



Thunder Bay District Health Unit

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GERALDTON

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MARATHON

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Marathon High School building,
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Tel: (807) 229-1820
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RED ROCK

P.O. Box 196
Superior Greenstone District
School Board Learning Centre
46 Salls Street
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TERRACE BAY

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TBDHU.COM

May 20, 2025

Re: Smoke Free Ontario Act compliance at sports fields

Sports fields user groups,

As valued members of our sports fields community, we want to remind you that smoking and vaping are prohibited on or within 20 metres of all sports fields including, but not limited to, soccer fields, ball diamonds, playgrounds, and all spectator areas, under the Smoke Free Ontario Act (SFOA). When sports fields are on school or community centre grounds, the entire property, including parking lot, is 100% smoke-free and vape-free.

Everyone – parents, coaches, athletes and visitors – shares a responsibility to uphold the law and protect our community. The SFOA is in place to limit exposure to harmful substances and reduce the visibility and normalization of smoking and vaping, especially among youth.

Failure to comply with these rules can result in a \$305.00 fine.

With youth vaping rates at concerning levels, it is especially important to ensure that sports fields remain healthy, supportive spaces. When youth see others smoking or vaping, it increases the risk they will start, while also making it more difficult for those trying to quit. Smoke-free and vape-free spaces support prevention, cessation, and positive role modeling.

We ask for your help in complying with the SFOA by:

- refraining from smoking or vaping anywhere on or near sports fields and spectator areas.
- reminding athletes and visitors that vaping is not allowed on sidelines or in dressing rooms and washrooms.
- monitoring these areas and speaking up when you see violations.

Resources for talking to youth about vaping:

- [Talking with your teen about vaping: A tip sheet for parents](#)
- [What's in a vape, and how to have a conversation with your teens about it](#)

Resources to quit smoking or vaping:

- TBDHU [Take Control Clinic](#) – call 807-625-5982 to book a free appointment
- [DontQuitQuitting.ca](#) – find tips and additional supports
- [Quash](#) – free app to help youth and young adults stop smoking or vaping

Thank you for your ongoing support in protecting our community's health. Together, we can maintain safe, smoke-free, and vape-free recreational spaces for all.

Sincerely,

TBDHU Tobacco Enforcement Team
Enforcement@tbdhu.com