



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VAF A ALCOHOL POLICY

The VAF A acknowledges its role in dealing with the consumption of alcohol at VAF A matches and it is proud of its history of balancing the protection of the match day experience to ensure a safe environment for all participants and spectators, with the modern day social and fundraising needs of VAF A clubs.

Accordingly, no alcohol can be consumed whilst any VAF A 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 VAF A 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 VAF A Alcohol Policy and is therefore precluded).

For the purpose of this policy, substantial food offering is defined as follows:

Duation of Function	Substantial Food Offering
60 minutes	Sit-down meal per person OR minimum four (4) pieces of food per person
61 minutes – 90 minutes	Sit-down meal per person OR minimum six (6) pieces of food per person
91 minutes – 120 minutes	Sit-down meal per person OR minimum eight (8) pieces of food per person
Extended Function Permit (EFP)	Sit-down meal per person AND/OR minimum of two (2) bowls and eight (8) pieces of food per person

Note the minimum pieces of food or bowls per person must be individual serves, and must not be servings of the same item. For example, if a club elects to hold a 60 minute function and provides the minimum of four (4) pieces of food per person, these four (4) pieces must be an individual sausage roll, sandwich, spring roll and arancini ball. If a club elected to serve four (4) sausage rolls per person only, this would not be deemed a substantial food offering.

Alternatively, clubs can work off a minimum food spend \$30 per person.

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The VAFA reserves the right to conduct investigations of substantial food offerings, including obtaining relevant catering invoices and other documentation as required.

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

Serving of Alcohol during ‘Twilight Matches’

With the increase in VAFA team numbers and the requirement for more flexible fixturing, the VAFA 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 [2023 VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can also be found on the VAFA 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).

Serving of Alcohol during a ‘Stand Alone Night Match’ (Continuing for 2023)

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 2023:

- Clubs are required to complete the [2023 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.

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Serving of Alcohol at Match Day Luncheons and Stand-Up Functions

The VAFA acknowledges that it may not be possible for all VAFA clubs to host a traditional match day luncheon with a sit-down meal provided. As a result, in 2023 the VAFA will enable clubs who wish to host a stand-up functions in the place of a match day luncheon to apply for the opportunity to serve alcohol at these events, provided a substantial food offering is made available.

Clubs have the opportunity to serve alcohol with a sit-down meal, or a stand-up functions with a substantial food offering provided, 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 [2023 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 or a stand-up functions with a substantial food offering provided is not taking place

Extended Function Permit (Continuing for 2023)

The VAFA will allow clubs to extend match day luncheons, or stand-up functions with a substantial food offering provided, 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 2023:

- Clubs are required to complete the [2023 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.

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- 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.

Matches Beginning at 11:40am Only (Continuing for 2023)

Traditionally at the conclusion of 11:40am fixtured matches the players, officials, umpires and spectators are not afforded the same hospitality and social benefits as players, officials, umpires and spectators involved in matches beginning at 2:00pm.

The VAFAs will continue to allow clubs, for clubs who wish to apply, the ability to serve alcohol at the conclusion of the 11:40am fixtured match under the following conditions as part of a continued trial in 2023:

- Clubs are required to complete the [2023 VAFAs Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can also be found on the VAFAs Portal under Match Day Requirements to advise the VAFAs 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 11:40am fixtured 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 VAFAs 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.

Breaches

If club or League officials observe players and/or 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 VAFAs 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 VAFAs Alcohol Policy.

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

- 1st offence: \$1,000;
- 2nd offence: \$2,000 and;
- 3rd offence: not permitted to hold Match Day Luncheons 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)

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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 VAFAs club. Again, clubs are reminded of the VAFAs proud history of enabling all clubs to provide a safe environment for all participants and spectators.

VAFAs Finals

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

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

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

In the event that a club(s) wish to hold a luncheon at these venues the VAFAs 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 VAFAs finals matches take place, the VAFAs 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 VAFAs matches.

VAFAs 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 VAFAs 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 VAFAs Policy.

Good Sports Program

The VAFAs supports the Good Sports program. This program is an initiative of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation to develop safer and healthier communities. The program helps sporting clubs manage alcohol responsibly and reduce alcohol-related harms. Good Sports also provide discounted responsible service of alcohol training for club bar managers and other relevant persons who serve alcohol at the club.

The VAFAs 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/>

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