



Knowsley Council

World Cup 2026 – Licensing & Late-Night Screening Guidance for Operators

With the FIFA World Cup 2026 taking place across the USA, Canada and Mexico, many fixtures involving the Home Nations will kick off late at night UK time.

If you plan to show matches at your premises, **now is the time to review your licensing arrangements and plan ahead.**

The Government has confirmed extended licensing hours for certain knockout-stage matches involving England or Scotland in England and Wales.

The Order applies to all premises, with either a premises licence or a club premises certificate permitting the sale of alcohol until at least 23:00 on the date of the match, where that alcohol is sold for consumption **on the premises**. (The Order does not apply to off-licences nor to premises only licensed for late night refreshment.)

Extensions will generally allow on-sales alcohol service:

- Until 1:00am for kick-offs between 5:00pm and 9:00pm, and;
- Until 2:00am for kick-offs after 9:00pm up to 10:00pm

These extensions apply only to **selected** knockout-stage matches and **do not cover all fixtures**:

- They do not apply to Group stage matches,
- They do not apply to knock out fixtures kicking off before 5:00pm or after 10:00pm,
- They only cover alcohol sales, and do not cover regulated entertainment such as live or recorded music.

The above exceptions will require a TEN. Licensees are reminded that;

- TENs are subject to the usual annual limits per premises;
- Standard TENs must be submitted at least 10 working days before the event, and;
- Late TENs must be submitted at least 5 working days before the event and carry a higher risk of refusal if objections are raised.

We strongly recommend reviewing:

- England and Scotland's potential routes through the tournament following the group stages (try Sky Sports and FIFA websites) and the timings of those matches should either of the Home Nations make it through;
- Your current permitted hours;
- Any non-standard timings already included on your premises licence, and;
- Staffing, security and dispersal arrangements for late-night trading.

Early engagement with the licensing authority and police licensing officer is advisable, particularly for high-risk or very late fixtures. Forward planning is essential due to uncertainty around fixture timings and tournament progression. Waiting until the knockout stages are confirmed may leave insufficient time to secure the necessary permissions.

If you require advice on TEN applications, licensing strategy or compliance planning for World Cup screenings, please get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Knowsley Licensing and Enforcement Teams