

Liquor permits for clubs

Community and sporting clubs may apply to the Commissioner for Licensing to sell liquor for consumption on the premises under a *special permit*.

The Commissioner specifies the times and any conditions that apply. A permit holder must comply with these requirements, in addition to the general provisions of the [Liquor Licensing Act 1990](#).

The Liquor and Gaming Branch provides support to the Commissioner. We are here to help.

Club and applicant attributes

A community or sporting club applying to sell liquor under a special permit must:

- be constituted solely or primarily for community or sporting purposes (ie not-for-profit);
- be incorporated in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964*;
- have at least 50 adult members; and
- have a clubhouse/meeting place that complies with local government and fire safety requirements.

The Act prescribes requirements to be qualified to hold a permit. A person must:

- be a natural person (who applies on behalf of the club);
- be at least 18 years old;
- satisfy the Commissioner that they will be able to exercise *effective control* over the sale and consumption of liquor; and
- be *fit and proper* (associates likely to influence the management of the club must also be fit and proper).

'Incidental' liquor sales

A special permit may be granted to a community or sporting club where the sale of liquor is *incidental* to its *principal purpose*. This means that liquor sales:

- should not be the reason a club exists;
- should only be an *add-on* to the club's main activity; and
- should not take prominence over the main activity of a club or become necessary for its success.

Operational requirements

Hours

- Generally permits are issued to community and sporting clubs for sale and consumption *up to 15 hours per week*. An application can be for the duration of a sporting season and/or for specific events such as a quiz night or concert.
- An applicant nominates the hours they would like to apply for. For season permits, the hours may be the same each week or vary, for example, for rostered home and away games.
- If a club has a season permit, it can apply for an additional permit for a function or event. These are usually limited to one per month.

Duration

- Permits are generally issued for *12 months* (where club activities are ongoing), *six months* (to align with football and cricket seasons - 1 April to 30 September and 1 October to 31 March) or for *less than four days* (if additional hours are approved).
- The Act does not make provision for the renewal of permits. A new permit must be applied for upon expiry (see below for timing details).

Responsible service of alcohol

- A permit holder and all people who sell or serve liquor on the premises must have completed a responsible service of alcohol (RSA) course. The RSA Statement of Attainment for each person is to be kept on the premises and provided on request.
- A club's bar facilities are not to be promoted as a commercial business. No takeaway sales of liquor are allowed.
- Sporting clubs applying for a permit must register with [Good Sports](#). Sporting clubs are provided with assistance to modify attitudes to drinking and to support safer environments.
- Australian Rules Football (AFL) clubs must lodge an Alcohol Management Plan with us. The plan must confirm the people at the club who will manage the sale and consumption of liquor, will ensure a safe environment. A club's plan is to be kept on the premises and provided on request.

Underage members and guests

- Young people and families are an important part of many community and sporting clubs. Restrictions are not usually placed on young people entering and being present in a club.
- Clubs are able to apply their own *house rules* to ensure that young people on the premises remain safe. For example, young people should not be exposed to behaviour that *normalises alcohol consumption* or sends a message that *drinking alcohol is part of playing sport*.
- A permit application to sell liquor when underage games are being played is unlikely to be granted.

Shared premises

- A permit is generally not granted if there is an existing permit in place for a premises. Where a premises is shared or controlled by one organisation, clubs should allow time to discuss their permit plans and negotiate arrangements. We cannot resolve disagreements between clubs.

Applications

- A permit application should be submitted to us *at least five weeks prior* to the date intended for a permit to apply.
- We are unable to process an application until it is complete. For an application to be complete it must include:
 - Application form
 - Credit Card Payment Authority
 - Statutory Declaration
 - Authority and Consent
 - RSA Statement of Attainment
 - Evidence of council approval
 - Site plan
 - Roster for competition season (sporting clubs)
 - Alcohol Management Plan (AFL clubs)

If not previously provided:

 - Certificate of Incorporation
 - Certified copy of club constitution or rules
 - Floor plan
- Existing permit holders receive an email reminder from us before a permit expires.
- If a permit application is for a one-off public event, the event may also need to be assessed by Business Tasmania (a COVID public health requirement). Providing an application to us at least five weeks prior to the intended start date allows 21 days for this separate assessment by Business Tasmania. [Go to our website](#) for details including the steps to follow.

Special permit or club licence

Special permit

- A permit may be granted to a community or sporting club where the sale of liquor is *incidental* and not intended to make a profit.
- If the sale of liquor is intended to be more extensive than this, then a *club licence* is the relevant authority under the Act, not a permit.

Club licence

- A club licence allows the sale of liquor *between 5am and midnight on any day* on the premises, *for consumption on and off* the premises; and subject to any conditions. This licence category allows a club operating as a commercial business to sell liquor to make a profit (eg larger sporting clubs and RSL clubs).
- For more details, including costs, and to discuss options, please contact the Liquor and Gaming Branch.