

Licensing Board – Policy on Extended Hours in relation to World Cup 2026

The West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board has agreed a temporary policy in relation to extended licensed hours for on-sales premises with certain permissions in relation to football matches taking place as part of the 2026 World Cup Finals.

This policy allows for extended hours in two categories:

1. A general extension to licensed hours for games involving the Scotland National Team.
2. A policy on extended hours applications for games not involving the Scotland National Team.

To qualify for these permissions, the following criteria must be met:

- i. The Premises must have permission to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises. (hereafter referred to as “on-sales premises”)
- ii. The current Operating Plan must have permission to show televised sport. (see below)

Example: An operating plan with correct permissions to show football matches.

5(c) Activity Entertainment including:	Please confirm YES/NO	To be provided during core licensed hours – please confirm YES/NO	Where activities are also to be provided outwith core licensed hours, please confirm YES/NO
Televised sport	YES	YES	YES

General extension to licensed hours for games involving the Scotland National Team.

Provided that the criteria specified at (i) and (ii) above is met, premises can notify the Licensing Team (licensing@west-dunbarton.gov.uk) to inform of their intention to trade the extra hours. This will authorise the premises to stay open to show any match involving the Scotland National Team and will allow for an extension of licensed hours for up to a maximum of 30 minutes after the final whistle has blown and the game has concluded.

Note: Should the Scotland National Team progress to the knockout stages of the competition, this policy will include those matches.

Extended hours applications for games not involving the Scotland National Team.

Provided that the criteria specified at (i) and (ii) above is met, premises can apply to extend their operational hours up to but not exceeding 3am. This policy will allow

premises to be open to show matches which end later than the normal licensed hours, up to 3am.

Please note that any application which seeks to open later than 3am will require to be heard at a full meeting of the Licensing Board therefore it would be advisable to seek independent legal advice prior to lodging such an application. Please note that due to the requirements of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Licensing Team cannot guarantee that any such applications will be able to be considered by the Licensing Board in advance of the event.

In relation to the match on 20 June between Haiti v Brazil, the Licensing Board will allow premises to apply for extended hours up to 4.30am or until 30 mins* after the match concludes.

*Whichever comes earliest.

Conditions relating to this policy

- Premises are instructed to carry out a risk assessment to determine if SIA Licensed Stewards will be necessary to uphold the Licensing Objectives at times that an extension of hours is in effect.
- All Premises wishing to take advantage of extended hours must, in the case of matches involving the Scotland National Team notify the Licensing Team in writing in advance of the specific matches they wish to remain open for. For matches not involving Scotland, an application for extended hours must be applied for and then granted prior to trading these hours.
- For any games which have a start time of 1am or later, a curfew for entry of 1am should be in force.
- For any games which have a kick-off time of 1am or later, a booking system should be employed. Such a system can be either via an advance ticket or an advance electronic booking.
- That access to the premises for Children and Young Persons ceases at the end of 'normal licensed hours'.
- There shall be no entertainment such as, but not limited to DJ sets, Live Music or Karaoke to be evident in premises outwith 'normal' licensed hours.
- The term 'normal licensed hours' refers to the terminal hour for the sale of alcohol under the terms of the licence prior to any extension of hours as a result of this policy.

Advisory Control Measures

The Licensing Board advises that the following matters be considered by Premises Licence Holders prior to applying or notifying of the intention to trade extended hours in conjunction with this policy:

- Premises are reminded that outdoor areas and outdoor drinking may only take place in line with the terms of the existing licence and should not be operated after 10pm.
- That Premises give notification to neighbours in advance of the event(s) all the

- dates and hours they intend to operate.
- That consideration be given to temporarily amend the commencement hour of on-sales licensed premises on days where the premises intends to operate extended hours
 - That consideration be given to staff welfare and safety in relation to longer opening hours and later closing times.

Next Steps

Premises Licence Holders wishing to take advantage of this policy are hereby invited to either notify (in the case of matches involving the Scotland Team) or submit an application for extended hours for events not involving the Scotland National Team prior to the **1 June 2026**.

All notifications for Part 1 of this policy should have both the name and reference number of the Premises in the subject of the email, along with the words “notification of intention to show Scotland Games” in the subject header of the email, i.e.

WDLBPREM/0555 The West Dunbartonshire Pub - Notification of intention to show Scotland Games

Premises which wish to apply for extended hours for games not involving the Scotland National Team should lodge their applications prior to **1 June 2026**.

Applications can be lodged online at: -

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/business/licences-permits-and-permissions/beer-licences/licences-extended-hours>

Please note that any notifications or applications lodged after 1 June 2026 might not be granted and any application or notification which is completed incorrectly or with information missing may be rejected, therefore please take care in lodging such applications.

Premises Licence Holders are advised to ensure that they have the correct permissions in place take advantage of this policy. Care and attention should be taken to ensure that premises only trade extended hours for which they have permission to trade, as any sale of alcohol which might take place outside of licensed hours will constitute an offence under Section 63 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

The Clerk to the Licensing Board.