

Alcohol Beverage Control for Private Clubs

You can't give it away

California law prohibits a licensee from giving away alcoholic beverages

- No free beer after a race (someone must purchase it)
- No nickel beer on Friday (must be 10% over cost)
- No "two for one" specials (again reasonable pricing)

You can't sell to minors

No alcohol sales to anyone under 21

Revised in the last few years, a minor may sit at the bar with an adult

Club rules can prohibit this

You can't take it off the licensed premise

Your license describes and has a floor plan of the licensed area

The law allows corkage of wine only to remove from the premises

You can't sell to the public (Class 51 license)

This is a license for members and guests only

The best procedure is to use a guestbook and be diligent in its use

"Event Permits" (\$25) allow the sale to groups of non-members

General License Rules

Class 51 license does not have a package sale provision

You must purchase from a licensed distributor. If you run out, you cannot buy from

Costco or Walgreens

You cannot have "donated" alcoholic beverages for a tasting event, distributors can bring certain beverages in per their license, but you still must charge attendees

Be prepared for an ABC inspection

They are unannounced, you cannot make a reservation

They may come in without knowledge and observe for over serving

They will ask to see the license document

They may check patrons to assure membership or guest status

They will inspect behind the bar and storage areas

They may ask for purchase invoices to compare with inventory

ABC website

<http://www.abc.ca.gov>

LEAD Training – free but limited

Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs – a four hour class

Designed for licensees, managers, and employees

Provides practical information on serving safely, responsibly, and legally

To schedule – <http://www.abc.ca.gov/forms/ABC602pdf>