

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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Club Liquor License Summary

Note: This is general information only and should not be considered conclusive.

For further detail, please consult Title 32A of the Utah Code or the Rules of the Commission which are available to be viewed at: http://www.abc.utah.gov/Background/rules_statutes_main.html.

A club liquor license allows the sale, storage, service, and consumption of alcoholic beverages (liquor, wine, heavy beer, and beer) on the premises. Licenses run from July 1 to June 30. The total number of licenses allowed by law is one per 7,850 people in the state.

There are four types of clubs

- Equity clubs such as country clubs.
- Fraternal clubs such as mutual benefit associations that are organized under a lodge system such as fraternal or patriotic clubs.
- Dining clubs that maintain at least 50% of their club business from the sale of food, have a portion of the premises used for a dining area, and adequate culinary facilities to serve full meals.
- Social clubs include any other club that does not qualify as an equity, fraternal or dining club, such as a social drinking club that does less than 50% of its business from the sale of food.

Club Structure

- Licenses may be issued to sole proprietors, partnerships, corporations, or limited liability companies.
- An equity or fraternal club must have a governing body comprised of at least three members that holds regular meetings to approve memberships (and conducts any other business required by the club's bylaws or house rules).
- Dining and social clubs are open to the public but the club licensee may choose to restrict access to only those who are on a list and/or pay a fee.

Membership Requirements are only applicable to Equity and Fraternal Clubs

- Qualifications for membership are set in the club's bylaws or house rules, however a member must be an individual who is 21 years of age or older.
- *Membership Applications.* A club may admit an individual as a member only on written application signed by the applicant subject to investigation, vote and approval of the governing body. The applicant must pay an application fee and membership dues as established in the club's bylaws or house rules.
- A member's spouse is entitled to all rights and privileges of the member to the extent permitted by the bylaws or house rules of the club, except to the extent restricted by law (i.e. a spouse who is a minor, cannot be in a bar area, purchase or consume alcohol, etc.).
- A minor child of a member is entitled to all rights and privileges of the member to the extent permitted by the club's bylaws or house rules, except to the extent restricted by law (i.e. cannot be in a bar area, purchase or consume alcohol, etc.).
- A patron, in order to be admitted to or use the premises of an equity or fraternal club, and/or to purchase alcoholic beverages at the club, must be a club member, or guest of a member to the extent permitted in the clubs bylaws or house rules. (see below: Guest Hosting applicable to Equity and Fraternal Clubs)

Guest Hosting applicable to Equity and Fraternal Clubs

- Guests
 - must be previously authorized by a member;
 - allowed to use the premises to the extent permitted by the club's bylaws or house rules;
 - have only those privileges derived from the host for the duration of the guest's visit.
- The club and its employees may not enter into an agreement or arrangement with a member to indiscriminately host members of the general public into the club as guests.
- An individual is allowed as a guest without a host:
 - in an equity club, if the individual is member of another equity club that has reciprocal guest privileges with the equity club licensee, or
 - in a fraternal club, if the individual is a member of the same fraternal organization as the fraternal club licensee.

Sale and Service of Alcoholic Beverages:

(1) Liquor Sales

- (a) The primary liquor in a mixed drink may be dispensed from any size bottle, but only in quantities **not to exceed** 1.5 ounces through a department approved calibrated metered dispensing system or device. The club must post a list of types and brands of liquor dispensed through the dispensing system.
- (b) Liquor used as a secondary flavoring need not be dispensed through the dispensing system. Liquor stored and used as flavorings must be clearly labeled "flavoring".
- (c) The total amount of spirituous liquor in a beverage (including both the primary liquor and any secondary flavorings) may not exceed 2.5 ounces of spirituous liquor.
- (d) Each patron may have no more than a total of 2.5 ounces of spirituous liquor (including flavorings) at a time before the patron.

(2) Wine Sales

- (a) Wine may be sold and served by the bottle or container in sizes not exceeding 1.5 liters to tables of four or more. For tables of less than four, the size can not be larger than 750 ml.
- (b) Wine may be served by the glass or individual portion in quantities not exceeding 5 ounces. An individual portion (i.e. "flights") may be served to a patron in more than one glass as long as the total amount of wine in the individual portion does not exceed 5 ounces. An individual portion of wine is considered one alcoholic beverage.
- (c) Wine may be poured by the glass from any size bottle or container and need not be dispensed through a dispensing device.
- (d) Unfinished wine may be removed from a club by a patron if the bottle is re-corked or recapped.

(3) Heavy Beer Sales: Heavy beer may be served in original containers not exceeding one liter.

(4) Flavored Malt Beverage Sales: Flavored malt beverages may be served in original containers not exceeding one liter.

(5) Beer Sales: Light beer may be served in any size container not exceeding 2 liters and on draft. Beer may be sold to an individual patron only in a container that does not exceed one liter. A pitcher (up to two liters) may only be sold to parties of two or more. Beer may be sold to go in sealed containers.

Limitation on Total Number of Drinks

- Each club patron may have no more than two alcoholic beverages of any kind at a time before the patron subject to the following limitations:

If two spirituous drinks are in front of a patron, one may not be the same primary liquor dispensed as a shot-on-the-side (previously referred to as a “side car”). Also, the two drinks can not contain a total of more than 2.5 ounces of liquor at a time before the patron.

Price List

- A club must have readily available for its patrons a printed alcoholic beverage price list or menu containing current prices of all alcoholic beverages.

Discounting Practices Prohibited

- Liquor may not be sold at a discount at any time.
- Discounting practices are prohibited that encourage over-consumption of alcohol (i.e. “happy hours”, “two for ones”, combination pricing, “all you can drink for a set price”, free alcohol, or selling at less than cost).
- A private club licensee or employee may not purchase an alcoholic beverage for a patron.

“Brown Bagging”

- Patrons may not bring in or store spirituous liquor, heavy beer, or beer (3.2% alcohol by weight) on the premises, however at the licensee’s discretion a patron may bring in bottled wine for consumption on the premises.
- Wine brought in must be immediately delivered to a server or an employee of the club.
- A wine service may then be performed, and patrons may serve themselves or others at the table.

Food Availability

- Clubs must offer a variety of food prepared and served in connection with dining accommodations.
- Food must be available at all times when alcohol is sold, served, or consumed.

Advertising

- Signs advertising the availability of alcoholic beverages may be displayed inside and outside the club.
- Alcohol advertising by the club must comply with the guidelines in Rule R81-1-17 which may be viewed at <http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r081/r081-01.htm#T16>.
- Public advertising by a Fraternal or Equity club must identify the club as being “a club for members”.

Sales and Consumption Hours

- Alcoholic beverages may be sold on any day from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m.
- A patron may not remove an open container primarily used for drinking purposes and containing an alcoholic beverage, from the club premises.
- Clubs must remain open an extra hour after alcohol sales and service have ended to allow a patron to finish consuming any single drink purchased before sales ended. Clubs do not have to remain open after all patrons have vacated the premises, or during an emergency.
- *Hours of Consumption.* Consumption of alcohol in clubs is prohibited between the hours of 2 a.m. and 10 a.m.
- The liquor storage area must remain locked at times when liquor sales are not permitted.

Employees

- Any employee handling alcoholic beverages must be twenty one years of age or older.
- Servers of alcohol must wear a unique identification badge showing the employee's first name, initials, or a number assigned by the employer.
- Employees may not consume or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages while on duty.

Alcohol Training and Education Seminar Required

- Managers, supervisors, and employees who serve alcohol must take and pass an alcohol server training seminar every three years and must complete the training within 30 days of commencing employment.

Employee Fines

- The commission is authorized to assess an administrative fine against an officer, employee, or agent of a licensee for a violation of the alcoholic beverage laws.

Electronic Age Verification by Dining & Social Club Licensees (ID Scanners)

- ID scanners are not required for equity clubs and fraternal clubs.
- The ID scanner requirement applies to all dining and social clubs whether or not the dining or social club chooses to restrict access by way of a membership or an access restriction that is imposed by the club.
- Dining and social clubs must electronically verify age before anyone who appears to be 35 years of age or younger may gain admittance to a social club, or obtain an alcoholic beverage in a dining club.
- The DABC will not be providing a list of approved scanners. ID scanners (electronic age verification devices) are available from multiple manufacturers and vendors. An ID scanner selected by a social or dining club licensee must meet the requirements of rule R81-5-18 as summarized below.
- An electronic age verification device:
 - a) must contain the technology to read a magnetic stripe and a two dimensional (“2d”) stack symbology (bar code), or an alternate technology capable of electronically verifying the proof of age; and
 - b) shall be capable of reading a valid state issued driver’s license, a valid state issued identification card, a valid military identification card, or a valid passport;
 - c) shall have a screen that displays no more than a person’s name, age, ID number, birth date, gender, ID status & expiration date; and
 - d) shall have the capability of electronically storing the name, age, ID number, birth date, gender, ID status & expiration date for seven days (168 hours) including the time and date the proof of age was scanned.
- If the proof of age cannot be scanned electronically, an alternative method of verifying an individual’s proof of age shall include a record or log showing the type, number, and expiration date of the ID; the date the ID was presented, the individual’s name and date of birth.
- Any data collected either electronically or otherwise, may only be used for the purpose of verifying an individual’s proof of age and may not be retained by the licensee in a data base for mailing, advertising, or promotional activity, to acquire personal information to make inappropriate personal contact with the individual, and shall be retained for a period of seven days from the date on which it was acquired, after which it must be deleted. The data collected may be acquired by law enforcement, or other investigative agencies.

Minors in Equity, Fraternal, and Dining Clubs

- Minors *may not* be on the premises of a lounge or bar area of any club.
- Minors *may not* be on the premises of a dining club unless accompanied by an individual who is 21 years of age or older.
- Minors *may not* be on the premises of any club that provides sexually oriented adult entertainment.
- Minors *may* be employed by an equity, fraternal, or dining club, but may not work in any lounge or bar area, or sell, serve or handle alcoholic beverages.
- Minors who are least 16 years of age *may* work at a cash register in an equity or dining club to ring up the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Minors in Social Clubs

- Minors *may not* be employed on the premises of a social club.
- Minors *may not* be admitted into, use, or be on the premises of a social club *except* under the following narrow exception:
 - A minor who is at least 18 years old may be on the premises of a dance or concert hall if:
 - a) the dance or concert hall is on the premises of a social club; or on adjoining premises operated by the social club licensee; and
 - b) the commission has issued the club a “dance or concert hall minor permit” that was granted on or before May 11, 2009 (see below).
 - A minor who is under 18 years old may be on the premises of a concert hall only (not a dance hall) if:
 - a) accompanied by a parent or legal guardian;

- b) the concert hall is on the premises of a social club or on adjoining premises operated by the social club;
 - c) all alcoholic beverage product, signage, and dispensing equipment is not visible to the minor; and
 - d) the commission has issued a “dance or concert hall minor permit” that was granted on or before May 11, 2009 (see below).
- A minor who is under 18 years old and 14 years of age or older and *not* accompanied by a parent or guardian, may be on the premises of a concert hall only (not a dance hall) if:
 - a) the commission has issued a “dance or concert hall minor permit” that was granted on or before May 11, 2009 (see below); and
 - b) all alcoholic beverage product, signage, and dispensing equipment is not visible to the minor; and
 - c) there is no alcoholic beverage sales, service, or consumption on the premises of the social club.
 - Local governments may be more restrictive of a minor’s admittance, use of, or presence on the premises of any private club.

Dance or Concert Hall Minor Permit that was issued to a Social Club on or before May 11, 2009

- A social club that was issued a dance or concert hall minor permit on or before May 11, 2009 shall operate in such a way that:
 - 1) the lounge, bar, and alcohol consumption area is:
 - not accessible to minors
 - clearly defined
 - separated by walls, multiple floor levels, or other substantial physical barriers;
 - 2) the bar or dispensing area is not visible to minors;
 - 3) no consumption of alcohol is allowed in the dance or concert hall area or any area of the club accessible to a minor;
 - 4) the club has sufficient security personnel to prevent the passing of beverages from the bar/lounge/consumption area to the dance or concert hall or any area accessible to minors; and
 - 5) there are separate entrances, exits, and restrooms for the dance or concert hall or any area of the club accessible to a minor.
- The permit may be suspended or revoked by the commission for failure to follow the permit guidelines, or for serving a minor, drug activities, lewd acts, etc.

Warning Sign

- Each club licensee shall display, in a prominent place, a sign in at least half inch bold letters stating: “Warning: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a serious crime that is prosecuted aggressively in Utah.”

Bad Checks

- The DABC may immediately suspend the club license if it receives a bad check as payment for liquor, for licensing or bond fees, fines and costs for violations, etc.

Prohibited Conduct

- Lewd acts, attire, and sexually oriented conduct of employees and entertainers that are considered contrary to public welfare and morals are prohibited on the premises. See Utah Code Section 32A-1-601 through 604 which may be viewed at: <http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE32A/32A01.htm>

Gambling

- Clubs may not engage in or permit any form of gambling on its premises.