

Managing World Cup Success -

Advice for licensees showing **FIFA World Cup 2026** matches



Introduction

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is a major opportunity to attract customers who want to watch live matches in the great atmosphere provided by pubs. The tournament will be played from 11th June, culminating in the final on 19th July.

If you are planning to show FIFA World Cup games in your pub this summer, you may well already have management practices in place to deal with any issues that arise. If not, the advice below is intended to be helpful and concise guidance to ensure that you have busy and successful events over the tournament. This guide has been produced by the SBPA in partnership with Police Scotland with the aim to encourage licensing authorities, the licensed trade and the police to work together to ensure a safe and successful tournament. It is also supported by the Best Bar None Scotland, BII Scotland, Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership, Institute of Licensing, Night Time Industries Association, Scottish Hospitality Group, Scottish Licensed Trade Association, and UK Hospitality-Scotland.

May 2026



Advice for licensees

- Consideration should be given to contacting the police and/or your local authority Licensing Standard's Officer to let them know in advance of your plans for showing FIFA World Cup 2026 matches where there could be implications for either (or both) of these bodies, so that they can incorporate these plans into any actions they may be taking;
- Check the hours and conditions on the Premises Licence to make sure that you are complying with all requirements, and if a Temporary Event Notice is needed. It would be helpful to the local authority and police to submit your TEN as early as possible. If you are running promotions, check they comply with the Mandatory Conditions regarding this area;
- If there is trouble at your premises, call the police immediately and cease serving alcohol;
- In the event of trouble outside the premises, keep customers inside;
- Pass on any concerns or reports of disorder to local police (and other premises if you are in a local Pubwatch scheme);
- Make sure that the DPS is on duty if possible. If not, a duty manager with a personal licence should be available to oversee the event;
- Make sure that the DPS/duty manager holds the keys for the front doors and can secure them at any stage;
- Ensure sufficient staff numbers are in place to cope with the anticipated number of customers, and that all staff, both permanent and temporary, have had all relevant training;
- Make sure that the event is discussed with all staff and that any local police concerns are addressed and staff are aware;
- Make sure that there is no excessive consumption of alcohol - remember it is an offence to serve somebody who is drunk or to buy a drink for somebody who is already drunk. Posters reminding customers of the law are available to download free of charge from [the BBPA's website](#) ;
- Whilst fixtures involving England or Scotland are likely to attract larger numbers of customers to watch the game in your pub, also be aware of games where the national team playing may also attract a large following from the local community and plan accordingly;
- Consider the use of tickets to control admission and prevent overcrowding, if this is likely to be an issue in your pub;
- Ensure there is sufficient room available for the expected level of customers, and that there are contingency plans in place if this exceeded e.g. refusing entry if capacity is reached;
- If you feel admission and control could be an issue, consider the use of Door Supervisors (remembering that they must be SIA registered) to help control the number of people watching matches/events. The SIA's approved contractor scheme register can be found here [Register of Approved Contractors \(sia.homeoffice.gov.uk\)](#);
- Review access to your premises and consider restricting the number of entrances (should fire regulations permit);
- Check that all fire exits are completely clear and unobstructed and your fire risk assessment is reviewed accordingly;
- Consider the use of plastic glassware such as polycarbonate if necessary, particularly for outside areas and to avoid unnecessary waiting for service and/or to lessen the risk of injury;

- When serving glass bottles, consider the use of PET bottles or decanting into plastic glassware if appropriate;
- If you do use glass, ensure that empties are collected regularly and any broken glass is quickly cleared away;
- Be aware that under-18s may be attracted to watching events and matches in your venue; continue to be vigilant about preventing the sale of alcohol to them; and ensure that their presence is in compliance with your licensing conditions.
- Be aware of the need to prevent the use of illegal drugs. The BBPA has produced a guide ["Drugs and pubs: a guide to keeping a drug-free pub"](#) which is free to download from [the BBPA website](#);
- Think carefully about where TV screens are situated to avoid potential congestion. For similar reasons it is advisable, as far as possible, to prevent screens being viewed from outside the premises by non-customers;
- If you have CCTV, ensure that it is fully operational with all cameras recording. Check that cameras are not obscured by flags or other promotional material that you have used for the duration of the tournament. It would be advisable as good practice that a staff member able to operate the CCTV system is available;
- Be sure to monitor and control smoking areas where appropriate, especially at half-time and at the end of the match;
- Check that your premises remains accessible to all – please see the BBPA's ["An Open Welcome"](#) guidance on its website for further information;
- Check whether there is a public outdoor large screen event in the immediate area. Some unfortunate incidents have occurred in the past when people have spilled out of these events and into local pubs. Consider refusing entry if this is likely to happen;
- Contact your local authority Licensing Officer for any information on local requirements, and ensure noise is kept to a reasonable level for local residents, particularly if screening any matches outdoors;
- Consider making taxi numbers/late night public transport/train information readily available to assist customers in leaving the venue safely after evening games;
- Consider promoting and implementing the Ask for Angela scheme, with clear signage, and refresher training where it is already established so that all staff, including temporary and event staff, are confident in identifying vulnerability and responding appropriately to support individuals during busy match days and late-night trading. Free resources for venues can be found here: [Ask For Angela](#);
- Ensure any counter-terrorism measures are reviewed and that staff have been made aware of the signs to look out for. Further information on counter-terrorism measures can be found at the end of this guide.

Extended licensing hours

- The competition takes place across multiple North American cities across 4 different time zones, meaning that there is a range of kick-off times.

- Due to the time difference, this means some matches will start in the evening, while others may start late at night or in the early hours of the morning. The first match of the day will typically kick-off at 5pm, with the final match of the day sometimes not starting until 5am.
- The full schedule can be viewed here: <https://www.live-footballontv.com/live-world-cup-football-on-tv.html>
- To accommodate the late kick-offs, many licensing boards have opted for general extensions to allow screening in hospitality premises. You should check your local licensing board policy to ensure that you're able to screen the matches. If there is not a general extension for your area, you may have to apply for an occasional license extension. Breakdown of local licensing decisions:

Local Authority	Decision / Outcome
Aberdeen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted. • For the duration of the FIFA World Cup Tournament, premises can remain open until 0300 for the purposes of televising any fixture. • For fixtures involving the Scotland National Team, premises may remain open until 30 minutes after the conclusion of the fixture.
Aberdeenshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary blanket extension agreed for licensed premises to screen 2026 World Cup matches, allowing pubs to stay open late for home nation games and key tournament fixtures. • Venues can operate into the early hours for matches, which were previously constrained by normal licensing hours, ensuring they can stay open for 30 minutes after the final whistle.
Angus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension - pubs can stay open until 3 am for the tournament, with an additional 30 minutes provided beyond the final whistle for Scotland matches. • The extension applies only to premises that are screening matches live and have an on-sales licence. • Press reports suggests Police have warned that requests for extended hours / later opening would create "extensive resourcing" issues.
Argyll & Bute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted. • Premises can remain open until 30 minutes after the final whistle of the national teams fixtures. • The half hour extension is also set to be allowed for games during the later stages.
City of Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted • Extension allows licensed premises to remain open until 30 minutes after the end of any world cup match.
Clackmannanshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pubs with television licences can extend their hours to show Scotland's World Cup matches. • Extensions will be granted for 11pm kick offs, while the 2am kick offs will require a temporary licence variation. • Licensing officials are communicating directly with venues.
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of March 2026, the Licensing Board has not announced a specific "blanket extension" of licensing hours.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, individual applications will be considered (s.68 route) for pubs seeking to stay open for late night games (due to the North American time zones) must submit an extended hours application.
Dumfries & Galloway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted. • Extension covers all premises where their operating plan includes provision to show televised sport. • It will be place for throughout the tournament for any Scotland fixtures. • Any pub wishing to extend its hours to show any other matches will need to submit an application to the Licensing Board by 14 April.
Dundee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted. • Pubs allowed to remain open for up to 30 minutes after Scotland matches end. • For all other matches pubs may open until 1 am or 30 minutes after any 11pm kick offs match end - whichever is later.
East Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any licence holder wishing to open should submit one extended hours application for the three Scotland games free of charge. • Should Scotland progress further in the tournament, additional extended hours applications may be lodged free of charge. • The licensed premises must have permissions to show live sports within their operating plan.
East Dunbartonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension covering all matches granted. • Allows premises to open until 30 minutes after the final whistle. • Will only apply to licenced premises that already have televised sports as an activity with their licence.
East Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted. • Premises can remain open until 30 minutes after the conclusion of any home nation fixture for the duration of the tournament. • It is expected that the extension will apply to 146 premises - including bars and clubs who state within their operating plan that they show televised sports.
East Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted. • Licensing Board has indicated a maximum of 30 minutes added time after the final whistle of all matches. • Extension is to allow venues to show televised matches and applies only to specific criteria, including already showing televised sport as part of their operating plan.
Falkirk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 68 approach agreed - no general extension - individual licensed premises to apply to the Licensing Board. • At the Licensing Board's meeting on 25 February 2026, the Board agreed that licensed premises that currently have the facility to show televised sports within their operating plan, can remain open to show the Men's Scotland Football Team World Cup 2026 matches under the following arrangements: • Sunday 14 June 2026 - Haiti v Scotland - Kick-off 2am: Any premises wishing to show the match will require to make an extended hours application to the Board under Section 68, of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. Where there are no objections or representations to the application, it will be dealt with under

	delegated powers by the Clerk to the Board, with there being no requirement for the applicant to appear before the Board.
Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No decision yet. • Fife Licensing Board expecting to make a decision late April. • Review potential hours for key Scotland matches, particularly with late kick offs. • Input from police and licensing officers sought to inform thinking/decision making.
Glasgow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted. • Pubs and other on-sales venues, that already televise sport, to remain open and trading for up to an additional 30 minutes after final whistle/end of play, for the duration of the tournament.
Highland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended hours granted - general extension. • Venues which have televised sport within their licence will be permitted to remain open for 30 minutes after the final whistle of all of Scotland's confirmed games - and any additional games.
Inverclyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket extension granted. • Pubs and clubs allowed to continue trading outwith regular opening times for the National team's games. • Extended hours is therefore for Scotland matches only. • Any premises with televised sport in their operating plan must notify the Board and police if they wish to make use of the extension by 16 April. • Premises that do not currently show live sport but want to stay open later will have to apply separately to the Board for a major variation of their licence. Application by 16 April.
Midlothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No general extension. • Venues looking for late-night opening for particular matches need to apply for individual extensions.
Moray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary extension agreed and will apply for the duration of the tournament. • Allows venues to show live matches and remain open for the sale of alcohol until 30 minutes after the end of a match. • Premises that intend to take advantage of extended hours will be asked to notify the Licensing Board in advance.
North Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No general extension. • The Board will invite individual extended hours applications by premises licence holders and occasional licence applications for venues which do not hold a premises licence. • Applications can be made for any World Cup fixture (not limited to Scotland matches) • Closing time will be 30 minutes after the final whistle for those successful in extending their hours.
North Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended hours on the days of Scotland matches will be allowed • Closing time 30 minutes after the final whistle. • Applies to premises with permission to show televised sport. Children and young people will not be allowed entry during extended hours.
Orkney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensions approved for licensed premises with TV sport already listed within operating plans. Includes extra hour on licenses for the duration of the World Cup, and half an hour after the final whistle for Scotland matches.
Perth & Kinross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P&K Licensing Board has agreed in principle to grant a general extension. • Applies for all matches featuring the Home Nations. • Licensed premises with on-sales facility will be allowed to remain open until 30 minutes after the final whistle.
Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket extension agreed. • Applies to licensed on-sale premises who can remain open up to a maximum of 30 minutes added time after the final whistle of all World Cup matches. • Applies to premises who already show televised sport as part of their operating plan.
Scottish Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted • Pubs can stay open until 30 minutes involving any of the Home nations
Shetlands Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors approved licence extensions that enable three licensed premises to open later for the three Scotland fixtures.
South Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No general extension, licensed premises will be able to make individual applications to extend licensing hours
South Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension granted • Premises which hold a full premises licence which sell alcohol for consumption on the premises and includes a provision in their operating plan to show televised sport, will, in some circumstances, be able to remain open until 30 minutes after the end of games. • In South Lanarkshire Licensing Division No. 1 (Clydesdale Area) and South Lanarkshire Licensing Division No. 3 (Hamilton Area), this will be the case for all games during the competition. • In South Lanarkshire Licensing Division No. 2 (East Kilbride Area) and South Lanarkshire Licensing Division No. 4 (Rutherglen and Cambuslang Area), this will be the case for Scotland games only, including the group stages and any further stages in the competition, as well as the final.
Stirling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General extension - Venues can stay open 30 minutes after the final whistle for games kicking off within core licensing hours. • Early/late matches - pubs must apply for special extensions for specific extended hours. • Licensed venues must be ticketed.
West Dunbartonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make no determination on a general extension, however premises will be free to apply for extended hours in line with the licensing Boards current Statement of Licensing Policy.
West Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No blanket extension. • Licence holders permitted to televise sport, wishing to televise Scotland matches, will require to submit an application for extended hours. • Applications should be submitted no later than 31 March.

- If you are in doubt about the legality of showing matches outside of standard hours, you should contact the relevant local authority. The SBPA might also be able to help, by emailing ptogneri@beerandpub.com

Screening matches outdoors

You might choose to screen matches in outside spaces. If so, there are additional points to consider as part of your risk assessment:

- Check that there are no conditions on your premises licence that would restrict the use of outdoor areas;
- Review the positioning of any outdoors screens if possible to ensure they cannot be viewed by non-customers beyond the premises boundary;
- Consider the impact of increased noise levels outside with regards to local residents;
- Consider the increased use of staff in outdoor areas during the screenings and afterwards;
- Ensure that any temporary outdoor structures for either screening the match or sheltering customers have been properly constructed and that they remain safe and secure, especially in bad weather.

The matches

Scotland – and other matches – are likely to attract large audiences. Scotland are guaranteed three matches in competition and are in Group C alongside Brazil, Haiti and Morocco. It is worth considering whether increased staff are needed at this time if you choose to show the games.

- **Sun 14 June - 02:00 BST: Scotland v Haiti** (Gillette Stadium, Foxborough/Boston) **BBC**
- **Fri 19 June - 23:00 BST: Scotland v Morocco** (Gillette Stadium, Foxborough/Boston) **STV**
- **Wed 24 June - 23:00 BST: Scotland v Brazil** (Hard Rock Stadium, Miami) **BBC**

For Scotland's group round of matches, the first match takes place at 2am and last two at 11pm. Other group matches take place at a range of times between 5pm and 5am.

Following the completion of the group section, qualifying teams will progress to the knock-out rounds.

- **Round of 32:**
 - 16 matches between 28 June and 4 July, Kick-offs range from 5pm to 2am BST
- **Round of 16:**
 - 8 matches between 4 July and 7 July, Kick-offs range from 5pm to 1 am BST
- **Quarter Finals:**
 - 9 July; 9pm BST
 - 10 July; 8pm BST
 - 11 July; 10pm BST
 - 12 July; 2am BST
- **Semi Finals:**
 - 14 July & 15 July; 8pm BST
- **Third Place:**
 - 18 July; 10pm BST
- **Final:**
 - 19 July; 8pm BST
- All matches will be shown on either BBC or STV /ITV with a full list of matches with TV details is available here: <https://www.live-footballontv.com/live-world-cup-football-on-tv.html>.
- The SBPA wallchart is available for download here: <https://admin.beerandpub.com/media/dbenyzck/sbpa-world-cup-wallchart.pdf>

Counter-terrorism considerations

While no specific threat has been identified it is important that premises consider the risk from that intent on causing wide-scale harm and panic and should therefore remain vigilant for anything that seems out of place or unusual.

Licensed Premises remain attractive to terrorists seeking to attack publicly accessible locations where large numbers of people gather. A risk assessment should be carried out that takes into account the premises preparedness and resilience, the security culture of all staff.

Threat Level: UK Terrorist Threat Levels are published online. Knowing where to find the threat levels and understanding them is important when security planning. Understanding the threat can help inform your risk assessment and ensure appropriate and proportionate security arrangements are in place, and help prioritise actions as threat levels provide an indication of attack likelihood. Further information about threat levels is available on [MI5's website](#).

Suspicious Activity: Terrorists like all criminals will reconnoitre their targets. Staff must be vigilant and confident they can report suspicious behaviour without delay. **If you suspect there is immediate danger** you should tell a Police Officer by dialling **999** or if there is no immediate threat please call the **National Anti-Terrorist Hotline - 0800 789 321**. If you see something that doesn't feel right, the Police want to hear from you.

Guidance Documentation and Support:

A range of counter-terrorism guidance and other resources is available on the [ProtectUK website](#), which includes posters and other resources for its Summer vigilance campaign, available [here](#).

It is highly recommended that management and staff undertake the free online **Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) E-learning Counter-Terrorism Awareness** product which is available for free on the ProtectUK website [here](#).

Please contact your Force Counter Terrorism Security Advisors for further advice and assistance.

Bystander training

Bystander training is a preventative approach that equips individuals with awareness, confidence and practical skills to recognise potentially harmful situations such as violence, harassment or abuse - and intervene safely and effectively. It focuses on challenging the social and psychological barriers that often prevent action while promoting a shared responsibility for safety.

The Bitesize Bystander programme was created for the licensed trade with a focus on venues employing seasonal staff, to provide quick and practical guidance on recognising harmful situations and intervening safely.

Full bystander training is also available, and anyone interested in arranging this should contact Police Scotland Violence Prevention and Licensing Coordination unit for further information and support.

LiquorCivicLicensingPolicyUnit@scotland.police.uk

What Bystander Means

- A 'bystander' is anyone who witnesses a situation where someone may be at risk of harm
- Being an 'active bystander' means choosing to step in safely - to prevent or reduce harm
- It's about looking out for each other and taking small actions that make a big difference.

Spot the Indicators/Risks

- Unwanted attention or touching
- Someone being separated from their group or followed
- Aggressive or intimidating language
- Overly intoxicated customers who are vulnerable
- Verbal or Physical arguments escalating between customers

How to Act Safely

- **Direct** - Politely challenge the behaviour or check in with the person at risk, or extended group
- **Distract** - Interrupt the situation - start a casual conversation or offer to move someone away
- **Delegate** - Get a colleague, supervisor or security involved
- **Delay** - If it's unsafe to act in the moment, check on the person later or report it
- **Call For Help** - If danger is immediate, contact security or police

Remember

- Your safety comes first - Never put yourself at risk
- It's ok to ask for help or hand over to someone senior
- Report incidents to your manager as soon as possible
- You will be supported to act when something doesn't feel right
- By looking out for each other, we can make venues safer for everyone.
- **If in doubt - speak up, stay safe and support your team**

Further guidance

The SBPA strongly advises licensees to carry out a risk assessment and record any decisions made - such a record will be useful if despite your best efforts some individuals are determined to cause trouble in your premises. The BBPA has produced a guide, "[Managing Safety in Pubs](#)" which may be of help when developing risk assessments. This is free to download from [the BBPA's website](#).

For further information on this document, please contact Andrew Green, at the BBPA, agreen@beerandpub.com or Paul Togneri, at the SBPA, ptogneri@beerandpub.com