

S/No	FAQs	Answer
1	Do I need a licence to provide public entertainment?	Yes, under Section 4 of the Act, public entertainment must not be provided except in an approved place and in accordance with a licence issued by the appropriate Licensing Officer. This applies to all forms of public entertainment as defined in the First Schedule.
2	What types of public entertainment require licences?	Public entertainment includes: performances of gymnastics, acrobatics or magic shows; circus or animal exhibitions; amusement centres; computer games centres; film exhibitions or peep shows; music/song reproduction or transmission; gaming machines; pin-tables; organised competitions; arts entertainment (plays, opera, music, dancing, exhibitions); and combinations of the above in places accessible to the public.
3	What are the different categories of licences available?	There are 8 main categories: Category 1 - Music/dancing performances in establishments (including customer dancing); Category 2 - Music reproduction where customer dancing not allowed; Category 3 - Amusement centres, billiard saloons, computer games centres; Category 4 - Gaming machines (per 2 machines); Category 5 - Boxing/wrestling contests; Category 6 - Variety acts, performances, demonstrations; Category 7 - Circus or animal exhibitions; Category 8 - Other entertainment not regulated by Arts Entertainment Licensing Officer.
4	What are the licence fees?	Establishment licences (per annum): Category 1: Type A \$720, Type B \$960, Type C \$1,200; Category 2: Type A \$260, Type B \$350, Type C \$440; Category 3: Type A \$360, Type B \$480, Type C \$600; Category 4: Type A \$360, Type B \$480, Type C \$600 (per 2 machines). Ad-hoc licences: \$22 per day or \$44 for 7 days for most categories.
5	What do the different licence types (A, B, C) allow?	Type A: Operate until 1am Monday-Saturday, 2am Sunday/public holidays; Type B: Operate until 3am Monday-Saturday, 4am Sunday/public holidays; Type C: Operate until 6am daily. All subject to conditions set by the Licensing Officer.
6	Where can I apply for a public entertainment licence?	Applications must be made through the GoBusiness portal at www.gobusiness.gov.sg .
7	What documents do I need for my application?	Documents required include: - URA planning permission / HDB lodgement and supporting letter (Supporting letter from HDB Lodgement or change of Use permission from URA) - ACRA Business Profile (ACRA Business Profile with company details) - Business operation information relating to type of licence applied for
8	What are the criteria to be considered a "fit and proper person"?	The Licensing Officer may require applicants to satisfy criteria and requirements published on https://www.police.gov.sg/Business-E-Services/Apply-for-Public-Entertainment-Licence/Overview-of-Public-Entertainment-Licence , including criteria relating to responsible officers and persons with substantial interest in the business. Different criteria may apply to different classes of entertainment.
9	How long is a public entertainment licence valid?	Licences are valid for the period specified in the licence. Establishment licences are typically issued for one year. Ad-hoc licences can be for 1 day or 7 days (which can be used consecutively or otherwise within 3 months).
10	Can I renew my licence automatically?	No, under Section 9, a licence is not renewable as of right. You must apply for renewal and meet all current requirements.
11	What is an "approved place"?	An approved place is a building, tent, street or place (or part thereof) approved by the appropriate Licensing Officer for public entertainment purposes. The Licensing Officer must act in conformity with the Master Plan and Planning Act requirements.
12	Can I transfer my licence to someone else?	No, under Rule 4, you cannot permit your licence to be used by another person or transfer it without the Licensing Officer's approval. Transfer applications must be made in the prescribed form with a \$44 fee.
13	Can I extend my operating hours beyond what's in my licence?	Yes, but you must obtain approval from the Licensing Officer and pay the appropriate fee calculated using the formula in Rule 6(2). The extension is valid for the remaining period of your current licence.
14	Can I upgrade my licence category?	Yes, you can upgrade from Category 2 to Category 1 with the Licensing Officer's approval and payment of the appropriate fee calculated using the formula in Rule 6(2).
15	What conditions can be imposed on my licence?	The Licensing Officer may impose any conditions they think fit when issuing or renewing a licence. They can also add, vary or revoke conditions at any time after giving you written notice and opportunity to be heard.
16	What happens if I breach licence conditions?	You may be guilty of an offence under Section 28(1)(c) with fines up to \$10,000. The Licensing Officer may also suspend or cancel your licence, and you may be awarded demerit points.
17	What are demerit points and how do they affect me?	Demerit points are awarded for breaching licence conditions. Accumulating prescribed numbers of demerit points can lead to additional security requirements, licence suspension/cancellation, or security forfeiture. Points are cancelled if your licence is cancelled.
18	What security might I need to provide?	For prescribed classes of entertainment, you may need to provide security (bond or other form) to ensure compliance with the Act and licence conditions. The amount and form are determined by the Licensing Officer.
19	When can my licence be suspended or cancelled?	Your licence can be suspended or cancelled if the entertainment: causes/likely to cause breach of peace; is indecent, immoral, offensive, subversive or improper; causes unnecessary suffering; contravenes the Act or licence conditions; is contrary to public interest; or if you're not a fit and proper person.
20	Do I need content classification for arts entertainment?	Yes, under Section 16, you cannot provide arts entertainment unless its content has been classified by the Arts Entertainment Licensing Officer. The content must match what was classified and comply with classification conditions.
21	What are the penalties for operating without a licence?	Under Section 28(1)(a), operating without a licence carries fines up to \$20,000. Operating while suspended also carries fines up to \$20,000.
22	Can I appeal licensing decisions?	Yes, you can appeal to the appropriate appeal authority within 14 days of being notified. For some establishments, appeals go to the Public Entertainment Appeal Board; others go to the appropriate Minister. The appeal authority's decision is final.

23	What other fees might I need to pay?	Transfer of licence: \$44; Amendment of establishment name/address: \$22; Replacement licence: \$11; Content classification fees: As prescribed by Arts Entertainment Licensing Officer.
24	Are there any exemptions from licensing requirements?	Yes, exemptions include: entertainment by government departments; religious ceremonies by priests/ministers (with citizen/PR speakers only); meetings of companies, trade unions, political associations (members only); statutory board entertainment; lectures, talks, debates, discussions.
25	What if my company/firm wants to apply?	If applying as a company or firm, the application must be made jointly with the person to whom you want the licence issued.
26	Can I get a refund of my licence fee?	Generally no, except where the Licensing Officer considers it appropriate. Refunds are at the discretion of the Licensing Officer.
27	What powers do licensing officers have?	Licensing Officers can enter and inspect premises, require documents, take photographs/recordings, seize evidence, investigate offences, examine persons, and arrest without warrant in certain circumstances.
28	What must I display at my premises?	You must prominently display your licence at the building/tent where entertainment is provided, or keep it in your possession for other venues, at all times while entertainment is being provided.
29	How long does the application process take?	Processing time typically takes around 3 weeks but it may vary depending on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completeness of your application • Complexity of your proposal • Need for additional assessments or consultations • Whether you meet all requirements
30	There are changes to the information in my Public Entertainment licence. Do I need to inform Police Regulatory Department? How do I provide the update?	You are required to update the following within 7 days of the change being effected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity of place/ occupant load of establishment - FSSD Building Plan Reference Number - Layout of licensed premises - Company/business/organisation name or partner/director/office-bearer - Licensee (transfer of licence to another person within the same company/business/LLP/organisation) <p>All changes/updates for public entertainment licences are to be submitted via GoBusiness Portal at https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/licences</p>
31	Do sporting events require a public entertainment licence?	No, sporting events by themselves do not require a public entertainment licence. Sports competitions, matches, and tournaments are not defined as "public entertainment" under the First Schedule of the Public Entertainments Act 1958.
32	When would a sporting event need a public entertainment licence?	A sporting event would need a public entertainment licence if it includes ancillary activities that constitute public entertainment, such as: playing recorded music through speakers; live musical performances; variety acts or dance performances; stage shows or demonstrations; exhibitions or displays; or any combination of these activities during the sporting event.
33	What if we only play background music during a sporting event?	If you reproduce or transmit recorded music or songs by any means other than telephony or radio telephony at a place where the public has access, this constitutes public entertainment under the Act and requires a licence (typically Category 2 or Category 6 depending on the setup).
34	Do we need a licence for opening/closing ceremonies with performances?	Yes, if your sporting event includes opening or closing ceremonies featuring variety acts, performances of music, singing, dancing, gymnastics, acrobatics, demonstrations or parades, these activities require a public entertainment licence (typically Category 6 for ad-hoc events).
35	What about halftime shows or entertainment segments during sports events?	Yes, halftime shows or entertainment segments that include musical performances, dance acts, variety shows, or other forms of entertainment as defined in the Act require a public entertainment licence.
36	Do we need separate licences for the sporting event and entertainment components?	No, you only need a public entertainment licence for the entertainment components. The sporting competition itself does not require licensing under the Public Entertainments Act. However, you may need other permits or approvals for the sporting event from relevant authorities.
37	What type of licence do we need for entertainment at sporting events?	For one-off sporting events with entertainment components, you would typically need an ad-hoc licence at \$22 per day or \$44 for 7 days. The category depends on the type of entertainment: Category 6 for variety acts/performances, Category 2 for recorded music only, or other categories as applicable.
38	What if our sporting venue regularly hosts events with entertainment?	If your sporting venue regularly provides entertainment (not just during sporting events), you may need an establishment licence rather than ad-hoc licences. This would be assessed based on the frequency and nature of entertainment provided.
39	Do school sports days or community sports events need licences?	School sports days and community sports events generally do not need licences for the sporting activities. However, if they include entertainment elements like DJ music, performances, or stage shows accessible to the public, a licence may be required. Government or statutory board organised events may be exempt under Section 23.
40	What about sports events with live commentary or announcements?	Live commentary, announcements, or public address systems for sporting purposes typically do not require a public entertainment licence as they are integral to the sporting event rather than entertainment. However, if music or entertainment content is broadcast, a licence may be needed.
41	Do we need a licence for award ceremonies after sporting events?	If the award ceremony includes entertainment elements beyond simple prize presentation (such as musical performances, variety acts, or entertainment shows), then a public entertainment licence would be required for those entertainment components.
42	What if we have food stalls with background music at our sporting event?	If food stalls or vendors at your sporting event play recorded music through speakers in areas accessible to the public, this constitutes public entertainment and requires licensing. The organiser or individual stall operators may need to obtain appropriate licences.
43	Are there exemptions for government-organised sporting events?	Yes, under Section 23, public entertainment provided by or under the auspices of the Government, government departments, or statutory boards may be exempt from licensing requirements. This could apply to government-organised sporting events with entertainment components.
44	What if our sporting event includes exhibitions or displays?	If your sporting event includes exhibitions of models, pictures, photographs, statuary, or other forms of representation accessible to the public, these may constitute arts entertainment and require content classification and licensing from the Arts Entertainment Licensing Officer.
45	Do we need to classify content for entertainment at sporting events?	If your sporting event includes arts entertainment components (as defined in the First Schedule), the content must be classified by the Arts Entertainment Licensing Officer before provision. This includes plays, exhibitions, displays, or performances that fall under arts entertainment.