



Special Occasion License Event Frequently Asked Questions for Breweries

Not sure how breweries can participate in your Special Occasion License (SOL) event? Here's a look at some of the most frequently asked questions by non-profits with a SOL to breweries.

Q: Can a brewery sponsor my SOL event?

A: No. Breweries are prohibited from paying sponsorship money to SOL events. (RCW 66.28.305/WAC 314-05-030 (4))

Q: Can a brewery donate or discount beer for my event?

A: Breweries can donate or discount beer to designated 501 (c) 3 or 501 (c) 6 organizations holding a special occasion license. There are no other circumstances under which a brewery can legally donate or discount beer to an organization or retailer. (RCW 66.28.040/WAC 314-05-030)

Q: Can a brewery provide pouring staff for my event?

A: A brewery may only provide pouring staff for SOL events that are considered "beer exhibitions." Beer exhibitions include events with "beer", "brew", "oktoberfest" in the title or include a beer judging or competition element. To determine if your event qualifies as a beer exhibition, contact: specialoccasions@lcb.wa.gov (RCW 66.28.310/WAC 314-05-030(4))

Q: I don't have a SOL, but I have a liquor license and I am putting on an event featuring breweries. Can breweries provide pouring equipment and/or staff for my event?

A: No. State law prohibits breweries from providing pouring equipment and/or pouring staff to any retailer, except designated non-profit holding a SOL with a beer exhibition designation. (RCW 66.28.305/WAC 314-12-140)

Q: Can I pay breweries for their beer by the token?

A: No. State law requires that any beer served/sold at a SOL be owned by the non-profit holding the SOL. To meet this requirement, beer must be paid for in full by the keg, bottle, can or packaging from which the beer is being dispensed. While the agreement to purchase the beer must be made in advance of the event, you may pay for actual beer purchased immediately following the close of the event.
(WAC 314-13-015 and WAC 314-05-030)

Breweries love participating in and supporting non-profit SOL events!

Please remember that breweries are subject to penalties if we participate in events that are not in compliance with state SOL laws and rules. We appreciate you taking the time to ensure your event is compliant with WA state law!

For more information on SOL events, visit:
<https://lcb.wa.gov/licensing/special-occasion-licenses/faq>