

# CANNABIS AND OUTDOOR EVENTS IN SF

Now that adult-use cannabis is legal in California and San Francisco\* on a restricted basis, outdoor event organizers should be aware of the current rules about the use, sales and advertisement of cannabis. The FAQs below provide event organizers with information on how to be a good neighbor and plan a legally compliant event.

*Cannabis rules and regulations are evolving quickly, and information is subject to change. Refer to these agencies for the most up-to-date rules and regulations:*

- ◆ [SF Office of Cannabis](#)
- ◆ [State of California Cannabis Portal](#)
- ◆ CA Dept. of Public Health's [Let's Talk Cannabis site](#) and Fact Sheets



**EVENT ORGANIZERS:** You are responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of your event permit(s) and/or bonds as well as any State and local laws governing your jurisdiction. Your event is subject to closure if any member of your event staff, vendors, or attendees violate the conditions of your permit(s), bonds, or the law.

## Is there a permit that allows cannabis use at a special event in SF?

No, a special event permit for cannabis use does not exist currently at the local level. On September 26, 2018, Gov. Brown signed [AB2020](#) into law which “authorizes a state temporary event license to be issued to a licensee for an event to be held at any other venue expressly approved by a local jurisdiction for events.” In other words, local governments can decide IF and WHERE they may allow temporary licensed cannabis events to happen in their jurisdictions. This state law goes into effect January 1, 2019. San Francisco’s role in this new law is still to-be-determined. District Agricultural Associations (DAAs) and some state/county fairgrounds are currently the only places in California where a temporary licensed cannabis event may happen.

## Can I sell, or allow vendors to sell, cannabis at my outdoor event?

No event organizer, vendor, nor any person may sell cannabis at an outdoor event. It is also illegal to give away free samples of cannabis, raffle off cannabis, or display cannabis products at an outdoor event. Any vendor or person in violation may be asked to leave. Any sales of cannabis must be confined to the premises of a licensed cannabis retailer. For a list of licensed cannabis retailers in SF with authorized cannabis consumption areas on-site, [click here](#). *(Continued on Next Page)*

\*DISCLAIMER: Cannabis remains classified as a Schedule I drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act, and its purchase, possession, distribution, or use within California may be unlawful under federal law. While it is our intention to provide current information, this fact sheet is not for the purpose of providing legal advice and can become outdated as this is an evolving area. Contact your attorney if you have questions about cannabis, what is (or is not) legal under city, state or federal law or need legal advice.

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### Where is adult-use cannabis permitted in San Francisco?

Generally, you can't smoke or vape cannabis in places where you can't smoke tobacco. This includes places within 1,000 feet of schools, youth centers, and childcare centers while children are present. Violators are subject to a fine. Also, you can't consume or possess cannabis on federal lands such as national parks, even if the park is in California.

**You can** consume cannabis at a store that has an [authorized cannabis consumption area](#). **You can** use cannabis in private homes if the owner allows it.

### If a member of my staff or I discover someone smoking or vaping cannabis at my outdoor event, what can we do?

You can tell the person to stop or put it away. Similar to smoking tobacco in public, a person smoking/vaping cannabis in public can be ticketed by SFPD or Park Rangers for an infraction.

### What are the rules for on-site sponsors promoting the sales of cannabis in a public place?

The State has issued rules for advertising or marketing the sales of cannabis in publicly visible locations. Below is a *partial* list of rules that may affect outdoor events with on-site sponsors in public places (e.g., street fairs, races, parades). "Licensee" refers to a holder of a state and local commercial cannabis license. For a complete list of definitions and rules, refer to [Division 10 of the CA Business & Professions Code](#).

- ◆ Any communications that advertise or market the sales of cannabis shall only be displayed where at least 71.6% of the audience is reasonably expected to be 21 years of age or older. The percentage must be determined by reliable, up-to-date audience composition data. The Licensee is responsible for providing this data to the CA Bureau of Cannabis Control upon request.
- ◆ The licensee is required to verify that any person receiving its cannabis advertising/marketing communication is 21 years of age or older before engaging in this communication.
- ◆ No advertising or marketing cannabis may occur in a manner intended to encourage persons under 21 years of age to consume cannabis. No advertising or marketing cannabis that is attractive to children may occur.
- ◆ No signs/displays that advertise or market cannabis may be located within 1,000 feet of a day care center, school providing instruction in kindergarten or any grades 1 through 12, playground, or youth center.
- ◆ All advertisements and marketing shall accurately and legibly identify the licensee responsible for its content, by adding, at a minimum, the licensee's license number.

Any sponsor, vendor or person in violation of the above may be asked to leave and is subject to a fine.

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