

Quick Guide To Sports Outside Broadcasting

1. Planning A Sports Outside Broadcast

A **live to air** broadcast from a sports venue is a challenging and exciting event, you have the opportunity to make your listeners feel part of the event. However there is considerable work to be done in advance to make sure all goes to plan.

In order to broadcast from a Sport on location, you need to ensure you have:

- Considerable knowledge of the sport to be covered including the ability to identify individual players and action on the field,
 - It is advisable to do lots of homework and write notes (but remember you may not be able to access your notes whilst on air)..... many experienced sports broadcasters practice by “calling” events from the TV at home with the sound turned off.
- A pre-arranged dedicated suitable position to work from at the event, preferably with a table for your equipment and notes and chair to sit on, with a clear uninterrupted view of the sports field and the scoreboard
 - paper and pens for writing notes
 - binoculars are a handy additional tool.
- Suitable portable technical equipment **which you feel confident to use away from the studios and without additional help.**
 - Often a quality headset connected to a mobile phone is sufficient for a simple report, but more sophisticated technology, sometimes with support staff, may be required as listed in this [OB Kit List](#).
 - Try to set up and test/rehearse with your equipment in the office a few days in advance order to ensure that you feel competent to do it without excess stress on the day.
 - Draw yourself a simple hook-up diagram showing all technology and how it connects together.
 - From the hook-up diagram, Prepare an inventory of what equipment you are taking (including all hook up cables etc) and use it as a packing list and to ensure you bring everything back.
- A Reliable broadcast quality link to and from the studios.
 - Often a quality headset connected to a mobile phone is sufficient for a simple report.
 - For events requiring more than a mobile phone with headset but not needing a full support crew- a set of plugs and wires may have been installed in advance by technical staff, you need to know where these are located and how to confidently hook your equipment into them.
 - Draw yourself a simple hook-up diagram showing all technology and how it connects together.
- A reliable interference free power source and/or plenty of batteries

2. Important tips for Sports Outside Broadcasts

- Plan carefully well in advance.
- Test everything before you leave for the venue.
- Arrive early, give yourself time to set up and test your technology before the game starts.
- If possible have access to the score at all times even if that is simply a case of positioning yourself where you can see the main scoreboard.
- Have statistics and other interesting information that can be used to fill in during breaks in the game ...perhaps a tablet similar device with both internet access and some pre-loaded information.
- A roll of sticky tape and a few clothes pegs can be useful in windy conditions.

3. Links to find out more:

- [OB Kit List](#)
- [CMTO Pathways Outside Broadcasting Student Resource book](#)