

UniSport Australia Guideline

Use of Alcohol at UniSport Events

Objectives

This guideline is designed to meet the following objectives:

- a) To minimise alcohol related harm to the individual at UniSport events
- b) To minimise alcohol related damage to property at UniSport events
- c) To improve and preserve the reputation of universities, university sport and university sports people in the general community, on a national and international basis.

Introduction

To assist in achieving the above objectives, UniSport has established this guideline to manage sporting competitions and social functions at which alcohol may be consumed by participants.

UniSport accepts that alcohol consumption is ultimately a matter of individual choice but expects that those responsible for organising functions/events at UniSport events which involve alcohol will ensure that the functions/events are conducted in a manner consistent with this guideline.

Guidelines on the Use of Alcohol

1. Sporting events under the auspices of UniSport
 - a) No participant will be permitted to compete in any UniSport event if they are suffering the obvious effects of alcohol. Any such person/s will be asked to leave the sporting arena. Refusal to do so will result in immediate expulsion from the match plus an automatic one match or equivalent (depending on the sport) suspension. Further disciplinary action may be taken if so desired by the event organisers.
 - b) No alcohol is to be consumed at the competition venue by accredited participants and personnel while a UniSport event is in progress. This applies to:
 - i. Accredited participants who are competing in a current match/competition
 - ii. Accredited participants not competing in the sporting event but may be waiting to start their competition
 - iii. Accredited participants not competing in the sporting event who have finished their competition
 - iv. Accredited participants who have chosen to spectate and who are watching the competition from the sideline or in the vicinity of the field of play
 - c) Where a sporting venue is selling alcohol due to the nature of their venue i.e., a lawn bowls club, accredited participants are bound by point b) above.
 - d) It may be the organisers policy that no alcohol is to be consumed at all by accredited participants before, during or after an UniSport sanctioned sporting event. In such a case, all persons must respect the organisers policy.
 - e) All organisers have the right to confiscate alcohol in and around the playing area of a UniSport sanctioned sporting event. Confiscated alcohol is to be returned at the organiser's discretion.
 - f) All accredited participants are to be made aware of the standard of behaviour expected at UniSport events. Refer to the UniSport Code of Behaviour.
2. Social functions at UniSport events and UniSport sanctioned events (including those organised by UniSport members).
 - a) No free or subsidised alcohol is to be provided at social functions.
 - b) When structuring the price of function tickets considerations to include with the cost of admission, food and entertainment but not alcohol. (For UniSport managed events, inclusion of alcohol may be considered in special circumstances, but only implemented upon approval by the UniSport Board). All alcohol is to be purchased from a cash bar at regular and not discounted prices.
 - c) Organisers are encouraged to make available ample quantities of low alcoholic drinks at social functions. Hosts are encouraged to discount non-alcoholic drinks.
 - d) Organisers are encouraged to maintain supervision at functions to eliminate poor behaviour and damage to property.

- e) Organisers are encouraged to use trained bar staff to serve alcohol and use serving practices consistent with the [National Guidelines for Responsible Serving of Alcohol](#).
- f) Organisers are not to organise competitive drinking events such as boat races or promote any situations that exert pressure on students to drink in excess.

3. Organiser requirements

- a) UniSport conducted events will not be funded by alcohol sponsorship.
- b) Alcohol sponsorship is not considered desirable. However, if an organiser of a UniSport sanctioned event is negotiating for alcohol sponsorship, the request is required to be sponsored clothing, equipment and/or cash.
- c) Any organiser failing to comply with the UniSport alcohol guideline may be banned from organising any further UniSport events or suspended from competing in sport/s where the breach of guideline occurred. This suspension period will be determined by the UniSport Board.

General Quantity Guidelines

UniSport encourages all participants, team managers and event organisers to be aware of the Australian Government's [National Guidelines for Responsible Serving of Alcohol](#).

Previous amendments

June 2005 | February 2008 | March 2011 | April 2012 | May 2014 | October 2017 | March 2018 | February 2021 | May 2023 | March 2025 | February 2026

