

WA: 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 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 Western Australia (WA), the *Liquor Control Act 1988* sets out the conditions for the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol.¹ And the Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) regulates the liquor laws under the Act.²

CLUB LICENCES

There are three different types of liquor licences available for WA clubs:

- **Club licence** – authorises the sale and supply of liquor to members of the club, their guests and visitors.
- **Club restricted licence** – authorises the sale and supply of liquor to members of the club, and their guests and visitors. In addition, clubs with a restricted licence cannot sell packaged liquor. The trading hours are listed in the licence conditions.
- **Occasional licence** – authorises a club to sell or supply, or allow the consumption of liquor:
 - at approved times and for a specific event or short period (up to 3 weeks)
 - in approved locations and designated areas
 - in line with conditions set on the licence.²

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 licence	Club restricted licence	Occasional licence
Approved consumption area and hours – alcohol can only be consumed within the licensed area that is approved in your club's 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 approved RSA training within 4 weeks of being employed. A copy of all RSA certificates must be kept at the club. ³	✓	✓	x
Managing intoxication – intoxicated people must not be allowed on the club premises.	✓	✓	✓
Minors – there are some considerations for clubs when allowing people aged under 18 on club premises. Young people can remain on premises if it is not against the rules of the club, is permitted by the club committee and does not contravene a condition of the licence or permit. ⁴	✓	✓	✓
Signage – clubs are required to display a copy of the liquor licence and other licence information depending on the individual liquor licence held.	✓	✓	✓
Free drinking water – where alcohol is supplied at a club for consumption, there must be free drinking water provided. ⁵	✓	✓	✓
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 – if clubs want to make variations to the liquor licence conditions (e.g. changes to the licensed area), an application can be submitted to LGIRS. ⁶	✓	✓	x (clubs must lodge a new application)
Administration and record keeping – there are some administrative obligations clubs must uphold, such as keeping a copy of the liquor licence and approved premises plan to show upon request.	✓	✓	✓

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Incident register – a club must keep an incident register that records certain types of incidents that occur on club premises, such as when a person is refused entry because they are intoxicated. ⁷	✓	✓	✓
Inspections – LGIRS inspectors and WA 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 manager – an approved manager (or licensee if this is an individual) needs to be at the premises whenever business is conducted, and hold a Manager's ID card.	✓	✓	x

Further information:

Licence types and trading hours

dlgsc.wa.gov.au/racing-gaming-and-liquor/liquor/liquor-licensing/license-types-and-trading-hours

Forms and checklists

dlgsc.wa.gov.au/racing-gaming-and-liquor/liquor/liquor-licensing/forms-and-checklists

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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.

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References

1. Government of Western Australia. *Liquor control Act 1988*. [Internet]. Perth, Australia; 2025. [cited 2026 May 26] Available from: https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtile_546_homepage.html.
2. Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety. *Licence types and trading hours*. [Internet]. Government of Western Australia; 2025. [cited 2026 May 26] Available from: <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/racing-gaming-and-liquor/liquor/liquor-licensing/license-types-and-trading-hours>.
3. Government of Western Australia. *Liquor control regulations 1989*. [Internet]. Perth, Australia; 2026. [cited 2026 May 20] Available from: https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtile_1735_homepage.html.
4. Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety. *Juveniles on licensed premises*. [Internet]. Perth, Western Australia: Government of Western Australia; 2025. [cited 2026 May 20] Available from: <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/department/publications/publication/juveniles-on-licensed-premises>.
5. Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety. *Free drinking water*. [Internet]. Perth, Australia: Government of Western Australia; 2025. [cited 2026 May 26] Available from: <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/department/publications/publication/free-drinking-water>.
6. Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety. *Alteration/redefinition*. [Internet]. Perth, Australia: Government of Western Australia; 2023. [cited 2026 May 26] Available from: <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/racing-gaming-and-liquor/liquor/liquor-applications/online-lodgement-guide/alteration-redefinition-lodgement-guide>.
7. Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety. *Incident register at licensed premises*. [Internet]. Perth, Australia: Government of Western Australia; 2026. [cited 2026 May 26] Available from: <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/department/publications/publication/incident-register-at-licensed-premises>.

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