

LICENSING GUIDANCE

# FIFA MEN'S WORLD CUP 2026

## At a Glance

Extension of licensing hours for premises screening matches involving England & Scotland in knock-out rounds	Extension applies only where a home nation is playing	Matches kicking off after 22:00 or before 17:00 will not benefit from the national extension	Temporary Event Notices (TENs) will still be required in several scenarios	At least one TEN will be required in all England outcomes
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## Extension of Licensing Hours

With fewer than 50 days to go until the FIFA World Cup kicks off, the Government has announced an intention to extend licensing hours for premises in England and Wales intending to screen matches involving England and Scotland.

Where a home nation is playing, permitted licensing hours will be extended as follows:

KICK-OFF TIME	LATEST ALCOHOL SALES PERMITTED
17:00 – 21:00	01:00
After 21:00 up to 22:00	02:00
Before 17:00 or after 22:00	No extension – TEN required

The relaxation applies to the following stages of the tournament:

- Round of 32
- Round of 16
- Quarter-finals
- Semi-finals
- Bronze medal match
- Final

If no home nation is playing in any matches that qualify for the extension, the order will not apply.

This instrument will allow licensed premises in England and Wales already licensed to 23:00, and subject to their existing licence conditions, to remain open for the sale and supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises and the provision of late-night refreshment.

## England Matches

Further details of the fixtures and possible permutations for England matches are set out below.

### Group Stage Fixtures

FIXTURE	DATE	KICK-OFF
England -v- Croatia	Wednesday 17 June	21:00
England -v- Ghana	Tuesday 23 June	21:00
England -v- Panama	Saturday 27 June	22:00

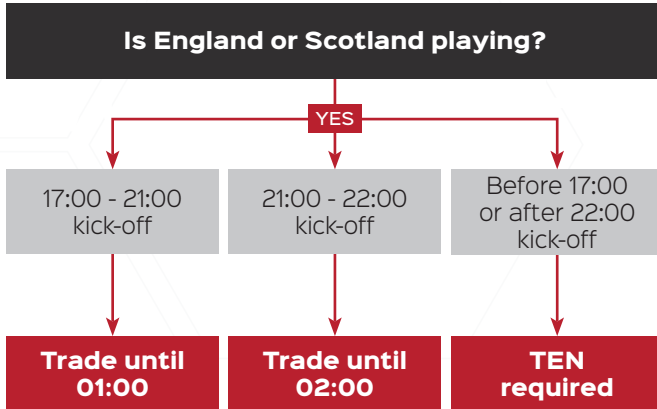
The group stage is relatively straightforward to plan for; however, now is the time to start preparing. With kick-off times at 21:00 and 22:00, operators may wish to consider whether Temporary Event Notices are required to extend trading hours.

Beyond the group stage, certainty quickly falls away. While England, as top seed, would be expected to finish top of Group L, tournament experience shows this cannot be assumed.

With the final round of group matches taking place on 27 June, England's finishing position is unlikely to be known until that date unless early results remove all doubt.

## Knockout Rounds

The Government's proposed extension is to apply to all knockout matches involving England and Scotland:



Despite the extension, careful planning remains essential. As there is no certainty that England will finish top of the group, operators should consider whether it is prudent to submit TENS in advance to cover alternative finishing positions.

## Post-Group Scenarios: England

### England Win Group L

If England finish top of Group L and progress from the round of 32, they will face a 01:00 kick-off in the round of 16 on Monday 06 July, for which a TEN will be required.

All subsequent England fixtures benefit from the relaxation, with:

- a 22:00 kick-off in the quarter-final (trading until 02:00), and
- 20:00 kick-offs in the semi-final and final (trading until 01:00).

### England Finish Second in Group L

If England finish second (and assuming they win their round of 32 match, for which a TEN will be required), all subsequent fixtures kick off at 20:00. These will benefit from the extended licensing hours until 01:00.

### England Finish Third in Group L

This scenario presents the greatest challenge. Assuming England win their round of 32 match (TEN required):

- The round of 16 at 21:00 allows trading until 01:00
- The quarter-final at 02:00 on Sunday 12 July falls outside the relaxation and will require a TEN

## England Outcomes Summary

GROUP POSITION	ROUND OF 32	ROUND OF 16	QUARTER FINAL	SEMI FINAL	FINAL
<b>1st</b>	01 July   17:00 Trade until 01:00	<b>06 July   01:00</b> <b>TEN required</b>	11 July   22:00 Trade until 02:00	15 July   20:00 Trade until 01:00	19 July   20:00 Trade until 01:00
<b>2nd</b>	<b>03 July   00:00</b> <b>TEN required</b>	06 July   20:00 Trade until 01:00	10 July   20:00 Trade until 01:00	14 July   20:00 Trade until 01:00	19 July   20:00 Trade until 01:00
<b>3rd</b>	<b>04 July   02:30</b> <b>TEN required</b>	07 July   21:00 Trade until 01:00	<b>12 July   02:00</b> <b>TEN required</b>	15 July   20:00 Trade until 01:00	19 July   20:00 Trade until 01:00

## Scotland Matches

FIXTURE	DATE	KICK-OFF
<b>Scotland -v- Haiti</b>	Sunday 14 June	02:00
<b>Scotland -v- Morocco</b>	Friday 19 June	23:00
<b>Scotland -v- Brazil</b>	Wednesday 24 June	23:00

**If Scotland win their group or finish third**, all subsequent matches kick off at 22:00 or earlier and fall within the relaxed hours regime.

**If Scotland finish second**, a TEN will be required for their round of 32 fixture at 02:00. Any matches thereafter would be covered by the relaxation.

## Plan Ahead

The key message is to start planning now and to consider submitting Temporary Event Notices for the knockout stages well in advance, in order to cover all possible finishing positions for England and Scotland.

For England fixtures, at least one TEN will be required regardless of whether England finish first, second or third in Group L. Depending on England's finishing position and kick-off times, additional TENs may also be required for later knockout matches.

Premises screening Scotland matches should also plan carefully. Scotland's group stage includes fixtures kicking off at 02:00 and 23:00, and a TEN may be required depending on existing permissions. Operators should also account for the possibility of Scotland finishing second in their group, which would require a TEN for the round of 32 fixture at 02:00, even though subsequent matches would fall within the relaxed hours regime.

Early submission of TENs will provide greater certainty and reduce the risk of operational disruption once the knockout stages commence.

## Police Liaison & Risk Assessment

We recommend engaging with the local Police Licensing Officer as early as possible to establish expectations and preferred submission timescales.

Operators should undertake appropriate risk assessments, including consideration of:

- additional door staff,
- staff training,
- polycarbonate glassware,
- customer dispersal and transport following early-morning kick-offs.

Particular scrutiny is likely for fixtures at:

- 02:30 on Saturday 4 July
- 01:00 on Monday 6 July
- 02:00 on Sunday 12 July

## Temporary Event Notices: Key Rules

Many of these late-night requirements can be covered by TENs. However, these are subject to strict statutory limits:

REQUIREMENT	LIMIT
<b>TENs per premises per year</b>	15
<b>Maximum duration per TEN</b>	168 hours (7 days)
<b>Minimum gap between TENs</b>	24 hours
<b>Maximum days covered per year</b>	21

A Standard TEN must be lodged at least 10 working days before the event. The latest you can apply for a 'late TEN' is 5 clear working days before the event (but not earlier than 9 clear working days).

The council cannot refuse a notice unless the police or environmental health object to it. They must do this within 3 working days of receiving it. If there's an objection, your council's licensing committee will hold a meeting (called a 'hearing') no later than 24 hours before the event (unless all parties agree that a hearing is not needed). At the hearing, the committee will either approve, add conditions, or reject the notice.

If the police or environmental health object to a late TEN, the notice will not be valid and you cannot hold the event.

## World Cup 2026 Wall Chart

Click on the image to [download your free aide-mémoire](#) setting out the kick-off dates and times for each possible scenario of England and/or Scotland finishing first, second, or third in their group.



It also serves as a reminder of the final dates by which Late and Standard Temporary Event Notices must be submitted for specific fixtures.

We would strongly advise against the use of Late TENs, as these may be refused outright by the Police or Environmental Health without the opportunity for a hearing or discussion.

