



**Washington State
Liquor Control Board**

Liquor Control Board Interim Policy #02-2010

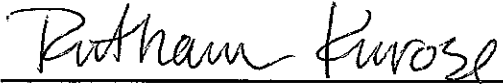
Subject: Making Changes to the Sports Entertainment License for Seasonal Amateur Sports and Suggesting a Prorated License Fee

Effective Date: February 10, 2010

Ending Date: Until superseded by rule or rescinded by the Board

Approved: 

Sharon Foster, Board Chairman



Ruthann Kurose, Board Member

BACKGROUND

Currently, most seasonal amateur sports organizations hold a snack bar license due to the high cost of the sports entertainment license and the lack of a prorated fee option. Typically, with the snack bar license, customers cannot take alcohol to the stands or seats surrounding the playfield.

If amateur teams are allowed a prorated monthly fee option for a seasonal sports entertainment license type, they will be able to apply and submit an operating plan showing how alcohol will be properly controlled while meeting their business needs to allow adults to consume alcohol while watching the game.

RCW 66.24.420 (1) (b) allows proration of a license fee for only spirits, beer and wine restaurants outside of incorporated cities and towns, but nowhere in law or rule is proration of a fee prohibited for other liquor license types.

RCW 66.24.570 is the sports entertainment license in law.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

This issue paper is to request that the Board consider interpreting law and rule to allow monthly proration of the sports entertainment license fee for *only* seasonal amateur sport organization applicants, or, to applicants who will sell alcohol only at an amateur sports venue to customers.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Washington State Liquor Control Board shall adopt this interim policy to interpret RCW 66-24-570 (sports entertainment license), and RCW 66.24.420 (proration of the spirits, beer and wine restaurant license fee), to allow monthly proration of the sports entertainment facility license fee only for seasonal amateur sports licensees. After licensed, the agency will allow alcohol consumption in the stands or other designated areas if the areas are included in the venue's operating plan with required public safety elements. Operating plans are required under the sports entertainment license already.

In addition, Licensing Division will develop a process for fee collection based on current financial systems.

Licensing Division must request that amateur organizations provide proof of amateur status to be eligible for the prorated amateur sports entertainment license. Entities that plan to provide alcohol service to customers at a location that is an amateur sports venue must provide a contract or verification showing that their business is only for that purpose.

In addition, months prorated must only be contiguous, basically, a seasonal prorated license that begins when the sports season starts and stops when the sports season ends. If a team's season is extended, the licensee must request an extension at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the license period to extend the license and appropriate monthly fees must be paid for those additional months needed for the liquor license.

A renewal process that includes local authority notification must also be a part of the process for this seasonal modification similar to the annual notice sent to local authorities for other liquor licenses.

Applicants applying for the seasonal amateur sports entertainment license must provide justification of their need for this license and why they cannot apply for the annual sports entertainment license.

The Board directs the Licensing Division to make necessary changes to allow monthly fee collection for amateur sports licensees, including updating WAC 314-16-265. Amateur venues must meet all other license requirements currently in law and rule for the sports entertainment license type.

POLICY DURATION

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This interim policy will be effective upon Board adoption and will stay in effect until superseded by rule or rescinded by the Board.

WACS TO BE CHANGED OR UPDATED

Washington Administrative Code 314-16-260 through 314-16-275.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval and signature of the Washington State Liquor Control Board.

ATTACHMENTS

RCW 66.24.420 - Liquor by the drink, spirits, beer, and wine restaurant license

RCW 66.24.570 - Sports entertainment facility license

WAC 314-16-260 through 314-16-275 – Sports entertainment facility license

