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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1987 No. 1278**

**The Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1987**

**PART III**

**PERMITTED HOURS**

*Prohibition of supply, etc., of intoxicating liquor outside permitted hours*

**Prohibition of supply, etc., of intoxicating liquor outside permitted hours**

**20.**—(1) Except as permitted by or under this Order, intoxicating liquor shall not be supplied, obtained or consumed in the premises of a registered club except during the permitted hours.

(2) If paragraph (1) is contravened—

- (a) the club; and
- (b) the person supplying, obtaining or consuming the intoxicating liquor; and
- (c) any other person permitting that person to supply, obtain or consume the intoxicating liquor; shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

**Closing of bar outside permitted hours**

**21.**—(1) Any bar on the premises of a registered club shall be kept closed except during the permitted hours.

(2) If paragraph (1) is contravened the registered club shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

**General permitted hours**

**22.** Subject to the succeeding provisions of this part, the permitted hours in a registered club other than a nightworkers club are the hours—

- (a) on week days, other than Good Friday or Christmas Day, from half past 11 in the morning to 11 in the evening; and
- (b) on Good Friday from 5 in the afternoon to 11 in the evening; and
- (c) except in the case of a sporting club, on Sunday (not being Christmas Day) from half past 12 in the afternoon to 10 in the evening with a break of 4 and a half hours beginning at half past 2 in the afternoon; and
- (d) on Christmas Day from half past 12 in the afternoon to 10 in the evening.

**Permitted hours in sporting clubs on Sunday**

**23.** The hours for the supply of intoxicating liquor in a sporting club other than a nightworkers club on a Sunday (not being a Christmas Day) shall on the application of the club—

- (a) be fixed by the county court on the application for the grant of registration; or
- (b) be fixed or varied by a court of summary jurisdiction on an application for renewal of the registration; and the hours so fixed or varied shall not exceed the total of 5 beginning not earlier than half past 12 in the afternoon and ending not later than 10 in the evening with a break of at least 2 consecutive hours between 2 in the afternoon and 5 in the afternoon.

*Exception*

**Consumption after permitted hours of liquor supplied during those hours**

24. Where intoxicating liquor is supplied in the premises of a registered club during the permitted hours, Article 20 shall not prohibit—

- (a) during the first 30 minutes after the conclusion of the permitted hours, or
- (b) on a Sunday during the first 30 minutes after the beginning of the afternoon break, or
- (c) in a nightworkers club, on Good Friday or Christmas Day during the first 30 minutes after the beginning of the afternoon break, the consumption or permitting consumption of the liquor in those premises.

*Special occasion authorisations*

**Authorisations for special occasions**

25.—(1) On the application of a registered club, a sub-divisional commander for the police sub-division in which the premises are situated may in writing authorise the club to supply, to members of the club and to guests of members of the club, intoxicating liquor during any 1 period specified in the authorisation.

(2) Not more than 20 authorisations shall be granted under this Article to any club in any year.

(3) Nothing in this Article shall permit an authorisation under paragraph (1) to authorise the supply of intoxicating liquor on any Sunday (not being Easter Day) after 1 in the morning, or on Christmas Day, Easter Day or Good Friday or—

- (a) in the case of a club other than a nightworkers club, during any part of the period from 1 in any morning to half past 11 in that morning; or
- (b) in the case of a nightworkers club, for a period exceeding 2 hours in duration.

(4) Where an authorisation is in force—

- (a) Article 20 or 21 shall not prohibit—
  - (i) the opening or keeping open of any bar on the premises of a registered club for, or the supply of intoxicating liquor in the club premises to, members of the club or guests of members of the club during any period specified in an authorisation under paragraph (1); or
  - (ii) the obtaining by such persons of intoxicating liquor during that period; or
  - (iii) the consumption by such persons, or permitting the consumption of intoxicating liquor during that period and the first 30 minutes after the conclusion of that period; or
- (b) in the case of a nightworkers club, the rules of the club or Article 5(3) shall not prohibit the admission of guests of members to, or their presence in, the premises of the club during that period.

*Miscellaneous*

**Defence in respect of consumption of intoxicating liquor by certain persons outside permitted hours**

**26.** In any proceedings under Article 20 for an offence of consuming, or permitting the consumption of, intoxicating liquor in the premises of a registered club outside the permitted hours or a period authorised under Article 25, it shall be a defence for the club or person charged to prove that such liquor was supplied by a person residing on those premises for consumption by him or his guests bona fide entertained by him at his own expense and that it was consumed by such persons in a part of those premises reserved for the use of the person residing on the premises.