



Policy 15: TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Updated and approved by Board of Directors: December 16, 2024

PURPOSE

The Kitchener Minor Baseball Association (KMBA) promotes a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, the association will follow the legislation of the Province of Ontario, the bylaws of the City of Kitchener, the Constitution of Baseball Ontario, as well as the health research that has been done with respect to the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

POLICY

In alignment with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, Baseball Ontario and KMBA Playing Rules, all coaches, team volunteers, guardians, umpires, players and spectators are to refrain from the following at any and all baseball diamonds and training facilities:

Coaches, volunteers, guardians, players and umpires should refrain from:

- Using any tobacco products, including smoking. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act effective January 1, 2015 states: Smoking is no longer allowed at publicly-owned outdoor sporting areas, spectator areas, sporting areas and public areas within 20 metres (65.6 Feet) of any point of the edge of the sporting or spectator area.
- Vaping
- Using any drugs or alcohol

In addition, all coaches, volunteers, guardians, players and umpires should not attend any KMBA event or function under the influence of any alcohol, drugs or other mood-altering substances.

PROCEDURE

Coaches, managers, guardians, players and umpires will be informed of this policy annually before the start of the season. Coaches, managers and KMBA executives are expected to enforce this policy.

Penalties

Coaches

If a coach is found to be under the influence of any of the identified products above during a game, they will be immediately ejected and suspended for the next 2 games. If a coach is to be found under the influence on a 2nd occasion at a game, they will be suspected until KMBA convenes a disciplinary meeting.

Use of illegal drugs will result in a coach being suspended until KMBA convenes a disciplinary meeting and determines an action. Note: Anticipate being suspended for the remainder of the season if you are a player and being dismissed from KMBA if you are a coach.

Players

If a player is found to be under the influence of any of the identified products above during a game, they will be immediately ejected and suspended for the next 2 games.

Use of illegal drugs will result in a player being suspended until KMBA convenes a disciplinary meeting and determines an action. Note: Anticipate being suspended for the remainder of the season if you are a player and being dismissed from KMBA if you are a coach.

Umpires

If an umpire is found to be under the influence of any of the identified products above during a game, they will be immediately ejected and reported to Baseball Ontario. Umpires may lose their accreditation.

Guardians

If a guardian is found to be under the influence of any of the identified products above during a game or KMBA event, they will be immediately suspended from attending KMBA events until KMBA convenes and disciplinary meeting.

Executive Members

Executive KMBA members, including the board of directors, will be immediately removed from the Board if the policies with respect to tobacco, alcohol or drugs are abused.

REVIEW AND UPDATES

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and best practices. Updates or revisions to the policy will be incorporated into KMBA's governance practices as necessary.

By adhering to this policy, we uphold the values of integrity, accountability, and transparency within KMBA and demonstrate our commitment to serving the best interests of the organization and its members.

Any questions, concerns, or requests regarding this policy, please contact the President. We will update this policy periodically to reflect any changes in our practices or legal requirements.