

RUSU Club Events & Alcohol: Liquor Licences & Risk Management

Liquor Licences

Selling alcohol without a valid licence is illegal. If your event isn't at a licensed venue, you may need a **temporary liquor licence** if:

- Alcohol is **sold**
- Alcohol is **free but included in an entry fee**
- Alcohol is **only available to club members who pay a fee**

Check licence requirements [here](#).

Risk Management – Ensuring Responsible Service & Consumption of Alcohol

Clubs must act responsibly when alcohol is involved—whether selling, giving it away, or including it in ticket prices.

- Club events with alcohol must be **18+ only** and, where possible, **members only**.
- **Clearly promote the 18+ requirement** and that attendees must bring valid ID (**driver's licence, proof of age card, or passport**).
- **Never promote** "unlimited drinks," "open bar," or similar—**this is illegal**. Instead, advertise "**limited complimentary beverages**."
- Anyone serving alcohol **must have RSA training**. Clubs can claim back the **\$80 RSA fee** through the Clubs Annual Reimbursement Grant (CAR). [RSA training info here](#).
- **Health guidelines recommend no more than four standard drinks in one sitting**. A standard drink is often smaller than expected—check [this calculator](#).
- **On-campus events serving alcohol require RMIT Security guards**. Cost: approx. **\$150 per guard for 3 hours** (RMIT Security decides how many are needed).

Event Planning & Promotions

- **Alcohol should not be the focus** of your event or promotions.
- Avoid event names referencing alcohol (e.g., "**Boat Cruise**" instead of "**Booze Cruise**").
- **Drinking games, shots, and excessive drinking activities are prohibited**.
- **BYO alcohol is not allowed** at club events, including camps.

Best Practices for Responsible Alcohol Service

- If using a **bar tab**, **limit free drinks** before members must buy their own.
- **Provide free water** & affordable non-alcoholic drinks. Offer **discounts for designated drivers**.
- **Offer fresh, free food** or choose venues with affordable meal options.
- **Set a reasonable event end time** so members can take public transport or arrange a **safe ride home** (Uber, taxi, Nightrider, carpool, or pickup).

Look After Your Club Members!

- Choose a venue that **prioritises safety**.
- **Ensure at least two club leaders remain sober**—ideally, one for male and one for female-designated toilets.
- **Watch for members in distress**—your club **may be held responsible** if harm results from excessive drinking at your event.
- If someone is **unwell or intoxicated**, check on them, take their car keys if needed, **encourage breaks**, or **arrange a safe ride home**.
- If necessary, **contact venue security, RMIT Security, an ambulance, or the police**—safety comes first!