

Rugby World Cup extended hours rules

Information about temporary changes to New Zealand's alcohol trading laws during the 2015 Rugby World Cup

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Rugby World Cup 2015 Extended Trading Hours) Amendment Act 2015 allows eligible on-licence and club licence holders to open outside their normal licensing hours to televise live Rugby World Cup games.

However, to extend their hours, licensees must take certain steps in advance and meet certain conditions.

Who can extend their hours?

On- and club-licensed premises can extend their hours only if the main reason for opening is to allow customers to watch Rugby World Cup live games.

They can't extend their hours if in the past 12 months they have:

- had the conditions of their licence varied under section 280 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (as a result of enforcement action), or
- had their licence suspended under section 280 of the Act.

What must licensees do in advance?

Licensees must tell their district licensing committee and nearest Police station which games they intend to open for.

They must make the notification in writing at least 7 days before each game. The notification may list multiple games. It must also outline how they will keep down noise levels (see below).

As soon as practical after notifying Police and the district licensing committee, licensees must display their extended licensing hours and other conditions on their premises.

Sample notification forms and display notices are available on the Ministry of Justice website.

When can premises open and sell alcohol for after-hours games?

If a game starts during premises' normal licensing hours, they can remain open for the whole match.

If a game starts more than 2 hours after the end of a premises' normal licensing hours, they must close at the usual time, then reopen 1 hour before the game starts.

If a game starts within 2 hours of the time a premises' licensing hours normally end, they do not have to close leading up to the game.

When must premises stop selling alcohol and close?

All licensees must stop serving alcohol 30 minutes after the game's final whistle.

Premises whose main business is selling alcohol (such as bars and taverns) must also ensure all patrons have left and close the premises 1 hour after the game ends (unless their normal trading hours for the next day have already started).

Other licensed premises where selling alcohol is not their main business (such as clubs, cafes and restaurants) can remain open, but must not sell alcohol until their normal licensed hours.

What are the rules about screening more than one after-hours game per night?

If there is more than 2 hours between games, licensees must follow the rules outlined above in the section *When must premises stop selling*

alcohol and close? Those that have to close one hour after a game (such as bars and taverns) may reopen and start selling alcohol again 1 hour before the next game starts.

If there is less than 2 hours between games, premises can stay open. However, if there is more than 90 minutes between games, they must temporarily stop serving alcohol from 30 minutes after the earlier game ends until 1 hour before the next game starts.

Noise management

Licensees must keep down noise levels when they screen after-hours games. They must not:

- dispose of empty bottles or other rubbish or leave them for collection outside
- use outdoor areas (even as open areas for smoking)
- use outside audio equipment (such as loudspeakers).

Licensees must also put additional measures in place to reduce noise, appropriate to the premises' location and the time of the games. They must also comply with the usual noise restriction conditions in their licence.

Licensees must include a noise management plan in their advance written notification to their district licensing committee and local Police.

One-way door policies

One-way door policies do not apply during or 1 hour before the extended trading hours.

Existing conditions and offences

While the 2015 Rugby World Cup is taking place, the provisions of the Amendment Act override any contrary conditions set out in premises' licences, the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, and relevant local alcohol policies (for example, one-way door policies or trading hour restrictions).

The Amendment Act also overrides operating hours restrictions imposed through district plans or resource consents issued under the Resource Management Act 1991.

However, all other conditions that a licensee must comply with during normal licensing hours apply during extended hours (for example, restrictions on types of drinks sold).

Also, offences in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 that the Amendment Act does not override still apply during extended trading hours (for example, not serving intoxicated people).

Penalties

Licensees who breach the Amendment Act may have their extended hours privileges immediately revoked for the remainder of the Rugby World Cup. This will happen if Police or an alcohol licensing inspector files an enforcement order application under section 280 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Also, licensees found to have breached the Amendment Act may have their licence varied, suspended or cancelled, or be fined up to \$5000.

Special licences

Licensees who have already been granted special licences to screen Rugby World Cup games can do so, as long as they follow the conditions required by that licence. Alternatively, they may choose to operate under the Amendment Act requirements.

If licensees want to televise games under conditions different to those in the Amendment Act (for example, if they want to use outdoor areas), they may apply for a special licence.

Have any questions?

More information, including FAQs and sample notification and display forms, is available at justice.govt.nz/policy/sale-and-supply-of-alcohol.