



14 JAN, 2020

It'll be a hard axe to follow

West Australian, Perth

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KIM MACDONALD

An axe-throwing venue in Perth has been granted a liquor licence — but players will only be allowed to drink alcohol after their game.

The recreational venue Maniax had wanted participants to be able to drink in the caged axe-throwing areas while waiting for their turn to hurl the 1.3kg weapons at targets, but not while holding them.

The Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor said it had granted the licence on the condition that alcohol would not be sold, supplied or consumed in the caged area.

The other key condition was that liquor could only be supplied to spectators or patrons who were not involved in axe-throwing or who had completed their involvement.

The Public Health Advocacy Institute's Julia Stafford expressed concern when the venue applied for a licence late last year, claiming it would create unnecessary risk. This week she supported the conditions.

“Given the obvious risks of

combining alcohol and axe-throwing, it is good to see that there will be some sensible conditions on the licence to separate those drinking from the axe-throwing,” Ms Stafford, a research fellow, said.

“Close monitoring will be needed to ensure people who've been drinking stay well away from the axes.”

Maniax director Adam Schilling yesterday said the conditions made it difficult to manage different groups coming and going from the venue.

“I understand why they've done it . . . but if I have trouble managing that I'll reapply to have the restriction removed.”

The conditions are the same as at Maniax's Melbourne venue.

He had hoped to be able to replicate the group's Brisbane licence, where participants can drink up to three cans of full-strength cider or beer while waiting their turn to throw axes over a 2½-hour session.

A 375ml can of beer with 4.8 per cent alcohol content is the equivalent of 1.4 standard drinks, which could put some over the limit.



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