

Only 19 arrests in Freo after AFL loss

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ABOUT 40,000 people packed the streets of Fremantle to watch the AFL grand final, but police say the number of arrests were not much more than a typical Saturday night in the port city.

Police said they were "generally happy" with the behaviour of the crowd, many of whom were devastated by their team's loss to Hawthorn.

WA Hotels Association executive director Bradley Woods said the lack of alcohol-fuelled crime proved that the industry could self-regulate, despite an uproar earlier in the week from the police commissioner about some pubs opening several hours before the midday game started.

Only the Sail and Anchor pub closed its upstairs balcony about half-way through the match after some fans misbehaved by tipping beer onto the heads of other patrons.

But police arrested just 19 people including a 19-year-old man who was charged with assault after allegedly becoming involved in a pub fight.

Police said the young man was being evicted from the Norfolk Hotel at 7pm (WST) when he began arguing with a 44-year-old man and punched him in the face.

The victim fell to the ground and hit his head on a kerb, requiring hospital treatment for a cut on his chin and an abrasion to the back of his head.

The accused man ran away but was chased by police and arrested.

He is due to appear in the Fremantle Magistrates Court on October 11.

The 18 other arrests included charges of assault, assaulting a public officer, disorderly conduct and obstructing police.

Police also issued 46 move-on orders and eight liquor infringements, while four more people will be summonsed for charges including assaulting a public officer and disorderly conduct.