrons and the local community will be informed through staff signage and newsletters about the development and implementation of the policy, in line with increasing expectations pertaining to the provision of smoke-free environments.

- Assessment, identification and designation of smoke-free areas within the club.

The club shall carry out an assessment of the likelihood of persons being exposed to ETS. In carrying out such assessment the club shall consider the following:

- The physical layout of the club
- The usage and purpose of each area
- Air ventilation

Requirements of persons (including employees) in various areas of the club

In consultation with employees, members and other relevant persons, the club shall identify whether there is a need for smoking in various areas within the club. Dependent on the outcome of this assessment various controls and/or measures will be implemented to address the reduction and exposure to ETS within the club. These measures may also include the following:

## **5. REMOVAL OF INCENTIVES TO SMOKE**

- All ashtrays, smoker bins and other incentives to smoke will be removed from non-smoking designated areas.
- Patrons, members and employees will be offered information regarding access to programs such as specialist counselling and QUIT programs may be of great benefit in helping employees who may wish to give up smoking.

## **6. WORKPLACE AREAS DESIGNATED AS SMOKE-FREE WITHIN THE CLUB**

Areas which have been designated as smoke-free areas include.

- Gaming Room and Entrance foyers
- Members Lounge, Entrance area and Hallways
- Dining Areas and Function Rooms
- Kitchen
- Stage and back of stage
- Store Rooms
- Offices
- Staff Room and Unit

Various forms of signage have been strategically placed throughout smoke free areas and at the entrances. Further, ashtrays and smokers' bins have been removed from the designated areas and have been placed immediately outside the smoke-free area for "butting out" prior to entering the area.

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF POLICY**

On 1st September 2002 the Sebastopol Bowling Club Inc implemented this policy in line with its commitment to the reduction of exposure to ETS throughout the club. In accordance with the relevant occupational health and safety legislation, the Tobacco Act 1987 (as amended) and the requirements of the club, its members, employees and other affected persons, it is the intention of the club to continue to review this policy on a regular basis.