

Annex B: The revised list of events protected under Part IV of the Broadcasting Act 1996

GROUP A (Full Live Coverage Protected)

The Olympic Games
The FIFA World Cup Finals Tournament
The European Football Championship Finals Tournament
The FA Cup Final
The Scottish FA Cup Final (in Scotland)
The Grand National
The Derby
The Wimbledon Tennis Finals
The Rugby League Challenge Cup Final
The Rugby World Cup Final

GROUP B (Secondary Coverage Protected)

Cricket Test Matches played in England
Non-Finals play in the Wimbledon Tournament
All Other Matches in the Rugby World Cup Finals Tournament
Six Nations Rugby Tournament Matches Involving Home Countries
The Commonwealth Games
The World Athletics Championship
The Cricket World Cup the Final, Semi-finals and Matches Involving Home Nations' Teams
The Ryder Cup
The Open Golf Championship

The Criteria for the 1998 Review

In considering whether to list an event, the Secretary of State is required to consult the broadcasting regulators and the holders of the rights in question. The following are factors which the Secretary of State will take into account in deciding whether to list an event. In order to be eligible to be listed, an event must meet the following main criterion:

- the event has a special national resonance, not just a significance to those who ordinarily follow the sport concerned; it is an event which serves to unite the nation; a shared point on the national calendar.

Such an event is likely to fall into one or both of the following categories:

- it is a pre-eminent national or international event in the sport;
- it involves the national team or national representatives in the sport concerned.

An event which satisfies the essential criterion is likely to be considered for listing, but listing of such an event is not automatic. It is more likely to be listed if it exhibits particular characteristics making listing an apt response, such as:

- it is likely to command a large television audience;
- it has a history of being broadcast live on free-to-air services.

In considering whether to list such an event, the Secretary of State will take into account other factors affecting the likely costs and benefits to the sport concerned, to the broadcasting industry and to viewers, such as:

- whether it is practical to offer full live coverage on a general channel – extended events such as season-long championships involving many matches will not normally be listed in their entirety;
- the impact of listing in reducing the income or potential income of the sport, and the consequences of that reduction for its investment in increasing participation and/or improving levels of performance and/or in creating safe facilities;
- the likely impact of listing on the broadcasting market, including future investment in sports broadcasting, the level of competition and the position of public service broadcasters;
- whether there are arrangements to ensure that access to the event is available to all viewers by means of highlights/delayed coverage and/or radio commentary.

In considering events for listing, the Secretary of State will take note of these other factors cumulatively. No single factor automatically commands listing as a response, nor does failure to meet an individual criterion disqualify an event from consideration.