NT: CLUB LIQUOR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS



When you're managing a club liquor licence you need to understand the conditions set out in it and make sure your club complies with them.

This will ensure your club responsibly manages the sale and consumption of alcohol and you meet any legal requirements.

Your liquor licence will state where and when alcohol can be sold, supplied and consumed.

When licence requirements are met, the risk of excessive drinking, unsafe situations, conflict and drink driving is significantly reduced. This helps you maintain a safe and welcoming club environment.

In the Northern Territory (NT), the *NT Liquor Act 2019* sets out the conditions for the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol.[1] And the NT Liquor Commission regulates the liquor laws under the Act.[2]

CLUB LICENCES:

When clubs apply for a liquor licence in the NT, they choose an authority that sets out the rules and conditions of the licence:

- **Club authority (moderate risk)** – allows clubs to sell alcohol to members and guests for consumption on the premises and take away alcohol for club members only. Standard trading hours: 10am to midnight every day, except Good Friday and Christmas Day. Club must also provide meals.
- **Community club authority (very low risk)** – allows clubs to sell alcohol to members and guests for consumption on the premises. Authorised hours and days of trade, and conditions are tailored to meet a club's needs. Limits apply to the aggregate annual volume of alcohol that can be sold at the club.
- **Community event authority (very low risk)** – allows clubs to sell alcohol at regular but infrequent community events, and club must notify the Director of Liquor Licensing at least 14 days before the event.[3]

The individual liquor licences contain all the conditions clubs must adhere to and generally have varying requirements and responsibilities, depending on the type of licence. It's important for clubs to be familiar with their liquor licence to make sure all conditions are being met and to keep up to date with any legislative changes.

Non-compliance will result in an offence being committed and penalties may apply.

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LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

The following table summarises some of the key requirements that apply to clubs depending on the type of liquor licence they hold.

Requirement[1]	Club authority	Community club authority	Community event authority
Approved consumption area and hours – alcohol can only be sold within the licensed area and authorised hours approved in a club's liquor licence.	✓	✓	✓
Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) – clubs are required to adhere to RSA, which details responsibilities around serving alcohol. For example, one requirement is that clubs must not supply alcohol to intoxicated individuals or people aged under 18.	✓	✓	✓
RSA training – the staff who serve alcohol, as well as those in a supervisory role, must have completed an approved RSA training course within 7 days of being employed. RSA refresher training is required to be undertaken every 3 years.	✓	✓	✓
Managing intoxication – an intoxicated person may remain at a club provided they are not served alcohol and are not drunk, violent, quarrelsome, or disorderly.	✓	✓	✓
Minors – children can be on club premises unless a specific area has been declared as prohibited by the Director of Liquor Licensing.	✓	✓	✓
Signage – a club's liquor licence, as well as the signage or posters relevant to the licence and provided by the NT Government, must be displayed in a place where people can easily read them.[4]	✓	✓	✓
Free drinking water – complementary tap water must be available to patrons during the hours of operation.[5]	✓	✓	✓
Availability of food – a light meal must be available for purchase by patrons at least 5 days a week, between 12-2pm and 6-8pm.[5]	✓	✗	✗
Availability of non-alcoholic drinks – a reasonable range of non-alcoholic beverages must be available for purchase by patrons during the hours of operation.	✓	✓	✓
Protect neighbouring amenity – reasonable steps are required to make sure there is minimal disturbance to the area surrounding the club, including undue and unreasonable noise in the club.	✓	✓	✓

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Changes to your liquor licence or permit – if clubs want to make variations to the liquor licence (e.g. changes to licensed area), an application can be submitted to Licensing NT.[6]	✓	✓	x
Administration and record keeping – there are some administrative obligations clubs must uphold, such as such as keeping a copy of the liquor licence on premises and maintaining a register of current RSA certificates for all bar staff.[6]	✓	✓	✓
Inspections – NT Liquor Commission inspectors and NT Police Force officers can enter and inspect club premises to make sure licence holders are complying with both the liquor licence conditions, and the law.	✓	✓	✓
Manager of a liquor licence – a licensed premises must have a manager who is responsible for ensuring compliance with all licence conditions, also known as a 'nominee'.	✓	✓	✓

LIQUOR REGISTRATIONS

For smaller clubs with 100 members or less, the liquor registration *server of liquor – small community group* allows clubs to serve drinks for up to 4 hours per week without a liquor licence if:

- the person serving alcohol has a current RSA certificate
- alcohol is served at the premises nominated on the registration
- the main purpose of the club is to run an activity, not to drink alcohol.[7]

Further information:

Apply to sell, supply or serve liquor
https://nt.gov.au/industry/liquor/sell-supply-serve

Types of liquor licence authorities
https://nt.gov.au/industry/liquor/sell-supply-serve/licence-authorities

Guide to managing a licensed premises
https://nt.gov.au/_media/docs/business-and-industry/liquor-and-hospitality/guide-to-managing-a-licensed-premises.pdf

Liquor registrations
https://nt.gov.au/industry/liquor/sell-supply-serve/liquor-registrations

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This resource is intended as general information for community sporting clubs and was accurate at the time it was published. Laws and regulations may change, so the information may not always be up to date.

The information provided in this resource does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. While the Alcohol and Drug Foundation has taken reasonable care in preparing this resource, clubs are responsible for checking the accuracy of the information and seeking independent legal advice for their specific situation.

References:

1. Northern Territory Government. *Liquor Act 2019.* [Internet]. Darwin, Australia; 2026. [cited 2026 Apr 14] Available from: https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/LIQUOR-ACT-2019.
2. Northern Territory Government. *Liquor Commission.* [Internet]. Darwin, Australia: Northern Territory Government; 2026. [cited 2026 Apr 13] Available from: https://agd.nt.gov.au/regulatory-services/liquor-commission.
3. Northern Territory Government. *Types of liquor licence authorities.* [Internet]. Darwin, Australia: Northern Territory Government; 2026. [cited 2026 Apr 13] Available from: https://nt.gov.au/industry/liquor/sell-supply-serve/licence-authorities.
4. Northern Territory Government. *Signs for your licensed premises.* [Internet]. Darwin, Australia: Northern Territory Government; 2026. [cited 2026 Apr 26] Available from: https://nt.gov.au/industry/liquor/sell-serve-responsibly/signs-for-your-premises.
5. Northern Territory Government. *Liquor regulations 2019.* [Internet]. Darwin, Australia: 2026. [cited 2026 May 21] Available from: https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/LIQUOR-REGULATIONS-2019.
6. Licensing NT. *Guide to managing a licensed premises.* [Internet]. Darwin, Australia: Northern Territory Government. 2025. [cited 2026 Apr 13] Available from: https://nt.gov.au/_media/docs/business-and-industry/liquor-and-hospitality/guide-to-managing-a-licensed-premises.pdf.
7. Northern Territory Government. *Liquor registrations.* [Internet]. Darwin, Australia: Northern Territory Government; 2026. [cited 2026 Apr 13] Available from: https://nt.gov.au/industry/liquor/sell-supply-serve/liquor-registrations.

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