

Smoke-Free Recreation Centers and Playgrounds

Q: What is the smoke-free policy?

A: As of **July 1, 2011**, recreation centers and playgrounds in Philadelphia will be 100% smoke-free. Smoking will no longer be allowed anywhere on recreation center property, indoors or outdoors, including playgrounds, ball fields, courts, parking lots, lawns, and pool areas.

Q: Why is this policy needed?

A: The smoke-free policy will help protect children and adults from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, lessen cigarette butt pollution, and reduce the risk of fire. And, maybe most importantly, it will lessen the frequency with which children see adults smoking. Children who witness adults smoking are more likely to think that it is safe.

Q: Does this apply to all areas of recreation centers, indoors and outdoors?

Yes. Smoking will no longer be allowed anywhere on recreation center property: indoors or outdoors, including playgrounds, fields, courts, parking lots, lawns, and pool areas.

Q: If someone is smoking far from any other people, on a ball field, for example, do they still need to put out their cigarette?

A: Yes. It's not permitted for anyone to smoke anywhere on rec center property, regardless of how far away they are from another person. One reason for this new law is to make smoking less visible, especially to children.

Q: Will there be signs posted on rec center property telling visitors about the new policy?

A: Yes. The Department of Parks and Recreation will install clear and visible signage informing all rec center visitors that they are in a smoke-free zone.

Q: What do I do if I see someone smoking on rec center property?

A: If you see someone smoking, let them know that there is a new policy that makes all rec center property smoke-free. Do not assume they know about the new policy. Point to a nearby sign that says smoking is not allowed and give them a flyer. Then, politely ask them to put out their cigarette.

Q: What do I do if they don't put out their cigarette after I ask them?

A: If they refuse to put out their cigarette, let them know that if they want to finish their cigarette, they may, but will have to leave the rec center property to do so. You can also call **215-685-5681** to report a violation and request an educational session at your center.

Q: How can I get help with quitting?

A: The Philadelphia Department of Public Health offers free quit smoking classes all around the city, including in some recreation centers. Visit www.smokefreephilly.org for details or call **215-683-LIVE**. Free phone-based counseling is also available at **1-800-QUIT-NOW**.

Thank you for your cooperation in making rec centers healthier places to play!