

VIC: CLUB LIQUOR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS



When you're managing a club liquor licence or permit 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 or permit will state where and when alcohol can be sold, supplied and consumed.

When licence or permit 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 Victoria, The *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* sets out the conditions for the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol.¹ And *Liquor Control Victoria (LCV)* regulates the liquor laws under the Act.²

CLUB LICENCES:

There are four different types of liquor licence available for Victorian clubs:

- **Full club licence** - best for large commercial clubs with many members.³
- **Restricted club licence** - suitable for clubs of any size, but most commonly used by community and sporting clubs.³
- **Renewable limited licence** - when supplying alcohol is not your main business, but you want to offer a limited amount, or specific types, of alcohol.⁴
- **Temporary limited licence** - for one-off events or short series of events, or to make temporary changes to conditions on a full or restricted club liquor licence (e.g. increase trading hours).⁵

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.

BYO PERMIT:

In Victoria, a BYO permit allows members and guests to bring their own liquor to the club and drink it on the premises when clubs don't have a liquor licence. Under a BYO permit, clubs cannot sell or supply alcohol.

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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 or permit they hold.

Requirement ¹	All club licences	BYO permit
Approved consumption area and hours – alcohol can only be consumed within the licensed or permit area (or ‘red line plan’) that is approved in a club’s licence or permit.	✓	✓
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.	✓	x
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 – there are various obligations clubs need to comply with when allowing people aged under 18 on club premises (e.g. young people are in the company of an adult or are having a meal).	✓	✓
Signage – a club’s liquor licence or permit, as well as the approved LCV signage or posters relevant to the licence or permit, must be displayed in a place where people can read the conditions. ⁶	✓	✓
Free drinking water – where alcohol is supplied at a club, free drinking water must be provided to members and guests. Clubs can apply for an exemption from this requirement if, for example, there is no access to mains water and the lack of free drinking water will not increase alcohol-related harm.	✓	x
Protect neighbouring amenity – reasonable steps are required to make sure there is minimal disturbance to the area surrounding the club.	✓	✓
Changes to your liquor licence or permit – if clubs want to make variations to the liquor licence or permit conditions (e.g. changes to ‘red line plan’ or trading hours), an application can be submitted to LCV. ⁷	✓	✓
Administration and record keeping – there are some administrative obligations clubs must uphold, such as keeping a copy of the ‘red line plan’ or advising LCV when the designated director or nominee changes.	✓	✓
Inspections – LCV inspectors and Victoria Police can enter and inspect club premises to make sure licence or permit holders are complying with both the liquor licence/permit conditions, and the law.	✓	✓
Approved nominee – a club’s ‘nominee’ is the person responsible for the daytoday management of a club’s licensed premises (usually where a licensee is not an individual). A nominee must ensure alcohol is supplied lawfully and responsibly.	✓	x

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Further information:

Types of club liquor licences

[vic.gov.au/apply-club-liquor-licence](https://www.vic.gov.au/apply-club-liquor-licence)

BYO permit

[vic.gov.au/apply-byo-liquor-permit](https://www.vic.gov.au/apply-byo-liquor-permit)

Liquor Control Victoria

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[vic.gov.au/liquor-control-victoria](https://www.vic.gov.au/liquor-control-victoria)

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. Victorian Government. *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*. [Internet]. Melbourne, Australia; 1998. [cited 2026 Mar 24] Available from: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/liquor-control-reform-act-1998/110>.
2. Liquor Control Victoria. *About Liquor Control Victoria*. [Internet]. Melbourne, Australia: Victoria State Government 2025. [cited 2026 Mar 24] Available from: <https://www.vic.gov.au/about-liquor-control-victoria>.
3. Liquor Control Victoria. *Club liquor licence*. [Internet]. Melbourne, Australia: Victoria State Government 2025. [cited 2026 Mar 24] Available from: <https://www.vic.gov.au/apply-club-liquor-licence>.
4. Liquor Control Victoria. *Renewable limited liquor licence*. [Internet]. Melbourne, Australia: Victoria State Government 2025. [cited 2026 Mar 24] Available from: <https://www.vic.gov.au/apply-renewable-limited-liquor-licence>.
5. Liquor Control Victoria. *Temporary limited liquor licence*. [Internet]. Melbourne, Australia: Victoria State Government; 2026. [cited 2026 Mar 24] Available from: <https://www.vic.gov.au/apply-temporary-limited-liquor-licence>.
6. Liquor Control Victoria. *Signs to display where customers buy alcohol*. [Internet]. Melbourne, Australia: Victoria State Government 2025. [cited 2026 Mar 24] Available from: <https://www.vic.gov.au/signs-to-display-where-customers-buy-alcohol>.
7. Liquor Control Victoria. *Make changes to your liquor licence*. [Internet]. Melbourne, Australia: Victoria State Government; 2026. [cited 2026 Mar 23] Available from: <https://www.vic.gov.au/make-changes-to-liquor-licence>.

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