SMOKING & VAPING PROHIBITION POLICY

INTRODUCTION:

The Mount Eliza Soccer Club (the **"Club"**) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all members, visitors, and participants. As part of this commitment, the club has enacted a policy to prohibit smoking and vaping on or near any Soccer pitch within Emil Madsen Reserve or the Mount Eliza Secondary College. This policy aims to prioritize the well-being of individuals, cultivate a positive atmosphere for Soccer activities, and uphold the values of respect and responsibility within the club community.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all members, volunteers, staff, visitors, and participants involved with the club including but not limited to players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators. This policy applies to all individuals present on any Soccer pitch, training nets or immediate area near any Soccer pitch managed by the club during organized football activities. It encompasses all forms of smoking and vaping, including traditional cigarettes, cigars, electronic cigarettes, and other vaping devices.

PROCEDURES

The decision to enforce a smoking and vaping ban on the club Soccer pitches is founded on several key factors:

- **Health and Safety**
  - Smoking and vaping pose significant health risks to both users and bystanders, including exposure to harmful chemicals and second-hand smoke. By prohibiting smoking and vaping, the club aims to safeguard the health and well-being of all individuals within its football community.
- **Environmental Preservation**
  - Smoking-related litter, such as cigarette butts and packaging, not only mars the aesthetic appeal of football pitches and surrounds but also contributes to environmental pollution. By eliminating smoking and vaping on its premises, the club seeks to preserve the cleanliness and natural beauty of these spaces.

- **Promotion of Positive Role Modelling**
    - As a respected sporting organization, the club recognizes its influential role in shaping behaviour, particularly among young people. By promoting smoke-free environments, the club aims to set a positive example for participants and spectators, encouraging healthy lifestyle choices and discouraging the initiation of smoking and vaping.

Prohibition of Smoking and Vaping

Smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited on any football pitch managed by the club during training and game times. This ban extends to all areas within the pitch boundaries, **By Victorian law, there is an additional 10m exclusion zone around the boundary fence for all junior sport during training and games.**

Enforcement

All individuals present at football pitches, including players, officials, volunteers, and staff, are responsible for enforcing this policy. Any person found smoking or vaping in violation of this policy will be asked to cease immediately. Persistent non-compliance may result in further disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the club's committee.

Consequences of Violation:

Violations of this Smoking & Vaping Prohibition Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the club, depending on the severity of the offense and at the discretion of club management.

Reporting Violations:

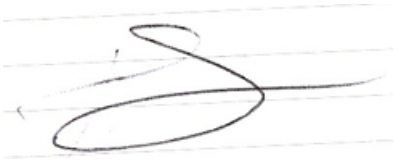
Any member, volunteer, staff, or participant who witnesses or experiences a violation of this policy is encouraged to report it to either the MESC Committee, Football Committee or designated authorities promptly.

Review and Updates:

This Smoking & Vaping Prohibition Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Amendments or updates may be made as necessary, with notice provided to all relevant parties.

Acknowledgement:

By participating at the club, all members, volunteers, staff, visitors, and participants agree to abide by this Smoking & Vaping Prohibition Policy and acknowledge their responsibility to uphold its guidelines

SMOKING & VAPING POLICY		Approval Date:	01 / 05 / 2026
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President **Signature:**		Name:	Fernando Cortes
Operations Manager **Signature:**		Name:	Marcus Benbow