



12th December 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

Vanuatu's Anti-Siphoning Rules

The Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (the Regulator) today published the new rules that govern the administration of the anti-siphoning rules in Vanuatu.

Anti-siphoning is the name given to arrangements to ensure that broadcasts of certain events of national importance and significance are available to the whole community on a free-to-air basis. The Anti-Siphoning Rules (ASR) set out the processes that will apply to ensure that events that should be included on the Anti-Siphoning List are properly considered and reviewed from time to time.

The basic arrangement is that any interested person or organisation can propose the addition or deletion of events on the Anti-Siphoning List (the List). The Regulator will consider all proposals and make a recommendation to the Minister on the initial List and on changes to the List from time to time. The Minister will have the final say. The List will be reviewed at least annually to ensure that it remains current and reflects changing community needs.

Rights holders (those who own the broadcast rights to events that are on the List) will be obliged to negotiate on fair and reasonable terms with free to air broadcasters to broadcast each listed event. Rights holders will be able to exercise their broadcast rights on pay television simultaneously.

There are many matters to be considered and to be weighed in determining whether an event should be included on the Anti-Siphoning List, including the level of community interest in the event, and the commercial interests of the rights holder and of advertisers. In many cases an event organiser might be more concerned to have coverage of any kind. The Anti-Siphoning Rules are not intended to mandate coverage in these circumstances.

The Regulator is now seeking community and stakeholder inputs to develop the initial List, and welcomes proposals with supporting reasons on or before **15th January 2026**.



Jesse Benjamin, Regulator

List of candidate events for Anti Simphoning Rules (ASR)

The following is the list of candidate events that have been proposed so far. They may or may not make the cut, and community and stakeholder comments will be important in deciding what happens with each of them.

1. CATEGORY: MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS
This category includes any international or regional sporting competition where Vanuatu participates, or where the event is of major public interest, such as:
✓ World Championships (e.g., FIFA, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Athletics)
✓ Continental Championships (e.g., UEFA, OFC, Oceania events)
✓ International multi-sport events (Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Pacific Games)
✓ Major tournaments involving national/regional teams (e.g., MSG Cup)
2. CATEGORY: NATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS
Includes all sports competitions held within Vanuatu that have nationwide significance:
✓ National championships
✓ National team qualifying matches
✓ Major domestic tournaments declared to be of public interest
3. CATEGORY: CULTURAL & TRADITIONAL EVENTS
Includes all events of national cultural, historical, or customary significance, such as:
✓ National cultural festivals
✓ Provincial or island-based kastom ceremonies of national relevance
✓ Traditional performances/ceremonies recognised by the Ministry of Culture
4. CATEGORY: NATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT & MUSIC EVENTS (Any entertainment event attracting national attendance or broadcast demand)
Includes events of major interest to the public, such as:
✓ National music festivals
✓ Community cultural shows
✓ Large-scale public entertainment events
✓ Significant artistic performances or showcases
5. CATEGORY: EVENTS DECLARED SIGNIFICANT BY THE REGULATOR MINISTER
A flexible category allowing TRBR to recommend that the Minister add events as needed It allows the TRBR power to recommend and the Minister power to designate additional anti-siphoning events without amending the full list reviewing the full List.
This includes:
✓ Any event that TRBR or the Minister considers to have major public importance
✓ Any event funded or supported by the Government of Vanuatu
✓ Any event attracting national interest or high public expectation that it will be broadcast