

Decision No. 34660

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of
THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY
for an order authorizing schedule of
rates and conditions applicable to the
furnishing of reports of football and
basketball games in the State of
California.

Application No. 24464

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

The Western Union Telegraph Company, a corporation, engaged in a general telegraph business in California, and other states, herein requests authority to file a schedule of rates for Commercial News Service applicable to the furnishing of reports of football and basketball games either by full descriptive service, or by score reports at designated periods.

In furnishing the full descriptive service, Western Union stations a reporter-operator at the field or court in which the game is played. An operator is also located at the premises of the subscriber for the service. The full descriptive reports subscribed for are transmitted from the reporter-operator to the operator or operators at the premises of the one or more subscribers receiving the service. This is not a radio-broadcast service.

The present schedule sets forth various items of the service each with its filed rate of charge. As the total charge for the service under the present schedule is dependent upon conditions which are difficult to anticipate prior to the establishment of such service, Western Union has found it difficult to quote correct charges at the times

applications are received. The proposed schedule shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto, sets forth the rates for full description service and for score reports. The flat rates set forth on the proposed schedule vary in different communities on account of the variation in cost of the loops and the saving in expenses with increases in the number of subscribers in some communities.

The present schedule includes rates for certain types of score reports of football games to be furnished at designated periods. The proposed schedule adds progressively lower rates, by blocks, as the number of groups subscribed for increases. New types of score reports not heretofore furnished under rates on file with this Commission are also included in the proposed schedule. The schedule as proposed would apply to reports of basketball games at the same rates of charge as would apply to football games.

It is stated in the application that the cost of service under the proposed schedule would not exceed the charges for the same service under the present schedule.

The Commission has given careful consideration to the request of The Western Union Telegraph Company and is of the opinion that the application should be granted, and that this is not a matter in which a public hearing is required, therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that The Western Union Telegraph Company may make effective on or before December 1, 1941, a Commercial News Service Schedule for Football and Basketball, as set forth in the application, provided the appropriate rate sheets are filed with the Railroad Commission or before the tenth day immediately preceding the effective date thereof.

For all other purposes the effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 7th day of
October, 1941.

W. J. [Signature]
Ray [Signature]
Justin F. Green
Francis [Signature]
Richard [Signature]
Commissioners

EXHIBIT "A"

TELEGRAPH SERVICE - SCHEDULE NO. C-4

COMMERCIAL NEWS SERVICE - FOOTBALL OR BASKETBALL

SERVICE:

This schedule contains the rates and conditions applicable to the furnishing of reports of football or basketball games by the Telegraph Company, either by full descriptive service or by score reports at designated periods.

Service furnished under this schedule is classified by certain "paragraph" designations to distinguish the various types of service available.

RATES:

(1) Paragraph 20 - Full descriptive service, delivered by direct wire. Continuous detailed accounts of football or basketball games held at fields or courts covered in this tariff, describing all action from beginning to end of contest during the progress thereof, with line-up, weather, attendance, and other observations of interest.

(a) Football reports from the following fields: (See Condition 4.)

<u>City</u>	<u>Playing Field</u>	<u>Rate per Game</u>
<u>GROUP "A" FIELDS</u>		
Los Angeles	Memorial Coliseum	\$ 20.00
San Francisco	Kezar Stadium	20.00
<u>GROUP "B" FIELDS</u>		
Berkeley	University of California	25.00
Los Angeles	Wrigley Field	25.00
Palo Alto	Stanford University	25.00
Pasadena	Rose Bowl	25.00
<u>GROUP "C" FIELDS</u>		
Fresno	Ratcliffe Stadium	30.00
Los Angeles	Gilmore Stadium	28.00
San Diego	Aztec Field	40.00
San Diego	City Stadium	30.00
San Francisco	Seals Stadium	30.00
San Jose	Spartan Field	30.00
Stockton	Baxter Stadium	35.00

OTHER FIELDS

See Condition 5.

(b) Basketball reports from the following courts: (See Condition 4.)

<u>City</u>	<u>Court</u>	<u>Rate per Game</u>
<u>LISTED COURTS</u>		
Berkeley	University of California Gym	\$ 27.00
Los Angeles	Shrine Auditorium	25.00
Los Angeles	University of California at L.A.	30.50
San Francisco	Civic Auditorium	26.00

OTHER COURTS

See Condition 5.

EXHIBIT "A" - Continued

TELEGRAPH SERVICE - SCHEDULE NO. C-4

COMMERCIAL NEWS SERVICE - FOOTBALL OR BASKETBALL

RATES - Continued:

(2) Paragraph 21 - Score reports, by periods, of contests played in three or four periods. A message at the end of each period reporting the score of the contest as it stands at the end of the period given. (See table below for rates.)

(3) Paragraph 22 - Score reports, by halves. Two messages, one at the end of the first half, reporting the score of the contest at the end of that period, and one at the conclusion of the contest reporting the final score. (See table below for rates.)

(4) Paragraph 23 - Score report of any one game. One message at the end of a contest reporting the final score or result. (See table below for rates.)

Number of Games Subscribed for:	Rates per Game		
	Paragraph 21	Paragraph 22	Paragraph 23
1 to 12 games, inclusive	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.50
12 to 24 " "	1.88	.94	.47
25 to 48 " "	1.76	.88	.44
49 to 72 " "	1.64	.82	.41
73 to 96 " "	1.52	.76	.38
97 to 120 " "	1.40	.70	.35
121 to 160 " "	1.32	.66	.33
161 to 200 " "	1.24	.62	.31
over 200 "	1.20	.60	.30

(5) Paragraph 26 - One message of about 100 words at the conclusion of a game, reporting the score and the high-lights of play during the game.

Each game - - - - - \$ 5.00

(6) Paragraph 27 - One message reporting the final scores of from one to ten contests of any one sport.

Per message - - - - - \$ 2.00

(7) Paragraph 28 - One message reporting the final scores of from eleven to twenty contests of any one sport.

Per message - - - - - \$ 3.00

(8) Paragraph 29 - One message reporting the final scores of from twenty-one to thirty contests of any one sport.

Per message - - - - - \$ 3.50

CONDITIONS:

1. The clubs, colleges and promoters of contests, whose games are reported under this tariff, own the news thereof, and the furnishing of full descriptive service (Paragraph 20) is subject to their prior approval.

2. Service from cities, fields, and courts included in this tariff, is furnished to points in the State of California served by Western Union offices. The furnishing of full descriptive service (Paragraph 20) is subject to the availability of wire and equipment facilities and the services of reporter-operators.

EXHIBIT "A" - Continued

TELEGRAPH SERVICE - SCHEDULE NO. C-4

COMMERCIAL NEWS SERVICE - FOOTBALL OR BASKETBALL

CONDITIONS - Continued:

3. Requests for service shall be made on "Application for C.N.D. Service" forms, copies of which are on file with the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

4. The rate shown under (1)(a) or (1)(b) includes the loop to the field or court and salaries of reporter-operators at the field or court and operator at the subscriber's premises. An additional charge of \$5.00 is made if a loop to the subscriber's premises must be installed.

5. When arrangements can be made for furnishing full descriptive service (Paragraph 20) from fields or courts not listed herein, the rate is \$10.00 per game plus the cost of loops required to be installed and the salaries of reporter-operators at the field and operator at the subscriber's premises.

6. All games for which score reports by designated periods are furnished must be played on the same day in counting the number of games reported.

7. Service furnished under this schedule will not be provided for a shorter period than that for which rates are quoted.

8. Delivery of reports, other than service as set forth in Paragraph 20, is effected by messenger, telephone, or tie-line in the same way as ordinary telegrams are delivered to the same addressees.