



SMOKE FREE EVENTS POLICY

Policy Number	SMOFRE			Version	3
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INTRODUCTION

Sport is about lots of things, most of them positive: team playing, self-improvement, discipline, fitness and fun. Sport clubs and associations have a significant influence in their community by fostering a family friendly environment and displaying positive images of a healthy lifestyle.

The Victorian Endurance Riders Association (VERA Inc.) recognises that role modelling can have a significant impact upon the junior members of the club and believes that a family friendly environment and image will be advantageous in attracting new members and retaining existing members as well as positively promoting the club in the community.

VERA Inc. recognises that exposure of non-smokers to environmental tobacco smoke is irritating and hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected. Even in outdoor areas, where people tend to congregate, the presence of people smoking can present a health risk to non-smokers. There is also evidence to suggest that smoke-free areas support smokers who are trying to quit as well as reduce their overall cigarette consumption.

VERA Inc. also recognises that outdoor smoke-free areas help to reduce the amount of cigarette butt litter and reduce fire risk.

POLICY

Legislation and the legal duty of care provide clear reasons for VERA Inc. to support smoke-free events. Under common law VERA Inc. has a legal duty to ensure that employees, volunteers, members, players, officials and visitors can work in a smoke-free environment.

RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players, spectators, visitors and volunteers of VERA Inc.

All members and volunteers of VERA Inc. are responsible in respecting this policy.



PROCEDURES

This policy is effective at all VERA Inc. affiliated events.

VERA Inc. requires the following areas of all VERA Inc. affiliated events to be smoke-free:

- On course – regardless of training, competition, or length of course
- In any event sanctioned strapping area
- In the vet ring
- All indoor areas (Victorian legislation states that enclosed workplaces must be smoke-free)
- All covered areas – this includes marquees
- Outdoor dining areas (both uncovered and covered)
- Within 10 metres of club/building entrances
- All spectator areas during junior specific (16 years and under) events

Should a VERA Inc. member be observed smoking in any of the above restricted areas, the following five-step non-compliance strategy will be followed:

1. Assume that the person is unaware of the smoke-free policy.
2. The Chief Steward or Ride Organiser will approach the person informing them they are breaching the Smoke-free Event policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking or move to a smoking area.
3. If the offence continues, the Chief Steward or Ride Organiser will verbally warn the offending event participant that if they do not cease smoking in the restricted areas, they will be required to leave the event venue.
4. If the offender is a competitor on course, the Chief Steward will verbally warn them that they may be disqualified from the event if they continue to smoke on course.
5. Should a person continue to smoke at VERA Inc. affiliated events the Chief Steward may report this to the SMC and the SMC may choose to warn the member of possible disciplinary action against the member should they continue to ignore the VERA Inc. smoke-free policy. This warning will be provided in writing by the SMC secretary.