

Drugs and Alcohol Guidelines

This section lays out guidelines regarding the responsible use and promotion of alcohol at activities attended by Australian Rover Scouts.

1. It is recognised that Rover Scouts are 18 years and over; as such, are legally permitted to drink alcohol and should do so in a responsible manner. In addition, the responsible use of alcohol must be promoted by the organisers of all Rover activities where alcohol is either available or provided.
2. The Unit, Rovers, and Organisers of Events have a duty of care towards Rovers and participants at events. Rovers and participants at events will respect this and behave and consume alcohol in a responsible manner. Rovers will not permit those under 18 years of age to consume alcohol at Rover events.
3. The use of alcohol is defined to be a problem when it adversely affects others, or affects the safety of the Rover in question. Before a Rovers' use of alcohol becomes a problem, their Unit must take action to remedy the situation. In the absence of the Rovers' own Unit, action must be taken by any other Rovers present and the organisers of the event.
4. The consumption of alcohol must always be prohibited where Rovers are involved in activities with younger Sections, except formal occasions, such as dinners and award nights, where small amounts of alcohol may be customarily consumed.
5. Rovers should be discouraged from discussing or boasting about their consumption of alcohol at inappropriate times, including in the presence of younger members of the Scout Association, Leaders, and the public. Rovers should encourage and promote a culture of responsible use of alcohol.
6. Rovers should avoid displaying images of – and giving reference to – events where Rovers have not consumed alcohol in a responsible manner, with specific avoidance of images of Rovers drinking in uniform. Rovers should exercise their best judgment before drinking, especially when in uniform.
7. Rovers should consider the appropriateness of the situation before engaging in unsuitable songs or chants. Rovers should recognise that to encourage a culture of responsible use of alcohol, songs or chants about excessive or inappropriate alcohol consumption should be discouraged at all times.
8. Fatigue while driving is recognised as a significant health and safety risk. Rovers, Units, and Event Organisers will be proactive in reducing the impact that alcohol consumption has on fatigue and driving, especially with people on provisional licences.

9. Rover Units, Rover Councils, Trainers, and Event Organisers will promote awareness within Rovers on the health and safety risks associated with the consumption of alcohol.
10. Branches and Event Organisers will promote responsible alcohol consumption by focusing events, where possible, to be non-alcohol related. Rovers will not encourage irresponsible, binge, intoxicating, and excessive drinking situations, games, and activities.
11. Event organisers will, where practical:
 - a. Introduce hours for alcohol consumption (e.g. between 4pm and 2am)
 - b. Have available non-alcoholic drinks and complimentary water
 - c. Ensure food is available if a bar is running
 - d. Have other activities available that do not involve alcohol consumption
 - e. Provide signage and information on responsible alcohol consumption

USE OF LEGAL, ILLEGAL AND ILLICIT SUBSTANCES

This section lays out guidelines regarding the manner drugs are dealt with within the Rover Scout section and at events attended by Rovers.

1. The use of any illegal drug or substance during a Rover or other Scout activity is completely prohibited; any Rover under the influence of an illegal drug must be excluded from any Scouting activity.
2. No Rover shall possess any illegal drug or substance on a Rover activity.
3. Rovers should be vigilant to the negative effects of legal drugs and substances, and exclude themselves or others from activities if under the influence of such substances. Particular caution should be exercised before driving to or during Rover events and activities.

These guidelines were last updated on 15 February 2020.