



# AGCO

Alcohol and Gaming  
Commission of Ontario

# Responsible Service Tip Sheet: LICENSED AREAS ON GOLF COURSES

INFORMATION SHEET FROM THE ALCOHOL AND GAMING COMMISSION OF ONTARIO



The AGCO carries out inspections of all Liquor Sales Licensed establishments across the province, including golf courses. If an inspector observes any alleged infractions of the *Liquor Licence Act* and its regulations, he or she will bring this to the licensee's attention and advise them of what is required for compliance with the law. The AGCO will then work with the licensee on a case-by-case basis.

## THERE ARE TWO ELEMENTS TO A GOLF CLUB'S LIQUOR SALES LICENCE:

- **The Liquor Sales Licence itself** — This permits the club to sell and serve liquor in the clubhouse, restaurant, outdoor patios, etc.
- **A Golf Course Endorsement** — This permits the club to sell and serve alcohol on the playing area of a golf course.

## UNLICENSED PATIO AREAS

The *Liquor Licence Act* and its regulations require that liquor can be sold and served only at outdoor areas which have been approved by the AGCO through a Liquor Sales Licence application process. Licensees can submit an application at any time to have their licensed areas expanded to include patios that may not be licensed.

The *Liquor Licence Act* requires that a barrier separate a licensed area from unlicensed areas. This means that if a club's patio abuts an area which is not licensed, a barrier must be put up that is at least 36", or 0.9 m, in height.

Any barrier that does not meet the requirements of the *Act* will be brought to a licensee's attention, and he/she will be provided with a reasonable time to bring the barrier into compliance with the law. This barrier doesn't need to be substantial or expensive, and could be as little as a rope between posts.

## LICENSED PLAYING AREAS

A Golf Course Endorsement is an addition to a Liquor Sales Licence which permits the sale and service of beverage alcohol to patrons for consumption on the playing area of the golf course. The "playing area" includes:

- All 18 holes;
- Fringe areas along a golf course;
- Practice putting area;
- Practice chipping area;
- Driving range areas;
- The grassy area generally surrounding the clubhouse.

## LIQUOR IS PERMITTED IN THESE AREAS BUT NOT IN PARKING LOTS, PUBLIC WALKWAYS OR ROADWAYS THAT MAY SEPARATE THESE LICENSED AREAS.

As is common in other types of licensed establishments, signs can be put up advising patrons which areas are licensed and which are not.

All clubs have different layouts when it comes to public areas intersecting the grounds and licensed areas, and that is why AGCO inspectors speak with owners and assess each course individually.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about licensed areas at your golf club, please contact your local AGCO inspector or contact AGCO Customer Service at 416-326-8700 or 1-800-522-2876 (toll free in Ontario) or visit us online at [www.agco.ca](http://www.agco.ca).