

<h1>High Level Overview of Sport's Black Outs</h1>	Date First Issued	05/03/2017
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INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS BLACKOUTS

Sports Blackouts occur due to one of the two following reasons:

- A sports association has granted a national broadcaster exclusive rights to air a specific sporting event.
- A sporting event is not sold out in time to lift blackout restrictions in a team's home market.

The three main sports leagues that are subject to blackout rules are the NFL, MLB and the NBA.

The NFL generally broadcasts pre-season games solely on local broadcast stations, which means you might not be able to see them if you live outside of the geographic area. With that said, there are select games that are broadcast on national networks such as CBS, FOX, NBC, or ESPN. Regular season games generally aren't restricted to regional networks, but are televised on specific networks based on pre-existing television deals.

Games from road teams in the National Football Conference are generally broadcast on FOX, while games from road teams in the American Football Conference are generally broadcast on CBS. The local team is usually shown on a local FOX or CBS affiliate. All postseason games are usually broadcast nationally.

The MLB pre-season games are rarely broadcast, but when they are they can be televised locally or nationally depending on the game. Regular season games are usually televised on National networks, with games on FOX, ESPN, FS1, FS2, TBS and the MLB Network, although local blackouts are relatively common. Post-season games are televised nationally, with no blackouts.

The NBA pre-season games are rarely broadcast and can be televised locally or nationally. Regular season games from the NBA are generally shown on ABC, ESPN, TNT and NBA TV. For the postseason, Games during the first two rounds may be televised locally, regionally or nationally.

While the NFL, MLB, and NBA are the biggest three that are affected by sports blackouts, other sports that could potentially be difficult to view in certain formats include Hockey, Boxing and MMA, Soccer, and College Sports. College Sports are impacted by Sport's Blackouts due

to protecting the rights of the primary rights holder such as the college, conference and league.

There can be severe penalties and monetary fines for any operator not in full compliance with the negotiated contracted agreements between the content owners (i.e., the sports leagues or teams) and the programming distributors.

Each sports league has different rules about when a televised event is blacked out, and those rules are part of the contracts the league or team signs with programming distributors. In most cases, the blackout results when a sports league prohibits an event from being televised locally if the event did not sell out all its tickets.

Some games also may be "preempted," often because one game is "local" and a second game is not, or because two networks (broadcast and/or non-broadcast) both scheduled the televising of the same game in the same market.