

CIRCULAR

ROYAL NSW BOWLING ASSOCIATION LTD.

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No: 4/2016
Date: 26th February 2016
To: Zones, Districts & Club
Re: Smoking in Spectator Areas at Bowling Clubs

Bowls NSW has been advised by the NSW Department of Health that NSW Health Authorised Inspectors will be focusing part of their future monitoring efforts on Bowling Clubs across the State, due to the volume of complaints received.

Clubs are asked to ensure that patrons and Bowling Members understand their obligations relating to the Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000 (The Act), which applies penalties for smoking in spectator areas during organised sporting events, such as bowls. Patrons may be issued with an on the spot fine of \$300 for non-compliance.

In line with the Bowls NSW Smoke Free Greens Policy, Clubs are encouraged to implement smoke-free Greens and surrounds and to utilize the signage and resources which are available through the NSW Health website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/smoke-free-resources.aspx>

Bowls NSW will be making representations to the NSW Health Department to again seek clarification regarding the Act, which is silent with regard to smoking on playing areas such as bowling greens.

Greg Helm
Chief Executive Officer
Bowls NSW.

Mr Greg Helm
Chief Executive Officer
Bowls NSW
PO Box A2186
Sydney South NSW 1235

Dear Mr Helm

I write in regard to the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000* (the Act) and particularly in relation to the smoking ban in spectator areas at sports grounds.

As you are aware, smoking is banned in spectator areas of sports grounds or other recreational areas while an organised sporting event is being held. The smoking ban applies to both covered and uncovered spectator areas, whether seating is provided or not.

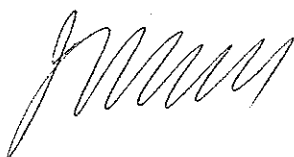
NSW Health has received numerous pieces correspondence from members of the public and patrons of bowling clubs regarding alleged breaches of the outdoor smoking ban at bowling clubs.

As you may be aware, there is no requirement in the Act for signs to be displayed at sports grounds during organised sporting events to indicate that smoking is not permitted. This is due to the diverse range of venues that are captured under the Act. However, the display of 'No Smoking' signs in these settings is strongly encouraged to assist patrons to understand where they are not permitted to smoke.

In response to the high volume of complaints received, NSW Health Authorised Inspectors will be focusing part of their future compliance monitoring efforts on bowling clubs across NSW. Whilst there is no 'occupier' penalty related to individuals smoking in spectator areas during organised sporting events, patrons or spectators may be issued with an on the spot fine of \$300 for non-compliance.

I will be writing to bowling clubs in NSW to alert them to this issue. In the interest of ensuring patrons understand their obligations and are not fined for smoking in a smoke-free area while at their local club, it would be appreciated if Bowls NSW can assist in encouraging its members to work collaboratively with NSW Health in educating their patrons. NSW Health has a range of signage and other resources to support them to do this. These are available via the NSW Health website <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/smoke-free-resources.aspx>.

Yours sincerely



Dr Jo Mitchell
Executive Director, Centre for Population Health