



Victorian Amateur Football Association

Policies and Code of Conduct

Alcohol Policy

Date: March 2021

Reviewed: Annually

The VAFA acknowledges its role in dealing with the consumption of alcohol at VAFA 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.

Accordingly, no alcohol can be consumed whilst any VAFA 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.

COVID

The Victorian Government [announced](#) that from 11:59pm on Friday 26 February 2021, Victoria returned to [COVID Safe settings](#).

To keep up to date with current restrictions, it's important you regularly check the [Indoor Entertainment Venues Industry Restart Guidelines](#). After an announcement, a summary can be found at the [Arts and Entertainment sector guidance](#) webpage, with more detailed information uploaded shortly after.

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 - 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.
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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](#).



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

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 the club's liquor licence (ie. Club licence may include outdoor areas for the consumption of alcohol – this is not a condition of the VAF A policy and is therefore precluded).

Should the club have any queries in relation to the implementation or application of the following policy please contact the VAF A CEO for clarification.

Serving of Alcohol during 'Twilight Matches'.

With the increase in VAF A team numbers and the requirement for more flexible fixturing, the VAF A accepts that some matches may be played as 'Twilight Matches' after 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 2pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed).

When this occurs the home club must ensure that alcohol is only consumed within the social club and cannot be taken outside (including balconies).

In the event that clubs wish to serve alcohol during 'Twilight Matches':

- Clubs cannot serve alcohol until the conclusion of the 2pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed), (also note that Match Day Functions and 'Twilight Matches' Dinners on the same day are not permitted);
- Alcohol can only be consumed as stipulated by this VAF A policy.



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- Clubs are required to complete the [VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can be found on the Portal under Policies. The form must be completed and submitted before clubs can proceed to serve alcohol as above.

Alcohol cannot be served during a stand-alone 'Night Game' – refer VAFA Night Match policy.

Any "conduct unbecoming" or issues arising from the service of alcohol during 'Twilight Matches' will be considered serious breaches by Clubs and addressed appropriately by the Board (refer following).

Serving of Alcohol at Match Day Luncheons

Clubs have the opportunity to serve alcohol with a sit-down meal between midday and concluding at the end of half-time of the 2pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed). All alcohol is required to be removed from the tables by the end of half-time of the 2pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed).

Clubs are required to complete the [VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can be found on the Portal under Policies. 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 above.

Clubs who conduct luncheons without first submitting the [VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) risk consequences including those at the Board's discretion under the Association's "conduct unbecoming" rules and being refused permission for the rest of the season to hold a luncheon at which alcohol is to be served, or for service of alcohol to be permitted during 'Twilight Matches'.

Alcohol is not to be served if a luncheon is not taking place.

If club officials observe spectators consuming alcohol at their grounds they are, to the best of their ability, to request that the alcohol be removed immediately from the ground.

Clubs will risk receiving penalties under the Association's "conduct unbecoming" rule, including risking expulsion from the Association if this policy is not adhered to.

If found to have breached the above policy penalties can range as follows:

- 1st offence \$1000;
- 2nd offence \$2000 and;
- 3rd offence – not permitted to hold Match Day Function or Twilight Match Dinners for the remainder of the season and any other such penalty as the Board sees fit

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



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history of enabling all clubs to provide an environment that delivers a safe and rewarding experience for all participants.

Extended Function Permit (Trial 2021)

The VAFA has surveyed all VAFA Clubs and key VAFA stakeholders and there is significant support for the VAFA to trial extensions to its current Alcohol Policy as it relates to Match Day Luncheons.

The VAFA will trial in 2021 the following allowing clubs to extend Match Day Luncheons beyond the new cut off time (at the conclusion of half-time of the 2pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed)).

- An “Extended Function Permit” (EFP) to be applied for and granted by VAFA administration under certain known conditions
- An extension of “bar open” times beyond the end of half-time
- Will be for daytime matches only
- A limit of no more than 2 permitted function extensions (EFP’s) for the year per club
- All functions (and associated consumption of alcohol) must be contained within club confines/facilities
- A standard [VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) is required to be completed (through the club portal) for approval by the VAFA administration
- The trial will include a “one strike policy” whereby a club found in breach of any part of the policy would be penalized accordingly and forfeit any future EFP applications for that season

Reserve Grade Matches - Senior Men & Women Only (Trial 2021)

Traditionally at the conclusion of Reserve Grade matches the players and officials are not afforded the same hospitality benefits as Senior teams, whereby after match functions allow for the players, officials, umpires and spectators to mix in a social atmosphere.

The VAFA is trialing in 2021, for clubs who wish to apply, the ability to serve alcohol at the conclusion of the Reserve Grade match.

This trial is not mandatory for clubs.

If clubs choose to provide after match hospitality at their home venue following the Reserve Grade fixture the following applies:



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- 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 be served until the end of half-time of the 2pm fixtured match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed).
- Alcohol can only be consumed as stipulated by this VAFA policy.
- Clubs are required to complete the [VAFA Alcohol Policy Club Form](#) which can be found on the Portal under Policies, to advise the VAFA that they will be taking up the option at their home games in providing hospitality to opposition players and supporters until the end of half-time.

Should there be no fixtured 2pm match (or equivalent fixtured match if the main game is delayed) this condition cannot be applied.

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 & training where necessary, or facilitate contact with a Good Sports Program official for further support.

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

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.



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Where venues operate a separate licensed facility and by their liquor license are allowed to sell alcohol at times when VAFA finals will 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 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.