

Application number: 036/SOL/024/2026

IN THE MATTER

of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by **Wanganui Counties Rugby Football Club** for a special-licence pursuant to section 138 of the Act on the occasion of their 'Club Rugby Home Games Post Match Social Events 2026'.

BEFORE THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

Commissioner
Mr S G Hylton



DECISION

1. Introduction

This is an application by **Wanganui Counties Rugby Football Club** for a special licence in regard to a series of events to be held at the Club's premises, Horrocks Park, Kaiwhaiki Road, Whanganui.

The nature of the event for which the licence is sought is 'Club Rugby Home Games Post Match Social Events 2026'.

The date and hours sought are –

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Thursday 2 April 2026 | 5:00pm - 10:30pm |
| • Saturday 4 April 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Saturday 25 April 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Thursday 30 April 2026 | 5:00pm - 10:00pm |
| • Saturday 2 May 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Thursday 14 May 2026 | 5:00pm - 10:30pm |
| • Saturday 16 May 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Saturday 23 May 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Saturday 30 May 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Saturday 6 June 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Saturday 13 June 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Saturday 20 June 2026 | 2:00pm - 11:30pm |
| • Saturday 27 June 2026 | 2:00pm - 11.30pm |

2. Application

The application was received on 18 March 2026 and included a supporting letter, owner letter, playing schedule, menu, drinks list and floor plan.

The application was not advertised and no objection or notice of desire to be heard has been received under section 141 of the Act. Accordingly, we deal with the matter on the papers in accordance with section 202(1).

In considering the application for special licence the committee had regard to the following criteria under section 142 of the Act:

(a) the object of this Act:

(b) the nature of the particular event for which the licence is sought and, in particular,—

(i) whether the applicant is engaged in, or proposes at the event to engage in, the sale of goods other than alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments, and food, and if so, which goods; and

(ii) whether the applicant is engaged in, or proposes at the event to engage in, the provision of services other than those directly related to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments, and food, and if so, which services:

(c) the suitability of the applicant:

(d) any relevant local alcohol policy:

(e) whether (in its opinion) the amenity and good order of the locality would be likely to be reduced, by more than a minor extent, by the effects of the issue of the licence:

(f) the days on which and the hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol:

(g) the design and layout of the premises concerned:

(h) whether the applicant has appropriate systems, staff and training to comply with the law:

- (i) any areas of the premises that the applicant proposes should be designated as restricted areas or supervised areas;
- (j) any steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure that the requirements of this Act in relation to the sale and supply of alcohol to prohibited persons are observed;
- (k) the applicant's proposals relating to—
- (i) the sale and supply of non-alcoholic drinks and food; and
 - (ii) the sale and supply of low-alcohol drinks; and
 - (iii) the provision of help with or information about alternative forms of transport from the premises;
- (l) any matters dealt with in any report from the Police, the Medical Officer of Health, or an inspector made under [section 141](#).

3. Reporting Agencies

The following reports were received under section 141 of the Act.

Police Report – No opposition within report dated 20 March 2026.

Medical Officer of Health – No opposition within report received on 23 March 2026.

Licensing Inspector Report – Full report provided by the inspector including assessment of application against section 142 criteria. The Inspector concludes that the application is complete and will likely meet the criteria of the Act. Draft conditions are also offered by the inspector.

The complete file contained the following pertinent points –

- The applicant is a body corporate incorporated in 1912.
- The applicant does not hold a Club Licence therefore needs a special licence to sell to people for the special occasions (home rugby games after match functions).
- The applicant has not come to the notice of enforcement agencies previously.
- The applicant anticipates that the event will attract up to 100 attendees, classifying it as a small event. Attendance is expected to consist mainly of local families connected to the Rugby Club's sporting activities, along with their guests.
- Suitability is not challenged.
- The premise and club have been in existence for many years, and an extra special licence should not reduce amenity and good order of the locality. The ground and premises are rural and part of a close-knit rural community.
- The premise is suitable for the type of event and layout has been suitable in the past. A floor plan was provided with the application showing the area to be licenced. The licenced area relates to a Community Hall (MacNab Domain) where the hall complex is made available to the event. It is a part of a larger building with restricted access to the licenced area. The venue is occasionally used for similar events. The licenced area is therefore demarcated and delineated by design and physical structure.
- The days and hours appear relevant for the events being undertaken.
- A certified manager was nominated for the event including other staff. This is seen as sufficient to cover the function.
- The applicant advises that the Club provides an after-match meal to all players, supporters, and members.
- A 'supervised' designation for the events is supported.
- Both the Police and MOH have no objections to the application

4. Decision

The application for Special Licence is **Approved** for issue subject to the conditions outlined in the inspector's report.

DATED at Whanganui this 27th day of March 2026.



Secretary
Whanganui District Licensing Committee

