

## **Chorus ntl and ESPN announce new carriage deal**

**ESPN, ESPN HD, ESPN America and ESPN Classic to be available to Chorus ntl customers**

**Ireland – Monday August 14th - Chorus ntl** and ESPN announced a deal to make the new ESPN sports channel part of the Chorus ntl offering to customers in Ireland. From today ESPN, which will broadcast 46 Barclay's Premier League games exclusively Live this season and 30 Clydesdale Bank Premier League football, will be available in Standard Definition and High Definition.

Customers will also be able to watch a wide range of additional football coverage on ESPN, including Live Serie A, German Bundesliga, Dutch Eredivisie, Portuguese Liga, Russian Premier League and Major League Soccer from the US. Other sports content includes Ultimate Fighting Championship, Live Top 14 Orange French Rugby, Australian Rules Football and additional live and exclusive sports coverage from around the world.

In addition to ESPN, Chorus ntl subscribers will also be able to enjoy ESPN Classic, featuring the greatest moments of UK and European sport and ESPN America, which brings sports fans in Ireland the best live sporting action from North America.

Dedicated sports fans who already subscribe to a combination of either Sky Sports or Setanta through Chorus ntl will get ESPN and ESPN America for an additional €10 per month or from €15 per month for new customers. ESPN HD will be available to subscribers to Chorus ntl's new HD service. ESPN Classic will be available as part of the Max package.

**Simon Kelehan, Head of TV for Chorus ntl said:**

"The agreement with ESPN has created more opportunities for our customers to view some of the greatest sporting events from around the world. The first live Barclays Premier League game on ESPN kicked off on Saturday August 15th between Everton and Arsenal.

"Customers who want to watch ESPN in High Definition are now able to get this service from Chorus ntl. It is an exciting time as we enter the new football season and we look forward to adding more great sports content over the coming months."

**Lynne Frank, Managing Director for ESPN in Europe, Middle East and Africa said:**

“We are delighted to team with Chorus ntl to offer their customers ESPN’s exciting range of Premier League football, Clydesdale Bank Premier League and the best in international and US sports in SD and HD. ESPN will be complemented by ESPN America and ESPN Classic, thereby serving a diverse group of sports fans. ESPN is set to be must-have for fans in Ireland.”

### **About UPC**

UPC is the parent company of Chorus ntl and is the European division of Liberty Global, Inc., the world’s leading international cable operator. UPC brings television, broadband internet and telephone services to approximately 9 million customers throughout 9 European countries. The company is driven by its vision that 'this amazing but often complex digital world should be for everyone'. UPC's 800 employees throughout Ireland strive to make this happen by bringing simplicity and a real human touch to everything they do. To find out more about us - please visit [www.upc.ie](http://www.upc.ie)

### **About ESPN**

Based in Bristol, Conn., ESPN, Inc. is the world’s leading multinational, multimedia sports entertainment company featuring a portfolio of over 50 multimedia sports assets. ESPN is 80 percent owned by ABC, Inc., which is an indirect subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company. The Hearst Corporation holds a 20 percent interest in ESPN.

ESPN International has grown to include ownership – in whole or in part – of over 45 television networks outside of the United States, as well as a variety of brand extension businesses, which allow ESPN to reach fans in 200 countries and territories. In the UK, ESPN now includes a portfolio of television and digital brands including ESPN Classic, ESPN America, ESPNcricinfo.com, ESPNscrum.com, ESPNsoccernet.com, ESPN360.com and Racing-live.com.

On 22 June, ESPN was awarded the exclusive rights to 46 Live Barclays Premier League matches in the 2009-10 Season and 23 matches a season from 2010-2013. ESPN has also

been awarded exclusive live rights to Clydesdale Bank Premier League games for the next five seasons, showing 30 live games each season across the UK and Ireland, starting with the 2009-10 campaign this August and games from the German, Dutch, Russian and Portuguese national football leagues. ESPN has also secured multiyear UK and Ireland rights to air the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), Top 14 Orange (French Rugby Championship) and the Australian Football League (AFL).