



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2026 VAFA ALCOHOL POLICY

In line with VAFA's key values of RESPECT, INTEGRITY, INCLUSION, and COMMUNITY, the VAFA is determined to protect its proud 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 VAFA clubs.

Accordingly, no alcohol can be consumed, **inside or outside**, at any venue whilst VAFA matches are in progress, unless otherwise permitted within this policy. At the conclusion of the last match of the day at the venue, alcohol may be consumed in accordance with the venue's current liquor licence.

No alcohol during any VAFA fixtured match can be consumed outside including balconies (unless the Club has received prior written approval from VAFA). It is the **Club's responsibility** as per this Policy to adequately educate and inform its Members and Supporters to this Policy and the Spectator Code of Conduct, as well as ensuring regular checks are made on game day.

For the avoidance of doubt the conditions as stipulated within this policy, during the conduct of VAFA 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 VAFA Alcohol Policy and is therefore precluded).

Permitted Serving of Alcohol during Match Day Functions

Clubs have the opportunity to provide alcohol with a sit-down meal, or a stand-up function with a substantial food offering provided, until after half-time of the 2.00pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed) under the following conditions:

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- Alcohol can only be served and consumed within the club's social facilities and cannot be taken outside including balconies (except to outdoor areas not in direct view of the field, or with prior written approval from VAFA).
- All alcohol is required to be removed from the tables and other areas of the social facilities by the end of half-time of the 2.00pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed).

For the purpose of this policy, a sit down meal or stand up function with substantial food offering is defined as follows:

Substantial food offerings

- The duration of the sit down meal or stand-up function must be a minimum of 60 minutes.
- The function must either be a catered sit down meal per person, or a catered stand up served menu based on a \$30RRP per person.
- Extended Function Permits (EFPs) require a catered minimum of two (2) pieces of food per person (e.g. slices, sandwiches, party pies, sausage rolls, cakes) on offer following the Match Day Function.

****For the avoidance of doubt: if there is no Match Day Function, then no alcohol is to be served until the conclusion of the final game on the day.***

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

Extended Function Permits

The VAFA will allow clubs to extend Match Day Functions beyond the cut off time 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 [2026 VAFA Extended Function Permit Form](#) which can also be found on the VAFA Portal under Match Day Requirements for approval by

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the VAFA administration. The form must be completed **and approved** before clubs can proceed to serve alcohol as per this policy.

- A limit of four (4) Extended Function Permit's (EFP's) are allowed per season per club.
- a catered minimum of two (2) pieces of food per person (e.g. slices, sandwiches, party pies, sausage rolls, cakes) on offer following the Match Day Function.
- All other conditions within this policy are to be adhered to.

The policy includes a “one strike policy” whereby a club found in breach of any part of the policy will be penalised accordingly and forfeit any future Extended Function Permits for that season.

Permitted Serving of Alcohol for Matches Beginning at 11:40am Only

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 VAFA will continue to allow clubs the ability to serve alcohol at the **conclusion** of the 11:40am fixtured match under the following conditions:

- Alcohol **must only** be made available for players, officials, and umpires 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).
- Any serving of alcohol **must** be accompanied by a **catered** minimum of two (2) pieces of food per person (e.g. slices, sandwiches, party pies, sausage rolls, cakes) on offer.
- All other conditions within this policy are to be adhered to.

Permitted 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.

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- Clubs cannot serve alcohol until the conclusion of the 2.00 pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed), unless a prior Match Day Function has occurred or an approved EFP. (Note: only one Match Day Function per day is permitted).
- Any serving of alcohol must be accompanied by a catered minimum of two (2) pieces of food per person (e.g. slices, sandwiches, party pies, sausage rolls, cakes) on offer.
- All other conditions within this policy are to be adhered to.

Permitted Serving of Alcohol during a 'Stand Alone Night Match'

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. For all intent and purposes, 'stand alone night matches' are deemed as per a normal 2pm match day as part of this Policy.

****For the avoidance of doubt: if there is no Match Day Function, then no alcohol is to be served until the conclusion of the final game on the day.***

Permitted Serving of Alcohol during VAFA Finals

The VAFA will often host finals at **neutral** venues and VAFA recognise the revenue generation opportunities finals football can provide. In these instances, VAFA solely manage the playing field and change rooms, while venues may operate within their current liquor licences within their venues without the requirement of a Match Day Function, noting that no alcohol is permitted outside including balconies, unless the Club has received prior written approval from VAFA.

For all VAFA finals hosted by a **higher ranked team**, all other conditions within this policy are to be adhered to.

Enforcement and Penalties

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 those areas.

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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: \$3,000 and not permitted to serve alcohol 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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