

Summer of Soccer Watch Party Guide
Special Event Permitting Guidance for Restaurants & Bars
Spring / Summer 2026

Overview

All FIFA Watch Parties hosted by restaurants and bars that occupy streets and/or sidewalks must be reviewed by the City under the Special Event permitting framework. The City Special Event Application based on event size, location, and overall impact to ensure events are safe, consistent, and manageable. Depending on the details of your Fifa Watch Party, certain City Services will be required.

Venues should apply under one of the following paths:

- Special Event Application:
 - Small Watch Party
 - Medium/Large Watch Party
- Expansion of Premises (Board of Licenses) for qualifying low-impact events (small seated outdoor dining)

Event scale, footprint, and operational complexity determine which option applies and whether additional documentation or City services are required.

General Requirements (Applies to All Watch Parties):

- Event size, location, and overall impact determine required City services
- Larger or more complex events may require additional review and documentation
- Early planning is required; all applications must be submitted by May 1
- All beverages must be served in plastic cups
- Events must comply with all applicable Board of Licenses (BOL) and Special Events requirements

Special Event Application:

Small Watch Party:

Best suited for low-impact watch parties primarily focused on game viewing and minimal programming.

Small Watch Party Event Indicators:

- Fewer than 500 attendees
- TV viewing or a single outdoor screen
- No street closures or minimal impact to traffic pattern.
- Minimal infrastructure

Requirements:

- Application through Special Events Application
- Barricades required
- Security Plan (Template on City Website)
- Certificate of Insurance
- Fire Detail Required

Medium / Large Watch Party:

Best suited for medium-to-high-impact events similar in scale to parking lot activations or street-based events and additional programming.

Medium/Large Watch Party Event Indicators:

- 500+ attendees, or
- Use of a parking lot, or Street-based event/street closure
- Food trucks or external vendors
- Fencing, staging, large screens, or multiple activations/Programming elements

Requirements:

- Application through Special Events Application
- Barricades required
- Security Plan (Template on City Website)
- Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
- Certificate of Insurance
- Fencing required for all parking lot programming
- Police details may be required
- Fire Detail Required

Expansion of Premises (Board of Licenses):

Some watch parties may qualify for review as an Expansion of Premises rather than a full Special Event. This option is intended for very low-impact, contained viewing areas that do not extend into public ways.

Expansion of Premises Indicators:

- Seated watch party configuration
- Under 50 attendees
- Physical barriers clearly separating the event area
- No use of streets or parking lots
- Event footprint remains immediately adjacent to the licensed premises

Requirements:

- Board of Licenses approval required
- Must comply with all alcohol service and premises control requirements

All FIFA Watch Parties are reviewed under the Special Event framework

- Small and Medium/Large Watch Parties are handled through Special Event Applications with tiered requirements
- Expansion of Premises is a limited alternative for small, seated, fully contained events with no public space impacts