

Alcohol Policy – Sportsgrounds, Venues and Reserves

Date Adopted: Tuesday, 28 May 2024

Version: 2.1

Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Establish clear guidelines for all users, regarding the sale, storage and consumption of alcohol at Council owned sportsgrounds, venues and reserves.
- Ensure that sportsgrounds, venues and reserves within the Maitland LGA are safe and enjoyable for all members of the community, by assisting in minimising alcohol related antisocial behaviours.
- Establish clear guidelines for Council officers when assessing liquor licence applications for sale and consumption of alcohol.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to the sale, storage and consumption of alcohol at all Council owned sportsgrounds, venues and reserves.

Policy Statement

Council owned sportsgrounds, venues and reserves are for the purpose of passive and active sport and recreation activities, or other Council approved events, and are to be family friendly environments for users, spectators and visitors. Approved uses of these areas must be carried out in a lawful manner and in accordance with the conditions of their hirer agreements.

The authorised sale, storage and consumption of alcohol on Council owned sportsgrounds, venues and reserves will be in accordance with the requirements under the relevant legislation, as outlined in the 'Policy Administration' table below. Applications will need to be submitted to, and approved by, the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. Any sporting clubs that are approved for the sale of alcohol will be encouraged to register as a 'Good Sports' club.

1. Conditions of Approval

- 1.1. Applications for the sale and/or consumption of alcohol will not be supported by Council with sporting groups that only have junior teams registered.
- 1.2. Applications for the sale and/or consumption of alcohol will not be supported in Alcohol Free Zones or Alcohol Prohibited Areas, unless approval has been granted by Council for a suspension of these zones or areas. Signage related to Alcohol Free Zones or Alcohol Prohibited Areas must be complied with, unless an approved suspension is in place.
- 1.3. Applications will not be supported for the sale and/or consumption of alcohol at times when junior teams are training or participating in matches.

1.4. In the event of junior and senior teams playing at the same facility/reserve on the same day, a time period of 30 minutes, following the conclusion of the junior match, is required before the sale and/or consumption of alcohol can commence.

1.5. Applications by sporting groups for the sale of liquor at sportsgrounds will only be supported when there are organised and approved club activities. Times when applications will be supported are between:

- Monday to Thursday: 6.00pm - 9.30pm
- Friday: 6.00pm - 10.00pm
- Saturday: 12.00pm - 10.00pm
- Sunday: 12.00pm - 9.00pm

Licences will not always be approved for the entirety of these hours. Clubs may apply outside of these hours and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

1.6. Any hirer of a sportsground, venue or reserve may request approval for the sale or consumption of alcohol outside of the hours listed above at Council's discretion. Any hirer that applies for a liquor licence through the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority, that share a facility with another regular hirer during the same period, will be required to consult all user groups, and receive written confirmation before a licence will be granted.

1.7. Applications at venues and reserves will be considered on a case by case basis and once approved by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority, a copy of the licence will then need to be provided to Maitland City Council. Council reserves the right to decline applicants for their booking, where deemed necessary, regardless of whether or not a liquor licence has been approved by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority.

2. Sportsgrounds – Conditions for the sale / storage / consumption of alcohol

Once the licence has been approved by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority and provided to Council as part of the hirer's booking agreement, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all regulations from both the Liquor Act 2007 (NSW) and the Liquor Regulation 2018 (NSW) are adhered to when selling alcohol.

2.1 As outlined in the Liquor Act 2007 (NSW) liquor may only be sold or supplied on the licensed premises to which a liquor license relates:

- By way of opened cans, opened bottles (not glass) or other opened containers, and
- At such times as are specified by the Authority in the licence.

2.2 All alcohol that is consumed at the premises is to be done so in a designated licenced area that is separate from the immediate area around the canteen (where relevant). Given the varying layouts of sportsgrounds and venues in Maitland, the specific location of Licenced Areas at each location would need to be determined by Council officers in consultation with NSW Police and the applicant.

i. The sale and supply of alcohol during organised activities at sportsgrounds is to be authorised by the appropriate liquor licence issued by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (The Authority).

ii. The sale and supply of alcohol during organised activities at sportsgrounds is only to take place on such dates and times as authorised by The Authority when issuing such liquor licence.

- iii. All persons engaged in the sale and/or supply of alcohol at organised activities at sportsgrounds are to hold a current RSA certificate and provide a copy to Council.
 - iv. All guidelines relating to the responsible service of alcohol are to be strictly adhered to by the licensee and other persons involved in the sale and supply of alcohol.
 - v. Appropriate Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority signage is to be clearly and prominently displayed at the point of sale indicating to patrons that the sale of alcohol to minors is prohibited.
- 2.3 During times when the sale of alcohol is occurring at sportsgrounds, no pre-purchased alcohol is to be consumed at the facility. It is the responsibility of the hirer of the facility to enforce this condition.
- 2.4 All alcohol that is kept at the facility is to be stored, where possible, in a secure location, out of direct view from the general public. If this is not possible, every effort is to be made to ensure that the alcohol is not easily accessed by, or visible to, the general public.

3. Venues and Reserves – Conditions for the sale / storage / consumption of alcohol

Once the licence has been approved by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority and provided to Council as part of the hirer's booking agreement, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all regulations from both the Liquor Act 2007 (NSW) and the Liquor Regulation 2018 (NSW) are adhered to when selling alcohol. Alcohol must not be sold at the Venue without a liquor licence.

- 3.1 As outlined in the Liquor Act 2007 (NSW) liquor may only be sold or supplied on the licensed premises to which a liquor license relates:
 - a) By way of opened cans, opened bottles (not glass) or other opened containers, and
 - b) At such times as are specified by the Authority in the licence.
- 3.2 A Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Certificate is required for any persons serving and/or selling alcohol and will need to be provided to Council. Council may request a copy of an RSA from the hirer if alcohol will be on the premises at the venue.
- 3.3 Where it is proposed to sell or provide alcohol at a venue or reserve, the Hirer is required to register the function on the Police NSW website (police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/party_safety) and supply the registration number to Council prior to the hire.
- 3.4 Where it is proposed to sell or provide alcohol at a facility or reserve, Council may require the Hirer to engage (at the Hirer's expense) a minimum of two (2) registered security personnel. Council is not liable for the actions or conduct of any security personnel engaged by the Hirer.

Failure to comply

This policy has been developed to improve the overall amenity of Council sportsgrounds, venues and reserves and to ensure the appropriate use of these areas. Failure to comply with the conditions outlined in the policy may result in penalties for the hirer, dependent on the type of breach and frequency of the non-compliance. Some examples of a breach of the policy may include but is not limited to:

- The unlicensed selling of alcohol
- Selling or consuming alcohol outside of licenced hours where a liquor licence has been required

- Frequent consumption of alcohol outside designated Licenced Areas
- Antisocial behaviour that is a direct result of consumption of alcohol
- Consumption of pre-purchased alcohol

Consequences of non-compliance may result in recommendations being made by Council to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority for the suspension or cancellation of a licence or fines may be applicable based on the current fees and charges schedule. Council will monitor liquor licences in a number of ways including (but not limited to) spot checks of venues to ensure all conditions are being adhered to, tabulation of all licensed hours and venues, investigating all reported incidents in relation to sale and consumption of alcohol at sportsgrounds, venues or reserves and liaising with NSW Police. In circumstances where Council has been made aware of a breach of the policy, Council may request the hirer to show Council what measures are being put in place to ensure similar breaches do not occur again.

Policy Administration

Business Group:	City Services
Responsible officer:	Team Leader Community and Sport Liaison
Council reference:	Ordinary Council Meeting 28 May 2024 - Item 11.7
Policy review date:	Three (3) years from date of adoption
File number:	129/1T
Relevant legislation	Liquor Act 2007 (NSW) Liquor Regulation 2018 (NSW)
Related documents	Nil

Policy History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
1.0	14 August 2012	Policy adopted
2.0	28 May 2024	Policy reviewed, name changed
2.1	-	Updated to new branding and alignment to organisation structure. No change to content.