

The City of St. Petersburg is not banning smoke devices from the Rowdies' matches, as we want to ensure the matches remain a fun and lively experience for fans. However, public safety is paramount.

Per Tampa Bay Rowdies' rules, smoke devices / smoke bombs have always been prohibited from being brought into Al Lang Stadium by the general public. Per Rowdies' personnel, it is a permitted item if stored at Al Lang Stadium and utilized by designated supporter clubs (such as Ralph's Mob) within a designated area. Tampa Bay Rowdies' rules state that such devices must not be activated in "close proximity to another person." Late last season, the Rowdies Organization was informed that the aforementioned rule must be enforced beginning in 2020.

St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue also recently met with 'Ralph's Mob', supporters of the Tampa Bay Rowdies soccer club to discuss concerns related to the use of smoke devices in the stands during matches. SPFR determined that the devices, which measured at 800 degrees in order to produce the smoke, were being deployed in close proximity to other fans.

St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue is confident that through coordination with the Rowdies Organization we can both ensure public safety and health and allow smoke to be deployed. As soccer fans and fans of the atmosphere created at Al Lang Stadium, we look forward to seeing the Rowdies' colors billowing from Al Lang Stadium for years to come.