

Private Clubs FAQs

Q: What qualifies a business as a private club?

NCGS 18B- 1000(5) states, “A private club is an establishment that is organized and operated solely for a social, recreational, patriotic, or fraternal purpose and that is not open to the general public, but is open only to the members of the organization and their bona fide guests.”

Q: We have many tourists traveling through the area that want to come into our private club to eat, is that okay? No.

Rule 2S.0234 states, “Neither a private club or permittee nor his employees shall:

1. Allow any person who is not a member or bona fide guest of a member to be present as a patron on the premises of a private club; or
2. No private club permittee or his employee shall admit patrons as “house” guests
3. A member shall designate his own guests. If a member accepts a patron as his guest at the behest of the private club permittee or employee, than the Commission shall consider that member to be acting as the permittee’s agent.”

Q: Can an employee sign the patron in? No.

Rule 2S.0234(c) states, “An employee who is also a member of the private club shall not admit a patron as his guest while the employee is on duty.”

Q: Can a Private Club provide lockers for its members? Yes.

N.C.G.S. 18B-1006 states, “A private club...which has been issued a Brown-Bagging permit may, but is not required to, provide lockers for its members to store their beverages.”

Q: If lockers are provided, are there any rules the establishment must maintain? Yes.

Rule 2S.0403 states, “A private club brown-bagging permittee shall see that alcoholic beverages are stored in compliance with the following conditions:

1. All alcoholic beverages stored at the club shall be kept in individual lockers that are labeled with the members’ names as they appear on the membership roster; lockers shall remain locked when the member is not on the premises;
2. Each locker shall contain a lock that can be opened only with a key, and the key shall be possessed by the individual member when that member is not present on the premises of the club;
3. No member shall store, whether in one or more lockers, more than five liters of fortified wine or spirituous liquor, or five liters of the two combined; five liters of malt beverages; or five liters of unfortified wine upon the premises;
4. Alcoholic beverages belonging to different members shall not be stored in the same locker, except that a husband and wife may store alcoholic beverages in the same locker as long as the total quantity does not exceed the quantities stated above.”

Q: We are opening a new private club, what permits can we obtain?

N.C.G.S. 18B-1001 explains the Kinds of ABC Permits; Private Clubs are eligible for:

On-Premise Malt Beverage; On-Premise Fortified Wine; On-Premise Unfortified Wine; Brown-Bagging Permit; Special Occasions Permit; and Mixed Beverage Permit

