



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VFAFA ALCOHOL POLICY

The VFAFA acknowledges its role in dealing with the consumption of alcohol at VFAFA matches and it is proud of its history of enabling all clubs to provide an environment that delivers a safe and rewarding experience for all participants and spectators.

Accordingly, no alcohol can be consumed whilst any VFAFA matches are in progress, unless otherwise set out in this policy. At the conclusion of the last match of the day at the ground, if a club has a relevant licence then alcohol may be consumed.

For the avoidance of doubt the conditions as stipulated within this policy, during the conduct of VFAFA matches, are to be adhered to and take precedence over other conditions included within the club's liquor licence (i.e. club licence may permit consumption of alcohol in outdoor areas but this is not a condition of the VFAFA Alcohol Policy and is therefore precluded).

Should the club have any queries in relation to the implementation or application of the VFAFA Alcohol Policy please contact the VFAFA CEO for clarification.

Serving of Alcohol during 'Twilight Matches'

With the increase in VFAFA team numbers and the requirement for more flexible fixturing, the VFAFA accepts that some matches may be played as 'Twilight Matches' after the conclusion of the traditional 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed), usually commencing at 4.45 pm. If this is the case, the bar may be opened after the conclusion of the 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed).

Clubs may serve alcohol during 'Twilight Matches' under the following conditions:

- Clubs are required to complete the [2022 VFAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can also be found on the VFAFA Portal under Match Day Requirements. The form must be completed and submitted before clubs can proceed to serve alcohol as per this policy.
- Clubs cannot serve alcohol until the conclusion of the 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed). **Note:** Match Day Functions and 'Twilight Match' Dinners on the same day are not permitted).
- Alcohol can only be served and consumed within the club's social facilities and cannot be taken outside (including onto balconies).

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Serving of Alcohol during a 'Stand Alone Night Match' (New Trial for 2022)

The VAFA defines a 'stand alone night match' as a match played at night and which is the only match fixtured at the venue that day.

Clubs may serve alcohol during a 'Stand Alone Night Match' under the following conditions as part of a trial in 2022:

- Clubs are required to complete the [2022 VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can also be found on the VAFA Portal under Match Day Requirements to advise the VAFA that they will be taking up the option at their stand alone home night match to provide hospitality and alcohol to players, officials, umpires and spectators. The form must be completed and submitted at least (14) days prior to the scheduled match date before clubs can proceed to serve alcohol as per this policy.
- Any serving and consumption of alcohol must be accompanied by the provision of substantial food offerings.
- Alcohol can only be served and consumed within the club's social facilities and cannot be taken outside (including onto balconies).
- Alcohol may be served and consumed from 1 hour prior to the advertised start time of the stand alone night match up until the start of half-time.
- All alcohol is required to be removed from the tables and other areas of the social room by the end of half-time of the stand alone night match.
- Clubs are permitted to recommence serving alcohol at the conclusion of the stand alone night match.

Serving of Alcohol at Match Day Luncheons

Clubs have the opportunity to serve alcohol with a sit-down meal from 12.00pm until the conclusion of half-time of the 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed) under the following conditions:

- Clubs are required to complete the [2022 VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can also be found on the VAFA Portal under Match Day Requirements. This form is required to be lodged before the first club function of the home and away season and provides cover for the entire home and away season. The form must be completed and submitted before clubs can proceed to serve alcohol as per this policy.
- Alcohol can only be served and consumed within the club's social facilities and cannot be taken outside (including onto balconies).
- All alcohol is required to be removed from the tables and other areas of the social room by the end of half-time of the 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed).
- Applies for daytime matches only.

Alcohol is not to be served during this time period if a match day luncheon is not taking place.

Extended Function Permit (Continued Trial for 2022)

The VAFA will allow clubs to extend Match Day Luncheons beyond the cut off time at the conclusion of half-time of the 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed) under the following conditions as part of a continued trial in 2022:

- Clubs are required to complete the [2022 VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can also be found on the VAFA Portal under Match Day Requirements for approval by the VAFA administration. The form must be completed and submitted before clubs can proceed to serve alcohol as per this policy.
- An “Extended Function Permit” (EFP) must be applied for and granted by the VAFA administration under certain known conditions.
- Alcohol may be consumed beyond the end of half-time of the 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed).
- A limit of four (4) Extended Function Permit’s (EFP’s) applies for the year per club.
- All functions (and associated consumption of alcohol) must be contained within the club’s social facilities and cannot be held outside (including on balconies).
- Applies for daytime matches only.
- The trial includes a “one strike policy” whereby a club found in breach of any part of the policy would be penalised accordingly and forfeit any future EFP applications for that season.

Reserve Section Matches - Senior Men & Women Only (Continued Trial 2022)

Traditionally at the conclusion of Reserve Section matches the players, officials, umpires and spectators are not afforded the same hospitality and social benefits as Senior teams.

The VAFA will continue to allow clubs, for clubs who wish to apply, the ability to serve alcohol at the conclusion of the Reserve Section match under the following conditions as part of a continued trial in 2022:

- Clubs are required to complete the [2022 VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can also be found on the VAFA Portal under Match Day Requirements to advise the VAFA that they will be taking up the option at their home matches to provide hospitality and alcohol to players, officials, umpires and spectators from the Reserve section match until the end of half-time of the 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed).
- Applications are made for the season only, there will be no part permits provided.
- Any serving of alcohol must be accompanied by the provision of substantial food offerings.
- Alcohol can only be consumed within the club’s social facilities and cannot be taken outside (including onto balconies).
- Alcohol can only be consumed as stipulated by this VAFA policy.

Should there be no fixtured 2.00 pm match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed) this condition cannot be applied.

This trial is not mandatory for clubs.

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Breaches

If club officials observe spectators consuming alcohol at their grounds in a manner that is not included in this policy, they are, to the best of their ability, to request that the alcohol be removed immediately from the ground.

Any club who does not comply with the VAFA Alcohol Policy shall be investigated to determine whether they have engaged in conduct unbecoming a club of the Association in that they have breached the VAFA Alcohol Policy.

If found to have breached the VAFA Alcohol Policy penalties can range as follows:

- 1st offence: \$1,000;
- 2nd offence: \$2,000 and;
- 3rd offence: not permitted to hold Match Day Functions or Twilight Match Dinners for the remainder of the season and any other such penalty as the Board sees fit (including risking expulsion from the Association)

NB: All penalties are to be paid within 7 days or further penalties may be invoked

These consequences will also arise in the event that clubs do not manage serving of alcohol in a manner that is expected from a VAFA club. Again, clubs are reminded of the VAFA's proud history of enabling all clubs to provide an environment that delivers a safe and rewarding experience for all participants.

VAFA Finals

VAFA finals matches are an important revenue source for the Association and on most occasions VAFA finals matches are held at gated venues, which provides for patrons to pay an entry fee.

From time to time VAFA finals matches may be played at venues where social facilities exist whereby alcohol can be served.

In the first instance the VAFA Alcohol Policy will prevail while VAFA matches are in progress.

In the event that a club(s) wish to hold a luncheon at these venues the VAFA Alcohol Policy will be applicable.

Where venues operate a separate licensed facility and by their liquor license are allowed to sell alcohol at times when VAFA finals matches take place, the VAFA will work with the venue operator to ensure measures are put in place to restrict alcohol consumption in full view of matches.

Under no circumstances can alcohol be taken outside the social facilities at these venues during VAFA matches.

VAFA finals matches are a showcase opportunity for the Association and its clubs and we respect where venues operate licensed facilities they have every right to serve alcohol, however the VAFA Alcohol Policy is applicable on all occasions as it is an important point of difference for the Association, whereby alcohol consumption is in accordance with VAFA Policy.

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COVID-19

It is important that you regularly keep up to date with the current [Victorian Government COVIDSafe settings and restrictions](#) and the [Arts and Entertainment sector guidance](#) webpage.

To help Victoria stay safe and stay open, it is vital that all operations ensure staff and visitors follow the [six principles of COVID Safe workplaces](#).

While the COVIDSafe principles apply to all businesses, **it is especially critical that licensed premises strictly adhere to hygiene and record keeping requirements, given they are high risk and high traffic environments.** Please do everything you can to encourage patrons to check in as record keeping is vital to keeping Victorians safe.

Practise good hygiene

Frequently and regularly [clean and disinfect](#) shared spaces, including high touch communal items such as bars, tables and bathrooms.

Make soap and hand sanitiser available for all workers and customers throughout your venue and encourage regular handwashing.

Keep records and act quickly

Everyone who enters your premises for contact tracing purposes in the event of an outbreak. The free [Victorian Government QR Code Service](#) is easy to setup and use.

And remember, if you or your workers have even mild COVID-19 symptoms, please get tested and stay at home. Every test helps keep Victorians safe.

An important part of staying safe and staying open is having an updated [COVID Safe Plan](#).

It is mandatory for every Victorian club with on-site operations to have a COVID Safe Plan. Clubs must review and update their COVID Safe Plan regularly

The Victorian Government's High-Risk Industry Engagement and Enforcement Operation (HRIEEO) is actively enforcing Victorian Chief Health Officer (CHO) directions. Random spot checks are occurring across the state.

If you have concerns about business practice during this time, phone:

- The **coronavirus hotline** on 1800 675 398 for general information
- The **WorkSafe advisory line** on 1800 136 089 for information relating to workplace safety
- The **Victoria Police Assistance Line** on 131 444 to report a breach of COVID-19 restrictions. Breaches of public health directions can result in significant fines.

Please bookmark the links in this email and refer to them regularly to help you comply with current Victorian Government advice. Visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au for more information or call Business

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Victoria on 13 22 15. If you need an interpreter, call the coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398 and press 0.

Good Sports Program

The VAFA supports the Good Sports program. This program is an initiative of the Australian Drug Foundation to develop safer and healthier communities. The program helps sporting clubs manage alcohol responsibly and reduce alcohol related problems. Good Sports also promote responsibility drinking programs for club bar managers and other relevant persons who serve alcohol at the club.

The VAFA encourages all clubs to become Good Sports Accredited clubs and will assist with education and training where necessary, or facilitate contact with a Good Sports Program official for further support.

To visit the Good Sports website log on to <https://goodsports.com.au/>