



The anti-siphoning list is a list of sporting events that should be available on free-to-air television for viewing by the general public. The ABA is investigating which events should be included on the list and for how long.

Investigation: Review of the anti-siphoning list

The ABA is investigating which events should be included on the anti-siphoning list and for how long. The anti-siphoning list is a list of sporting events that should be available on free-to-air television for viewing by the general public.

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts has directed the ABA to investigate which events should be removed from or added to the anti-siphoning list. The ABA is also to report on the date or dates on which protection should expire for listed events.

'Sport plays an important part in the lives of Australians and there is a public expectation that significant sports events should be available on free-to-air television,' said ABA Deputy Chair, Lyn Maddock.

'The investigation into the pattern of broadcast for each event will guide the ABA in identifying which events it will recommend that the Minister should remove from or add to the anti-siphoning list,' she said.

In conducting its investigation the ABA is to have regard to the policy that an event

should only be included in the anti-siphoning list if it has been consistently broadcast by free-to-air television broadcasters during the past five years.

The current anti-siphoning list contains sports events within 11 categories and has effect until 31 December 2004 (2006 in the case of the FIFA World Cup Soccer).

The ABA is inviting public submissions and will be consulting with broadcasters, sports rights holders, major sporting organisations and interested members of the public. The ABA must report to the Minister by 30 June 2001.

Siphoning

Siphoning means the obtaining of the exclusive broadcasting rights (i.e. both free-to-air and pay TV rights) by a pay TV licensee, so that those events cannot be received on free-to-air television and would only be available to subscribers of the pay TV service.

The anti-siphoning regime is a mechanism by which the Minister can formally list events that should be available on free-to-air television for viewing by

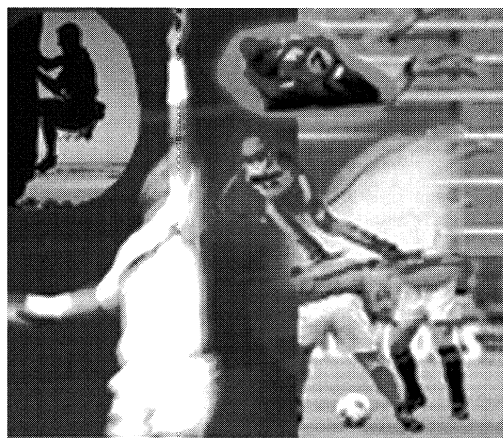
the general public. The anti-siphoning list is not a list of sporting events reserved solely for free-to-air television. It does not compel free-to-air broadcasters to acquire the rights to

listed events nor to broadcast the listed events to which they hold rights. The list does not guarantee them exclusive rights to such events, however, it does give them priority over pay TV

licensees for the acquisition of rights to listed events.

Under the anti-siphoning rules the right to broadcast listed events can only be acquired by pay TV licensees if live broadcast rights are held by commercial television licensees (who have the right to televise the event to a total of more than 50 per cent of the Australian population) or by a national television broadcaster (the ABC or SBS).

If live broadcast rights to a listed event are not held by a free-to-air broadcaster, a pay TV licensee may request that the Minister remove the event from the list.



Issues paper

An issues paper is available on the ABA's web site at www.aba.gov.au/what/program/index.htm

Details on how to make a submission are included in the issues paper.

Submissions

The deadline for submissions is **5.00 pm Thursday 12 April 2001**.



Anti-siphoning list

The anti-siphoning list generally covers the period up until 31 December 2004 and contains sporting events within 11 categories. (The numbers in the list below relate to those on the Minister's notice, as published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*.)

1. Horse racing

- 1.1 each running of the Melbourne Cup.

2. Australian rules football

- 2.1 each match in the Australian Football League Premiership competition.
 2.2 each match in the Finals Series of the Australian Football League Premiership competition.
 2.3 each Australian Football League State of Origin match.

3. Rugby league

- 3C each match in the National Rugby League Premiership competition.
 3C each match in the National Rugby League Premiership Finals competition.
 3C each match in the Rugby League State of Origin Series.
 3.4 each international rugby league match involving the senior Australian representative team whether played in Australia or overseas.

4. Rugby union

- 4.1 each international rugby union 'test' match involving the senior Australian representative team whether played in Australia or overseas.
 4.2 each match in the Rugby World Cup tournament.
 4.3 each match in the Hong Kong Sevens tournament.

5. Cricket

- 5.1 each 'test' cricket match involving the senior Australian representative team whether played in Australia or overseas.
 5.2 each one day cricket match (including World Series Cricket matches) involving the senior Australian representative team whether played in Australia or overseas.
 5.3 each World Cup one day cricket match.

6. Soccer

- 6.1 each finals match in the National Soccer League organised by the Australian Soccer Federation.
 6.2 the English Football Association Cup Final.
 6.3 each match in the Federation Internationale de Football Association World Cup Tournament (until 2006 World Cup)

7. Tennis

- 7.1 each match in the Australian Open tennis tournament.
 7.2 each match in the Wimbledon tennis tournament.
 7.3 each match in the French Open tennis tournament.
 7.4 each match in the United States Open tennis tournament.
 7.5 each match in the Australian Men's Hardcourt Championships (now known as the AAPT Championships) held in Adelaide.
 7.6 each match in the Australian Women's Hardcourt Championships (now known as the Thalgo Australian Women's Hardcourt Championships) held in Brisbane.
 7.7 each match in the Adidas International Tennis Tournament (formerly the Peters International tennis tournament).
 7.8 each match in each tie in the Davis Cup tennis tournament when an Australian representative team is involved.

8. Netball

- 8.1 each international netball match involving the senior Australian representative team whether played in Australia or overseas.

9. Basketball

- 9.1 each match in the Australian National Basketball League playoffs.

10. Golf

- 10.1 each round of the Australian Masters.
 10.2 each round of the Australian Open.
 10.3 each round of the United States Masters.
 10.4 each round of the United States Open.
 10.5 each round of the United States Professional Golf Association Championship.
 10.6 each round of the British Open.

11. Motor sports

- 11.1 each race in the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile Formula 1 World Championship (Grand Prix).
 11.2 each race in the International Federation of Motorcycling World 500cc Motorcycle Championship.
 11.3 each race in the Australian Touring Car Championship.
 11.4 each Bathurst 1000 race.
 11.5 each race in the Australian IndyCar Grand Prix.

De-listed events

Following reports from the ABA, the Minister may remove events from the anti-siphoning list. The following events have been removed (de-listed) from the anti-siphoning list:

Cricket

- 5.1 each 'test' match involving the senior Australian representative team whether played in Australia or overseas.

Games listed below were played in the country named.

- India – March 1998; February and March 2001
- New Zealand — March 2000
- Sri Lanka — September and October 1999
- Zimbabwe — October 1999
- West Indies — March and April 1999
- Pakistan — September, October and November 1994

- 5.2 each one day cricket match (including World Series Cricket matches) involving the senior Australian representative team whether played in Australia or overseas.

Games listed below were played in the country named.

- India — April 1998; March and April 2001
- Kenya [ICC Knock Out Trophy] — October 2000
- New Zealand — February 1998; February and March 2000
- Sri Lanka — August 1999
- Zimbabwe — October 1999
- West Indies — April 1999
- Bangladesh [Wills International Cup] — October and November 1998
- United Arab Emirates [Sharjah Trophy] — April 1998
- Pakistan – September, October and November 1994

Rugby Union

- 4.3 each match in the Hong Kong Sevens tournament

- Hong Kong Sevens Rugby Union Tournament — 1998, 1999 and 2000