**Smokefree policy of the Sale Little Athletics Centre**

**Rationale**

The Sale Little Athletics Centre recognises that role modelling can have a significant impact upon the junior members of the club and smokefree areas make smoking less visible and less socially acceptable. The Sale Little Athletics Centre believes that such an environment and image will be advantageous in attracting new members as well as positively promoting the club in the community.

The Sale Little Athletics Centre 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 smokefree areas support smokers who are trying to quit as well as reduce their overall cigarette consumption.

The Sale Little Athletics Centre also recognises that outdoor smokefree areas help to reduce the amount of cigarette butt litter and provide a substantial cost saving through reduced clean up costs and reduced fire risk. Discarded cigarette butts pose a risk to children’s health due to swallowing discarded cigarette butts, which has the potential to cause vomiting and other symptoms of nicotine poisoning.

Legislation and the legal duty of care also provide clear reasons to have a smokefree club. Under common law the Sale Little Athletics Centre has a legal duty to ensure that employees, volunteers, members, players, officials and visitors are not exposed to potentially harmful situations.

Occupational health and safety legislation requires employers to keep workplaces they are in charge of safe and without risk to the health of any person. Accordingly, the following policy has been developed by Sale Little Athletics Centre

**Who is affected by the policy**

This policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players, spectators, visitors and volunteers of the Sale Little Athletics Centre.

**Timing**

This policy is effective from 1st April 2013.

**Smokefree areas**

The Sale Little Athletics Centre requires the entire area of the SLAC completion area and facilities to be smokefree.

This includes:

* all indoor areas (Victorian legislation states that enclosed workplaces must be smokefree)
* all outdoor playing/training/dining/drinking areas
* spectator viewing areas
* car parks
* in vehicles that are within the boundary of the sporting ground

The totally smokefree status of our club ground will be clearly signed at the entrance to, and within the club grounds.

**De-normalising smoking for Junior Members**

Members of Sale Little Athletics Centre are to refrain from smoking while they are acting in an official capacity for the club or while in club uniform.

**Supporting members who smoke**

Sale Little Athletics Centre will promote the Quitline and Quit courses on club materials.

**Non-compliance strategy**

The following five-step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches the Sale Little Athletics Centre’s smokefree policy:

1. Assume that the person is unaware of the smokefree policy.
2. A staff member or club representative will approach the person breaching the policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking [or move to a smoking area] and remind them about the smokefree policy.
3. If the offence continues, the offending patron must be made aware that if they don’t stop smoking then they will be required to leave the sporting ground/facility. The most senior staff member or most senior club representative present should verbally warn them, and if possible, hand over a formally written letter. The pre-written letter will be pre-signed by the management committee and kept on the premises so that copies are readily available. It will outline the Sale Little Athletics Centre’s policy on smoking and state that if the patron continues to breach the policy then s/he will be asked to leave.
4. If the offending continues, then the patron will be escorted off the ground/facility by staff and/or a senior club representative.
5. Under no circumstance should the Sale Little Athletics Centre’s smokefree policy be breached.

**Policy review**

This policy will be reviewed six months after its introduction and then on an annual basis thereafter. This will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.