

NT: CLUB LIQUOR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS



Managing a club liquor licence requires understanding and adhering to certain requirements and conditions. Most importantly, you are required to responsibly manage the sale and consumption of liquor. If you uphold the requirements of your licence you can avoid excessive drinking from patrons, as well as antisocial and unsafe behaviour occurring in your club.

- A liquor licence states where and when alcohol can be served and consumed.
- In the Northern Territory, the NT Liquor Act 2019 controls the sale and supply of alcohol and the Liquor Commission is responsible for regulating the liquor industry. When clubs apply for their liquor licence, they chose an authority for that licence that suits their circumstances.¹ Different authorities have different risk levels, and this helps calculate the licence fee the club will pay.

Authorities include:

- community club authority (very low risk)
- club authority (moderate risk)
- community event authority (very low risk).

Your liquor licence will contain all the conditions you must adhere to, however there are some general obligations you should understand.

LICENCES:

- **Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA)** – anyone who sells, serves or supplies alcohol must have an RSA certificate within 7 days of starting work at the licensed premises.²
- **Record keeping** – you need to keep the licence, and an RSA register that has a copy of all staff members' RSA certificates on your premises.²
- **Changes to the licensed premises** – if you want to make changes to your premises, such as adding an outdoor area or a removing walls, you need to receive approval to do so before you begin the work at your venue.³
- **Intoxicated patrons** – selling or supplying alcohol to an intoxicated person in a licensed premises is illegal. You can remove or exclude a person from your premises if you have reasonable grounds to suspect they may be intoxicated.⁴
- **Manager of a liquor licence** – a licensed premises must have a manager who upholds the liquor licence, also known as a nominee. If you need to change the manager/nominee, you must submit a 'Change of manager of a liquor licence' form.⁵
- **Changes to your liquor licence** – if you want to make changes to your liquor licence authority or conditions (e.g. trading hours), you can submit an application to do so.⁶
- **Free drinking water** – where alcohol is consumed at licensed events there must be free drinking water provided to patrons.⁷
- **Other obligations** – conditions will apply depending on the liquor licence authority such as displaying certain notices, meeting fire precautions and health requirements, keeping non-alcoholic drinks, and hours of alcohol service.¹

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Further information:

Liquor and hospitality

<https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality>

Apply for a liquor licence

<https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality/apply-for-a-liquor-licence>

Licensing NT

Darwin head office: (08) 8999 1800

<https://nt.gov.au/industry/licences/licensing-nt-contacts>

References:

1. Northern Territory Government. Apply for a liquor licence 2020.
Available from: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality/liquor-licences-and-wholesaler-registration/apply-for-a-liquor-licence>
2. Northern Territory Government. Serve alcohol responsibly 2020.
Available from: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality/rules-for-serving-alcohol/serve-alcohol-responsibly>
3. Northern Territory Government. Make changes to licensed premises 2020.
Available from: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality/licensed-premises/make-changes-to-licensed-premises>
4. Northern Territory Government. Intoxicated patrons in licensed premises 2020.
Available from: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality/rules-for-serving-alcohol/intoxicated-patrons-in-licensed-premises>
5. Northern Territory Government. Change a liquor licence nominee 2020.
Available from: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality/liquor-licences-and-wholesaler-registration/change-a-liquor-licence-nominee>
6. Northern Territory Government. Change or vary liquor licence conditions or authority 2020.
Available from: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality/liquor-licences-and-wholesaler-registration/change-or-vary-liquor-licence-conditions-or-authority>
7. Northern Territory Government. Water quality at public events 2020.
Available from: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/hospitality/public-events/water-public-events>