

Before the
COPYRIGHT ROYALTY BOARD
Washington, D.C.

_____)	
In the Matter of)	
)	
Distribution of the)	Docket No. 16-CRB-0009-CD
2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017)	(2014-2017)
Cable Royalty Funds)	
)	
_____)	

PETITION TO PARTICIPATE

Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 801(b)(3), 804(b)(8) and 37 CFR § 351.1(b)(2), Major League Soccer, L.L.C. (“Petitioner”) submits its Petition to Participate in the proceeding of the Copyright Royalty Judges to determine the allocation and distribution of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 royalties collected under cable statutory licenses.

Pursuant to Section 351.1(b)(2)(i)(A)-(C), the following information is provided:

(A) The full name, address, telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address of the Petitioner:

Major League Soccer, L.L.C.
420 Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10018
Telephone: 212-450-1251
Facsimile: 212-450-1332
E-mail: bill.ordower@mlssoccer.com

(B) In a cable or satellite royalty distribution proceeding, identification of whether the petition covers a Phase I, Allocation proceeding (the initial part of a proceeding where royalties are divided among the categories or groups of copyright owners), a Phase II, Distribution proceeding (where the money allotted to each category is subdivided among the various copyright owners within that category), or both:

This Petition covers participation in both the allocation and the distribution proceedings for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 cable royalties.

(C) A description of the Petitioner’s significant interest in the subject matter of the proceeding:

Petitioner produces live sporting events, owns the copyright in that programming, and has submitted claims for statutory royalties from the respective cable royalty funds. Petitioner is a claimant for cable royalties within the Joint Sports Claimant category, a category recognized previously by the Judges. Petitioner understands that there are other claimants seeking a share of the Joint Sports Claimant category allocations, but it has not reached settlement with any other potential Joint Sports Claimants. Based on discussions to date, while Petitioner remains optimistic that it can reach settlement with the other Joint Sports Claimant parties, it is probable that a distribution proceeding will be necessary to resolve these disputes. Therefore, Petitioner has a significant interest in the subject matter of both the allocation and distribution phases of this proceeding.

Attached as Exhibit A, Petitioner has identified for each claim year, the name of the claimant, the corresponding claim number, an indication of whether the claim is individual or joint, and the program category into which the Petitioner believes the claim may fall. Joint claims filed by the Petitioner for its programming surrounding live sporting events, but not the live events themselves (i.e. pre- and post- game shows), were filed separately as joint claims under what Petitioner believes to be the Program Suppliers category. Such programming is represented by Program Suppliers’ advocate and category representative, the Motion Picture Association of America (“MPAA”). That programming is distinct from the live sporting events noted herein, and covered separately by MPAA’s petitions.

The undersigned hereby certifies that, as of the date of submission of this Petition, I have the authority and consent of Petitioner to represent it in this royalty distribution proceeding. An online payment paid via the eCRB website in the amount of \$150 accompanies this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER, L.L.C.

/s/ Edward S. Hammerman, Esq.

Edward S. Hammerman, Esq. (D.C. Bar No. 460506)

Hammerman PLLC

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Counsel for Petitioner

March 11, 2019

Major League Soccer, L.L.C.

Petition to Participate

Docket No. 16-CRB-0009-CD

EXHIBIT A

Cable Royalties Claimant	Claim Year	Claim Number	Claim Type	Claim Category
Major League Soccer, L.L.C.	2014	11	Individual	Joint Sports
Major League Soccer, L.L.C.	2015	2	Individual	Joint Sports
Major League Soccer, L.L.C.	2016	46	Individual	Joint Sports
Major League Soccer, L.L.C.	2017	14	Individual	Joint Sports