

## No smoking at elite club ignites suit

By Bill Orlove  
Staff Writer

The next time you see Alvin E. Orlian, smoke may be coming from his ears rather than his trademark pipe.

Orlian, a 65-year-old Boca Raton real estate developer, paid \$45,000 to join the exclusive Falls Country Club of Lake Worth in 1986. Orlian, a smoker since he was 17, was able to smoke anywhere on the club's grounds for two years, according to his lawsuit against the club filed in Palm Beach County Circuit Court Monday.

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Court documents show that in October 1988 the club's rules committee prohibited lit or unlit pipes in the clubhouse. And smoking was allowed only in designated areas.

"His basic complaint is they changed the rules," said Ken Lipman, Orlian's attorney. He said his client has resigned from the club and is suing for a full refund of his membership costs.

"He became a member under one condition. Now they made it into a club that he can't use," Lipman said.

In a letter to the club on Jan. 20, Orlian wrote, "In view of the fact that I have been a member of private country clubs for about 40 years it would have been impossible for me to anticipate such an unheard of rule. Obviously, I would not have become a member if I had any idea such a rule would be put into effect."

"I am very disturbed," Orlian said Monday when asked about the case.

Lipman said the club has not responded to Orlian's letter nor refunded his membership.

Representatives of the Falls Country Club couldn't be reached for comment.