

## Alcohol Management Policy

This policy aims to provide a basis for the responsible management of alcohol by Volleyball Victoria (VV) and is seen as fundamental to the aims of the organisation in the development of young athletes and the promotion of the sport of volleyball.

To ensure these aims are upheld, and that Volleyball Victoria and its affiliated member associations and clubs manage alcohol responsibly, the following requirements will apply.

### **Alcohol in competition:**

Contrary to popular belief alcohol is a depressant drug that dampens the reflex mechanisms. This results in a steadying of hand together with the psychological side effect of boosting confidence by, in some cases, depressing fears and masking inhibitions.

The effect of alcohol on the body varies between each person and circumstances. The following immediate effects of alcohol are registered in all people to a varying extent depending on the volume consumed, the physiology and circumstances at the time:

- Loss of inhibitions
- Flushing and dizziness
- General impairment of brain and nervous system functions
- Loss of co-ordination to varying degrees
- Slower reactions
- Aggression

Volleyball Victoria is cognisant of the potential danger of accidental injury in the sport of volleyball. In extreme circumstances a volleyballer under the influence of excessive alcohol could place other participating players at risk.

It has been clearly established that reactions and judgement of a driver of a motor vehicle are seriously impaired to the point of being dangerous if driving with a blood alcohol level in excess of 0.05%. Having considered all the research, players and officials, whilst involved in a game of volleyball, are to have a blood alcohol level of zero.

### **Alcohol in Competition Venues:**

The consumption or selling of alcohol shall be prohibited in competition venues that are managed directly by the Volleyball Victoria or where Volleyball Victoria conducts matches, unless it is part of a fully catered and licensed corporate box arrangement. *Bringing of alcohol into the venue* is also prohibited.

### **Fundraising, Functions and Prizes:**

A strict priority will be maintained to hold functions that appeal to a wide range of members offering diverse methods of fund raising and social events that are not solely dependent on alcohol or bar sales. Functions, events or promotions will not be conducted that encourage excessive alcohol consumption as an incentive to attract patrons. Promotions such as; cheap drink promotions, drinking competitions and all-inclusive cover

charges will not be used. Volleyball Victoria will not promote or provide alcohol or drink vouchers for player awards or prizes for raffles and fundraising activities.

**Volleyball Trips/Tours:**

Volleyball Victoria will monitor and ensure any volleyball trips/tours such as teams attending tournaments, national championships or state titles, strictly adhere to responsible behaviour, player's agreements and alcohol consumption in accordance with the principles of this policy and the aims of the organisation.

**Functions with Alcohol:**

Volleyball Victoria recognises that social functions are held periodically where alcohol is served or consumed and when doing so the organisation also accepts the responsibilities and expectations of the community in strictly ensuring adherence to the liquor licensing laws. Any functions held where alcohol is served or consumed shall require an assurance from the venue management of compliance with the provisions of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*. Before a booking is confirmed Volleyball Victoria shall ensure the venue operates the appropriate Liquor License which allows the serving of alcohol.

Volleyball Victoria shall also ensure the key *provisions in* accordance with the Act will be strictly adhered to in that:

- Persons under the age of 18 years are not served or provided alcohol
- Alcohol will not be served to persons who are drunk.
- Persons under the age of 18 years are not permitted to serve alcohol.
- Persons who are drunk will not be permitted entry into the function.
- Persons who are drunk will not be permitted to remain at the function.

**Food:**

Food will be available at any function held where alcohol is served or consumed. Meals will be available when appropriate and at other times substantial snacks will be provided.

**Safe Transport:**

Volleyball Victoria encourages members and visitors to make alternate safe transport arrangements if they are considered to exceed 0.05 blood alcohol concentration at any function held where alcohol is served or consumed. Telephone calls will be made to arrange a taxi or other transport.

In specific cases, where a designated driver has been nominated and that person has accepted the responsibility to drive others home safely, non alcoholic drinks will be provided.

**Non-compliance:**

Volleyball Victoria will enforce the alcohol management policy and any non-compliance, particularly in regard to *Liquor Control Reform Act 2005* conditions will be handled according to the following process:

1. Explanation of the alcohol management policy to the person/people concerned, including identification of the section of policy not being complied with.
2. Continued non-compliance with the policy should be handled by at least two officials who will use their discretion as to the action taken, which will include asking the person/ people to leave the match venue, facilities or function.

3. If there is a breach of Competition Regulations or Member Protection Policy or a separate disciplinary matter, the incident will be reported to Volleyball Victoria and the matter may be investigated further.

If any player/official is in breach of this policy and is deemed to have a blood alcohol level in excess of zero, it may be requested that they undergo a test on a registered breathalyser instrument administered by the relevant Police Department in that State or Territory. The penalty to be imposed shall be determined by the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution procedures.

Volleyball Victoria encourages all members, associations and clubs to participate in a responsible serving of alcohol courses to provide personal and employment development opportunities and to also have them understand issues regarding responsible alcohol management.

**Policy Review:**

To ensure this policy continues to be relevant for operation and that it reflects both community expectations and the provisions of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 2005*, the policy will be reviewed annually.