

DATE: 28 April 2025

SPORTING EVENTS OR SERIES

REVISED MUSIC LICENSING RATES AND RATE STRUCTURES

1. INTRODUCTION

In August 2019, after consultation with the Sports industry, OneMusic published combined rates and rate structures for the performance of APRA Works and PPCA Sound Recordings at *Sport Events* occurring on or after 1 December 2019.

In late 2021, OneMusic was advised by some of the major sporting codes that they disputed the rates and rate structures and would be seeking to enter further discussions with APRA AMCOS and PPCA regarding the performance of music at *Sport Events*.

In November 2021, several major sporting codes lodged a collective bargaining notification with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. As a result, the Coalition of Major Professional and Participation Sports Association Inc (**COMPPS**) was authorised to negotiate on behalf of its members the terms and conditions (including licence fees) of licensing of musical works and sound recordings at sporting events in Australia¹.

Since that time, OneMusic and COMPPS have been in detailed negotiations in respect of the rates, rate structures and music use categories for the performance music at sporting events. From those discussions, OneMusic has developed significant revisions to the licensing framework for sporting events, including both competitive and participatory sporting events promoted by a national or state sporting code or association and one off sporting events.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all licensees that the revised rates and rate structures set out below will apply to OneMusic licences for all Sporting Events that occur on or after 1 January 2025.

It is OneMusic's view that the revised licensing framework that has ultimately arisen from the negotiations with COMPPS has resulted in greater simplicity and improved administration for all sport organisers/promoters that use music at sporting events.

The revised rates and rate structures are set out in detail in **Appendix A** to this notice.

2. SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR SPORTING EVENTS

In short:

- No changes to the type of events licensable under the revised *Sporting Event* music licence.
- The music use categories for the use of APRA Works and AMCOS Works and, when required, PPCA Sound Recordings and Music Videos have been amended and simplified.
- The rates for each music use category have been revised such that, for most sporting events, the licence fee will be the same or lower than the previous rates.
- For some eligible licensees who take out an ongoing licence with OneMusic for a large number of events, a discount of 10% or 15% will be applied to each eligible sporting event
- The reporting requirements have been significantly reduced.

(a) Application of the Sporting Events Scheme

There are no changes to the types of events that are covered under the revised *Sporting Event* music licence as it applies to any individual or team-based professional or amateur competitive game or contest where the winner is determined by score and any participatory sporting events such as fun runs, marathons, cycling and obstacle courses (**Sporting Event**). Sporting Events include a one off Sporting Event or a specific competition, series, league, season, team, fixture or finals of that game or contest which takes place across multiple venues (**Series**).

1. [Coalition of Major Professional and Participation Sports Association Inc. \(COMPPS\) on behalf of its members | ACCC](#)

(b) Simplified categories for the use of OneMusic's repertoire

When music represented by OneMusic is performed at a Sporting Event, one of the three following categories of use will apply the event (or if relevant, each area and each day of the event), depending upon the nature of the use:

- Category 1 - Outside of Play and Background Music;
- Category 2 - In Play and Minor Live Performances; or
- Category 3 - Major Live Performances

Under the revised *Sporting Event* music licence, the Licence Fees for each day (or where relevant, each area) of a Sporting Event will be calculated separately for APRA Works and AMCOS Works and, when required, PPCA Sound Recordings and Music Videos.

Copying for the purpose of playing music at the Sporting Event is no longer an additional charge and is now included in each Music Use Category.

In addition, we have clarified that the Minimum Fee for each Sporting Event remains \$82.50 per day for APRA Works and AMCOS Works and, when required, \$82.50 per day for PPCA Sound Recordings and Music Videos.

Category 1 - Outside of Play / Background

Under the revised *Sporting Event* music licence, *Category 1 - Outside of Play / Background Music* will include coverage for APRA Works and AMCOS Works and/or PPCA Sound Recordings and Music Videos in the following ways:

- Background Music in various ways at the Sporting Event, including as music performed:
 - » before, during and after competitive periods of play or at the start line, finish line and/or during a race;
 - » during scheduled breaks in play (such as half time and other scheduled rest breaks);
 - » during player entrances and exits, provided it is not a piece of music chosen specifically to be played, and played repeatedly during a season, in association with a particular team or player;
- Performances of a national anthem; any part of a welcome to country; and an official team song; and
- Copying for the purposes of playing music as described above.

There is now a single rate that applies to each Sporting Event licensed under *Category 1 - Outside of Play / Background Music*, regardless of duration of the Sporting Event.

Category 2 - In Play / Minor Live Performances

Under the revised *Sporting Event* music licence, *Category 2 - In Play / Minor Live Performances* will include:

- All purposes covered under *Category 1: Outside of Play / Background*, plus:
- recorded music used as Prominent Music during competitive periods of play and unscheduled breaks in play, including as stings, underscores, and celebrations such as after goals, tries, wickets and scores and performances by cheerleaders and other pep bands;
- *Minor Live Performance Events*; and
- Copying for the purposes of playing music as described above.

In *Category 2 - In Play / Minor Live Performances*, **Prominent Music** means music used as a prominent feature and/or characteristic part of the Sporting Event or otherwise advertised to the general public and **Minor Live Performance Events** means a Sporting Event where there is one or more Live Performances, but the Daily Live Artist Expenditure does not exceed the threshold of \$50,000 (ex GST).

The same as for *Category 1 - Outside of Play / Background Music*, there is now a single rate that applies to each Sporting Event licensed under *Category 2 - In Play / Minor Live Performances*, regardless of duration of the Sporting Event.

Category 3 - Major Live Performances

Under the revised *Sporting Event* music licence, *Category 3 - Major Live Performances* will include:

- All purposes covered under *Category 1: Outside of Play / Background*, plus:
- All purposes covered under *Category 2: In Play / Minor Live Performances*, plus:
- **Major Live Performance Events** are any Sporting Event where there is one or more Live Performances, and the Daily Live Artist Expenditure exceeds the threshold of \$50,000 (ex GST).

A music use category will apply, where relevant, for both APRA AMCOS works and PPCA sound recordings independently. Where relevant, the music use category for both APRA AMCOS works and PPCA sound recordings will be applied per area, per day.

(c) Lower rates and discount for Eligible Major Sporting Licensees

For Licensees who host recurring Sporting Events and take out an ongoing licence from OneMusic to cover more than thirty (30) Sporting Events or at least one individual Sporting Event of ten (10) or more days in duration within a 12 month period (**Eligible Major Sporting Licensee**) the following discounts will apply:

- for Sporting Events where a licence from OneMusic for both APRA Works and AMCOS Works and PPCA Sound Recordings is required, the rates specified in Annexure A will be reduced by 15%; or
- for Sporting Events where a licence from OneMusic for only APRA Works and AMCOS Works is required, the rates specified in Annexure A will be reduced by 10%.

(d) Reporting

Where either *Category 1 - Outside of Play / Background* or *Category 2 - Play / Minor Live Performances* applies to a Sporting Event, OneMusic has removed the requirement to formally report the list of all songs performed at the event.

Instead, under the revised *Sporting Events* music licence, we request that licensees use reasonable endeavours to provide OneMusic with Live Music Use Report for any Welcome to Country that contains music and any Minor Live Performance Event.

For Sporting Events where *Category 3 - Major Live Performances* applies, a Live Music Report containing the name of the Live Artist Performer and a list of all songs performed by each Live Artist Performer is required to be provided within 30 days of the last day of the Sporting Event or Series.

3. OTHER CHANGES

(a) Clarification for Multi Day and Multi Area events

The revised *Sporting Events* music licence will include greater clarity as to how licence fees will be calculated for Sporting Events with multiple Performance Areas and/or which take place across multiple days.

As the use of OneMusic's repertoire can vary greatly between areas and on different days of an event, each area and each day will be reviewed separately to determine the relevant music use category. For each Sporting Event, an Attendee will not be counted in more than one Music Use Category.

(b) Application for Participatory Sports

The revised Music Use Categories have been expanded to better clarify how the Sporting Event music licence applies to participatory sporting events such as fun runs, marathons, cycling and obstacle courses, where music is often used along the course or route or at the start or finish line.

The definition of Attendees has been amended to be the greater of spectators or participants attending the Sporting Event, regardless of whether an entry fee is paid to acknowledge the differing use of music at participatory Sporting Events where music is more likely to be used for the entertainment for participants rather than spectators.

4. NEXT STEPS

As noted above, the revised music licence for *Sporting Events* will apply to all Sporting Events which take place **on or after 1 January 2025**.

OneMusic shortly will contact promoters of Sporting Events to discuss the next steps to transition to the revised *Sporting Events* music licence for events promoted since **1 January 2025**.

In order to assist with the transition to these revised licences, OneMusic will shortly make available various training and explanatory documentation, such as:

- guides to assist in the assessment of which music use category will apply to a particular event; and
- information guides for the licensing and reporting processes.

One-on-one meetings can be arranged with OneMusic licensing staff to discuss the revised music licences. If you would like to arrange a meeting, have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please email sports@onemusic.com.au.

APPENDIX A – SPORTING EVENTS

RATES

The rates (inclusive of GST) are as follows:

Category 1	APRA Works and AMCOS Works	Plus, where required	PPCA Sound Recordings and Music Videos
	\$0.0351 per Attendee		\$0.0351 per Attendee

OR, IF APPLICABLE

Category 2	APRA Works and AMCOS Works	Plus, where required	PPCA Sound Recordings and Music Videos
	\$0.0750 per Attendee		\$0.0750 per Attendee

OR, IF APPLICABLE

Category 3	APRA Works and AMCOS Works	Plus, where required	PPCA Sound Recordings and Music Videos
	The greater of: (a) \$0.1366 per Attendee; or (b) 2.2% Daily Live Artist Expenditure		\$0.1366 per Attendee

The rates above are subject to a Minimum Fee of \$82.50 in respect of APRA Works and AMCOS Works and/or \$82.50 in respect of PPCA Sound Recordings and Music Videos.

The dollar-based rates above may increase by CPI on 1 September of each year

Definitions

Attendees means the greater of the number of:

- a) spectators; and
- b) participants, such as the number of entrants in a fun run, marathon or obstacle challenge attending Your Sporting Event, regardless of whether an entry fee is paid;

Background Music means music not used as a prominent feature and/or characteristic part of the Sporting Event or otherwise advertised to the general public as forming part of the Sporting Event. This is incidental music where the music is not intended to be a focal point and is not performed by a Live Artist Performer;

Daily Live Artist Expenditure means all monies and the monetary value of all benefits receivable directly or indirectly by all Live Artist Performer(s) for Live Performance(s) at Your Sporting Event (or for a multi-day Sporting Event, for each individual day of that event), including all salaries, wages, profit shares, allowance, accommodation, travelling and other expenses, excluding government taxes or charges;

Live Artist Performer means any performer engaged by You or on Your behalf to appear and perform music at a Sporting Event, including singers, bands, DJs and conductors;

Live Performance means any Performance in Public of APRA Works and/or PPCA Sound Recordings by Live Artist Performer(s) of any duration anywhere within a Location (i.e. not only within the main arena) at a Sporting Event that is not a performance:

- a) that is ticketed separately to the Sporting Event;
- b) that is, or is part of, a welcome to country;
- c) of an official team song; or
- d) of a national anthem;

Major Live Performance Event means a Sporting Event (or for a multi-day Sporting Event, a day of that event) where there is one or more Live Performances, and the Daily Live Artist Expenditure exceeds the threshold of \$50,000 (ex GST);

Minor Live Performance Event means a Sporting Event (or for a multi-day Sporting Event, a day of that event) where there is one or more Live Performances, but the Daily Live Artist Expenditure does not exceed the threshold for a Major Live Performance Event; and

Prominent Music means music used as a prominent feature and/or characteristic part of the Sporting Event or otherwise advertised to the general public.