



**Essendon District Football
League
Alcohol & Smoke Free Policy**

2023

Essendon District Football League

Alcohol and Smoke Free Policy

The Essendon District Football League (EDFL) acknowledges its role in promoting healthy environment standards amongst affiliated clubs and their associated members and is committed to providing opportunities for participants to engage in Australian football and enhance their general wellbeing. The EDFL provide the following principles regarding Alcohol Management and Smoke-Free environments that are enforceable by the league and affiliated clubs.

Alcohol Management

EDFL By-Law provides that

- 34.1 Subject to the terms and conditions of any applicable liquor licence, intoxicating liquor is permitted to be sold by or on behalf of an Affiliated Club at its home club matches.
- 34.2 Liquor is not permitted on the playing field or on-field transport used by players and/or officials of participating Affiliated Clubs.
- 34.3 At finals series matches the host football club is responsible for the sale of intoxicating liquor, subject to the terms and conditions of any applicable liquor licence.

See further regulations, applicable to Senior and Junior football below.

Senior Football

Affiliated Clubs must go through the process of obtaining a liquor license for the sale of alcohol at venues. At senior matches Clubs are to abide by their liquor licensing laws, appropriate Codes of Behaviour, and acceptable community standards of behaviour. Serving of alcohol in glass receptacles during any EDFL match is prohibited.

Note: No alcohol is to be consumed or sold during any Senior match that follows a Junior match at the same fixtured venue until half time.

Junior Football

No alcohol is to be consumed or sold at any venue (including within licensed clubrooms) where junior matches are being staged until at least 30 minutes after the conclusion of the final match of the day. Clubs shall be responsible for the conduct of its members, supporters and followers and breaches of this By-Law will be considered serious and attract monetary fines and other penalties at discretion of the EDFL Board.

Note: This rule is also applicable to all fixtured EDFL matches as well as Junior Metropolitan Championship games conducted by EDFL clubs.

EDFL Club Commitment

Serving Alcohol

Alcohol will be served according to the requirements of the club's liquor licence and in accordance with the safety and wellbeing of patrons.

- The club will maintain a current liquor licence.
- The liquor licence will be displayed at the bar.
- Persons under the age of 18 years are not permitted to serve alcohol.
- Only Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) trained members/bar staff will be permitted to serve alcohol.
- The club will discourage excessive or rapid consumption of alcohol.
- Alcoholic drinks will be served in standard drink measures.
- The club will display posters on liquor license regulations and education.

Promoting the responsible use of alcohol

- Each club will actively demonstrate its attitude relating to the responsible use of alcohol.
- Each club will not advertise, promote or serve alcohol at junior events or activities.
- Each club will educate club members and supporters about the alcohol policy.
- Each club will pursue non-alcohol sponsorship and revenue sources.
- Each club will provide at least one alcohol-free social events for Junior clubs.
- Alcohol advertising will only appear at the bar.
- The club will not promote alcohol through 'cheap drink' strategies, such as happy hours.

Club Committee Responsibilities

The presence of committee members is essential to ensure the operation of the bar and policy compliance. At least two duty committee members who are RSA trained are required to be present at all club functions when the bar is open. Key responsibilities of the duty committee members are to:

- Meet visiting police, cooperate and assist with any inquiries.
- Ensure the admission of members and guests and completion of the visitor's book.
- Compliance in respect of persons under 18 years of age on premises.
- Ensuring intoxicated people are refused service and are asked to leave the premises.
- Ensuring strict compliance with the club policy in accordance with the key provisions of the Liquor Licence.
- Recording any incidents in the incident register.

Promoting the Alcohol Management Policy

The club will promote the alcohol management policy regularly by;

- Distributing a copy to all club members.
- Displaying a copy of the policy in the club social rooms.
- Periodic announcements to members at functions.
- The club recognises the importance of educating club members, particularly players in the benefits of implementing an alcohol management policy and will endeavour to provide information to assist this process.

Visit the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation for further information:

<https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/liquor/sporting-and-community-club/understand-your-liquor-licence/your-obligations>

Smoke Free Environment

Clubs must act on any instances of officials and or spectators smoking (including vaping) near children, including within the 10-metre radius specified by the Tobacco Act 1987 [6]. Such non-compliance to the policy hinders our young athletes' health and goes against the law.

Smoking is not allowed at any League and Club indoor areas and persons breaching this policy will be asked to refrain and if necessary, asked to leave the premises. Disciplinary measures including suspension, fines and dismissal will be taken against League members if they fail to reasonably comply with the policy requirements.

The Essendon District Football League recognises that passive smoking (inhaling second-hand smoke) is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected from tobacco smoke. Passive smoking can lead to other serious illnesses such as bronchitis, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and chest illnesses in children. Accordingly, the following policy has been developed by the Essendon District Football League to help protect people's health.

The move to go Smoke Free also complements the Essendon District Football League's desire to create a healthy family friendly environment. The Essendon District Football League believes that such an environment and image will be advantageous in attracting new members and positively promoting the league and affiliated clubs in the community.

Legislation and the legal duty of care also provide reasons to have a Smoke Free club. Under common law the Essendon District Football League has a legal duty of care to ensure that employees, volunteers, players and officials are not exposed to potentially harmful situations. The Occupational Health and Safety Act also stipulates that employees and working volunteers must have a safe environment to work in. Victorian Smoke Free dining legislation also states that enclosed dining areas must be Smoke Free.

Our League does not permit persons officiating at matches to smoke on the playing arena at any time including quarter and three-quarter time intervals. This applies to coaches, team managers, runners, goal and boundary umpires, first aiders and water persons etc. Offending clubs are liable to a fine.

This policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players and visitors of the Essendon District Football League and affiliated clubs. This policy also applies when these groups are representing the Essendon District Football League or attending any Essendon District Football League facilities, functions, or events.

Smoke Free Areas

- Administration and office areas;
- Social/club rooms at the Essendon District Football League's headquarters;
- Social/club rooms at all Essendon District Football League's affiliated club venues
- All change rooms and toilet blocks at the Essendon District Football League's and affiliated Club's headquarters;
- Indoor spectator viewing areas at the Essendon District Football League's and affiliated Club's headquarters;
- Playing area at the Essendon District Football League's and affiliated Club's headquarters;
- All eating areas at the Essendon District Football League's and affiliated Club's headquarters;
- Grandstands and spectator viewing areas at the Essendon District Football League's and affiliated Club's headquarters;
- Near entries and exits of buildings, facilities, and the ground at the Essendon District Football League's and affiliated Club's headquarters;
- Tobacco products will not be sold at any of the facilities under the direct control of Essendon District Football League.

Functions

All official Essendon District Football League functions will be 100% Smoke Free. Such functions include:

- Awards Nights
- Volunteer Forums
- League Meetings
- Season Launch
- Sponsors Nights
- League Dinners and Lunches
- Any other event or function as scheduled.

Promotion of the Policy

The following mediums will remind patrons about the Essendon District Football Leagues' Smoke Free policy:

- Non-smoking signs
- Entry signs
- League/Club handbooks
- Advertising and promotional resources (eg newspaper ads, website articles etc.)
- League correspondence (letters, e-mails memo's etc.)
- Announcements
- Table signage
- Function speeches
- Invitations
- Ashtrays will be removed from the clubrooms and function spaces
- Cigarette butt bins will be provided outside to encourage smokers to smoke outside.

Non-Compliance Strategy

The following five step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches the Essendon District Football League's Smoke Free policy.

1. Assume that the person is unaware of the Smoke Free policy.
2. An Essendon District Football League official or club representative will approach the person breaching the policy and politely ask them to refrain from smoking and remind them about the Smoke Free policy.
3. If the offence continues, then the most senior staff member or most senior club representative will verbally warn them again and hand over a formally written letter that outlines the Essendon District Football League's policy on smoking. The offending patron must also be made aware that if they don't stop smoking

then they will be required to leave the facility. The Essendon District Football League's management committee will sign off on the letter. This letter will be pre-written and kept both behind the bar so that copies are readily available.

4. If the offence does continue then the patron will be escorted out of the facility by staff and/or an appointed league representative.
5. Under no circumstances should the Essendon District Football League's Smoke Free policy be breached: No matter who the offender is.

Risks

The implications of ignoring the smoke-free policy are pretty severe:

1. **Legal Consequences:** Violations of the smoking prohibition can result in a fine of nearly \$1,000 or an infringement penalty of about \$200 [2].
2. **Reputational Damage:** Repeated infringements could tarnish a club's image, affecting membership and potential sponsorship.
3. **Financial Implications:** Persistent violations may lead to increased insurance premium costs and the potential for expensive legal suits.
4. **Licensing Threat:** The club's ability to sell alcohol could be jeopardised, impacting an essential source of revenue.
5. **Health and Safety Claims:** Clubs and the EDFL could face civil claims if children, volunteers or employees suffer adverse health effects due to second-hand smoke exposure under the Occupational Health and Safety legislation [3].

References:

- [1] EDFL Alcohol and Smoke-Free Policy: <https://essendondfl.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Essendon-District-Football-League-Alcohol-Smoke-Free-Policy.pdf>
- [2] Department of Justice and Community Safety guidelines: <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au>
- [3] Occupational Health and Safety legislation: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>
- [4]: Quit: Sports clubs: Tools and resources <https://www.quit.org.au/resources/sporting-groups/tools-and-resources/>
- [5] Department of Health - Under Age Sporting Events Smoke-Free: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/tobacco-reform/under-age-sporting-events-smoke-free>
- [6] Victorian Current Acts, Tobacco Act 1987 - Sect 5RI: http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ta198773/s5ri.html

Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed prior to April 1 each year thereafter. This will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.