

## Smoking Policies in Major-League Baseball Stadiums

In 1995, as part of a planned research presentation for the Halsey Hall Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research, we conducted a survey of all major-league teams regarding their smoking policies in the stadium.

In the past, smoking restrictions—not just for sports arenas but all types of facilities and areas used by the public—have usually affected only indoor areas. However, in our travels throughout the United States and Canada, we had been finding more and more outdoor baseball stadiums—at the major-league, minor-league, and college levels—that either do not allow smoking or at least severely restrict it in seating areas. We wondered how widespread this trend was and decided to find out by writing to major-league teams.

We asked questions regarding their smoking policies; when they were adopted; if it was the result of a decision by the team, stadium authority, or local ordinance; whether they had polled their fans regarding their preference; and if they had any changes planned in the near future regarding their policies.

We received detailed responses from many of the teams. We called teams that had not responded by mail and found out, at the very least, whether they allowed smoking in seating areas or not.


It was to be expected that all four domed stadiums (in Seattle, Minnesota, Houston, Montreal), as well as Toronto's SkyDome, which has a retractable roof, do not allow smoking in the seating area. But of the 23 open-air stadiums in use during the 1995 season, only two allow smoking in any of the seating areas. They are Fenway Park in Boston and County Stadium in Milwaukee. Both of these stadiums do have sections designated as non-smoking areas. In addition, the Boston Red Sox have announced that Fenway Park will be completely smoke-free in seating areas beginning in 1996.

Apparently, major-league baseball is recognizing that cigarette smoke can be offensive and unhealthy even in outdoor settings. In situations such as a baseball game, where people remain in one place for a long period instead of constantly moving around, it is not possible for fans to easily escape the hazards of second-hand smoke if others around them are smoking. Therefore, almost all teams have responded to the issue by making seating areas in the stadium entirely smoke-free.

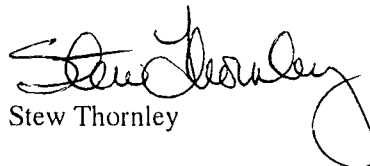
These smoke-free policies have sometimes been the result of local ordinances. But in many cases, the decisions have been made by the teams, either on their own or in conjunction with the stadium authority, and often as the result of desires expressed by their fans.

We also surveyed the two new teams who will begin play in 1998: the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and the Arizona Diamondbacks. Tampa Bay will play in the Thunderdome, a covered stadium, and will abide with local ordinances, meaning that smoking will not be allowed in the seating areas. Although the Diamondbacks' stadium (which is planned to have a retractable roof) has not yet been built, they have already made the decision that the seating areas will be smoke-free (in addition, they will not allow cigarette advertising anywhere in the stadium).

Attached is a team-by-team summary regarding its smoking policies.



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Compiled by Brenda Himrich and Stew Thornley

## National League

**Atlanta Braves**—*Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas and concourses.

**Chicago Cubs**—*Wrigley Field*  
Smoke-free in seating areas and restrooms; smoking permitted on concourse and ramp systems. The decision to restrict smoking was made by the Cubs and went into effect in 1992. The Cubs had included the smoking issue on general surveys done of their fans.

**Cincinnati Reds**—*Riverfront Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking permitted in concourses. This policy went into effect in 1994 as the result of a city ordinance.

**Colorado Rockies**—*Coors Field*  
Smoke-free in seating areas and indoor concourse areas; smoking permitted only in three designated outside areas.

**Florida Marlins**—*Joe Robbie Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas.

**Houston Astros**—*Astrodome*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed in concourses.

**Los Angeles Dodgers**—*Dodger Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed only in designated areas on concourses (one designated area on each level). This policy, which went into effect in 1992, was a result of "fan preference, organizational decisions, and basic health sense."

**Montreal Expos**—*Stade Olympique*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed in concourses and other public areas. This policy has been in effect since 1987, the year the stadium was enclosed with a roof, in accordance with provincial law.

**New York Mets**—*Shea Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas and most areas of concourses in accordance with New York City law passed in 1995.

**Philadelphia Phillies**—*Veterans Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed in concourses.

**Pittsburgh Pirates**—*Three Rivers Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed in concourses.

**St. Louis Cardinals**—*Busch Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking is allowed in designated smoking areas on concourses throughout the stadium which are equipped with television monitors, countertops, and ash trays; In 1991 and 1992, the Cardinals tried scoreboard and public-address messages urging smokers to be considerate of people sitting around them. In 1993 and 1994, they allowed smoking in the seating areas unless it bothered another fan. If they received a complaint, the smoker had to put out the cigarette or move to the concourse. The smoke-free policy for seating areas, instituted by both stadium and team officials, was adopted in 1995.

**San Diego Padres**—*Jack Murphy Stadium*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking permitted in all other areas. The policy, which went into effect with the 1992 season, was the result of a decision made by the stadium authority with input from the stadium tenants.

**San Francisco Giants**—*Candlestick Park*  
Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking permitted only on outer concourses.

## Expansion Teams

**Arizona Diamondbacks**—*Bank One Ballpark*  
New stadium will be entirely smoke-free; a smoking area outside the stadium will be designated. The team also will not allow tobacco advertising within the stadium.

**Tampa Bay Devil Rays**—*Thunderdome*  
Smoke-free in seating areas in accordance with Florida Clean Indoor Air Act.

## American League

### **Baltimore Orioles**—*Oriole Park at Camden Yards*

Smoke-free in seating areas and restrooms; smoking permitted only in designated areas in the concourses, ramps, stair towers, and picnic area. This policy went into effect when Oriole Park opened in 1992.

### **Boston Red Sox**—*Fenway Park*

Smoking permitted in all but six sections of stadium. Non-smoking sections were added in 1993, 1994, and 1995 (two sections each year) after fans expressed a desire for non-smoking areas. The Red Sox conducted a survey to determine the demand for these areas. The team has banned tobacco advertising in the park (although a billboard, because of a previous contractual obligation, will remain through the 1995 season). In July 1995, the Red Sox announced that their seating areas would be entirely smoke-free beginning in 1996.

### **California Angels**—*Anaheim Stadium*

Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed in concourses.

### **Chicago White Sox**—*Comiskey Park*

Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed in concourses. Policy went into effect in 1995. When new Comiskey Park opened in 1991, only cigar and pipe smoking was banned. In implementing the current policy, the White Sox considered the comments of the fans as well as the progression of government restrictions.

### **Cleveland Indians**—*Jacobs Field*

Smoke-free in seating areas and concourses; smoking allowed only in designated areas in stadium.

### **Detroit Tigers**—*Tiger Stadium*

Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed only in designated areas in concourses.

### **Kansas City Royals**—*Kauffman Stadium*

Smoke-free in seating areas and restrooms; smoking permitted in designated areas of concourses. This policy went into effect in 1995. The Royals had conducted a survey of season-ticket holders; more than 75 percent of those responding asked that smoking be restricted in all seating, concourse, and food-service areas. The Royals' organization adopted the current policy in response to their fans' desires as well as to address the overall social attitude and health reports regarding smoking.

### **Milwaukee Brewers**—*County Stadium*

Smoking is permitted anywhere in seating areas except for three designated family sections—one in bleachers and one each in the upper and lower grandstands—in which smoking and drinking are not allowed. Smoking is allowed in concourses but not in restrooms.

### **Minnesota Twins**—*Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome*

Smoke-free in seating areas and concourses. Smoking banned in seating areas when Metrodome opened in 1982. Originally, smoking was allowed in concourses. Eventually it was restricted to certain areas in the concourses; in 1992, the stadium commission eliminated smoking completely from the concourses and allowed it only in the outside gate areas. Tobacco advertising has also been eliminated in the Metrodome.

### **New York Yankees**—*Yankee Stadium*

Smoke-free in seating areas and concourses; it is permitted only near the bar in their stadium club. The restrictions are in compliance with a city law that became effective on April 1, 1995. Prior to this, fans were permitted to smoke anywhere in the stadium except for several small no-smoking sections. They have not surveyed their fans; however, fan reaction indicates that most are in favor of the no-smoking law and stadium policy.

### **Oakland Athletics**—*Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum*

Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking allowed only in designated areas of concourse. This policy went into effect in 1991, making the Athletics the first team in the majors to prohibit smoking in the seating areas of an outdoor stadium.

### **Seattle Mariners**—*Kingdome*

Smoke-free in seating areas and concourses; smoking permitted only on outdoor ramps.

### **Texas Rangers**—*Ballpark in Arlington*

Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking permitted in designated areas of outer concourses.

### **Toronto Blue Jays**—*SkyDome*

Smoke-free in seating areas; smoking permitted in two designated areas. When SkyDome opened in 1989, smoking was permitted in corridors only; however, in 1993 a local ordinance affecting all public buildings in Toronto caused the further restrictions.

## *Reactions/Potential Changes in Policies*

Few teams indicate that they plan any changes in their policies. For some, it is not an option because of local ordinances. Others say the reaction to smoking restrictions has been positive and therefore they do not plan to alter the possibility.

A number of teams have printed cards containing information on their smoking policies that are handed out to fans. These are usually distributed as a means of enforcing the policy with fans who are smoking in prohibited areas.

Three teams mentioned adverse reactions to smoking restrictions. The Montreal Expos have regularly had to contend with spectators who disagree with it, even to the point that security must be called after an usher has been unable to enforce the policy. The Toronto Blue Jays think that the additional smoking restrictions—limiting it in concourses in addition to general seating areas—have hurt beer sales. The New York Mets said they received a few cancellations of season tickets because of the restrictions; at Shea Stadium, the strongest opposition to the policy—both in terms of complaints and in non-compliance—has been from foreign tourists and those who have been drinking excessively.