



Royalties & Earnings

Know where the money comes from.

How streaming royalties actually work, payment schedules and methods, and how to read your analytics dashboard on Anghami, Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, YouTube Music and TikTok.



0%

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ROYALTY TYPES

Every platform below pools its revenue and pays out based on your share of total streams — not a fixed price per play. WKS takes 0% of what you earn on every plan; what changes platform to platform is how that pool is calculated, how usage is reported, and how quickly it reaches your dashboard. The shared mechanics are laid out once, then each platform's own section covers only what's different.

Last updated: September 2026. This guide is produced by WKS Music Distribution as an independent walkthrough of how each platform calculates and reports royalties — it is not official documentation published by Anghami, Spotify, Apple, Amazon, YouTube, or TikTok. Spotify, Anghami, and Amazon Music for Artists publish their royalty mechanics directly, and this guide draws on that wherever possible; commonly-cited per-stream dollar figures are industry estimates, not numbers those platforms confirm themselves, and are labeled as such. Terms change over time, so verify anything critical against the platform's current documentation and your own royalty statements.



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BEFORE YOU START

How the money actually flows

- **Pro-rata, not per-stream** — every platform in this guide pools its subscription and ad revenue each month, then pays out based on your share of total streams. There's no fixed price per play; your rate moves with market, subscription mix, and total platform activity.
- **Royalties reach you through WKS, not directly from the platform** — platforms pay your distributor first, who then pays you. WKS takes 0% of your royalties on every plan; your payout schedule and minimum threshold are set by WKS's terms, not the platform's.
- **Two royalty types exist** — recording (master) royalties for the actual performance, and publishing (composition) royalties for the underlying song, paid separately through your PRO or publisher.
- **Most platforms only count a real stream** once a listener has played roughly 30 seconds — confirmed explicitly in Amazon Music's own chart rules and reflected across the industry.
- **Reporting runs on a delay** — platforms typically report usage 1–2 months in arrears before your distributor can pay it out; don't expect same-day numbers to match same-day earnings.

SHARED STEPS

The royalties checklist every release follows



- 1 Understand it's pro-rata — your monthly earnings are a share of a revenue pool, not a fixed cent amount per play, so don't expect a constant number.
- 2 Register both royalty types — your recording through WKS (via ISRC), and your composition through a PRO or publisher, to collect both sides of what a stream generates.
- 3 Check your analytics dashboard regularly, but treat it as an estimate — most platforms' own guidance says their real-time stats can differ from the royalty-eligible numbers in your official report.
- 4 Confirm your payout details with WKS — minimum thresholds, payment methods, and schedule come from your distributor agreement, not from the platform directly.
- 5 Budget for the reporting lag — a spike in streams this month typically shows up in your payout one to two cycles later, not immediately.

The sections below cover each platform individually — but only what's different from this shared mechanic, so you're not re-reading the same checklist six times.



Anghami

Anghami's own support center publishes the exact formula behind your payout — rare among these six platforms.

MODEL

Pro-rata

REVENUE SHARE

50% of monthly total

REPORT

Financial Report tab

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- Anghami's own help center spells out the exact math: your share equals your total accountable streams divided by the platform's total streams, times 100 — that percentage is then applied to both the advertising and subscription revenue pools.
- Anghami states directly that 50% of its total monthly revenue is shared with rightsholders through this calculation — a specific figure most other platforms in this guide don't disclose.

GOOD TO KNOW

- You can see your calculated percentage and resulting earnings directly under the Financial Report section in Anghami for Creators, broken out by advertising and subscription revenue.
- Anghami's own support article notes royalty payment can be requested via bank transfer or PayPal by invoicing them directly — relevant background even though WKS handles your actual payout.



Spotify

Spotify is the only platform here with a published, exact eligibility threshold for royalties.

MODEL

Streamshare

ELIGIBILITY

1,000 streams / 12mo

APPLIES TO

Each ISRC

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- Since April 2024, Spotify's own policy only includes a track in that month's royalty calculation once it has reached at least 1,000 streams globally in the trailing 12 months, plus an undisclosed minimum number of unique listeners to prevent gaming.
- This eligibility is calculated per unique recording — technically, per ISRC — not per song title, so a live version and a studio version each have to qualify separately.
- A track can move in and out of eligibility month to month as its trailing 12-month stream count rises or falls, per Spotify's own documentation.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Check the "Last 12 months" filter on the Music page in Spotify for Artists to estimate your own eligibility — but Spotify's own guidance says to treat this as an estimate, not a guarantee, and to rely on your royalty report from WKS as the real source of truth.
- Tracks below the threshold aren't a loss to Spotify — by its own account, that reallocated money increases payouts to eligible tracks instead, keeping the total royalty pool size unchanged.



Apple Music

Apple has never announced a minimum-stream policy the way Spotify explicitly did — a real difference, not just a lower number.

MODEL

Pro-rata

MIN STREAMS

None announced

FREE TIER

None

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- Unlike Spotify's explicit 1,000-stream eligibility rule, Apple has not announced any minimum stream threshold — every stream currently counts toward the royalty pool regardless of a track's total volume. This is an absence of a published policy, not a permanent guarantee it will stay that way.
- Apple Music has no ad-supported free tier — every listener is a paying subscriber, which industry analysts commonly cite as the reason its average per-stream payout is reported to run higher than Spotify's, though Apple itself doesn't publish an exact rate.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Don't take third-party "\$0.01 per stream" figures as guaranteed — Apple doesn't publish a per-stream rate, and your actual pro-rata share depends on total pool size and total streams that month, same as every platform in this guide.
- Because there's no announced volume floor, a slow-and-steady catalog of older tracks can keep contributing here in a way that may fall below Spotify's eligibility bar.



Amazon Music

Amazon Music for Artists is explicit that your payout depends on which subscription tier the listener is on.

MODEL

Pro-rata, per tier

TIERS

Individual / Family / HD

CHART RULE

30-sec minimum

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- Amazon Music for Artists' own FAQ confirms royalties are calculated and paid per subscription tier — Individual, Family, HD, and others — based on usage within each tier, then paid to your label or distributor.
- That same official FAQ confirms Amazon Music's in-app charts only count a play once a listener has streamed at least 30 seconds of a song.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Amazon doesn't publicly disclose an exact per-stream rate — commonly-cited estimates suggest HD and Unlimited tier streams pay meaningfully more than Prime or ad-supported plays, but treat that as an industry estimate, not an Amazon-confirmed figure.
- Because payouts are tier-based, driving fans toward Amazon Music Unlimited or HD (versus the ad-supported tier) can matter more for your earnings here than raw stream count alone.



YouTube Music

The only platform in this guide with two separate, stackable revenue paths from the same recording.

REVENUE PATHS

2: streams + Content ID

CONTENT ID

Needs registration

AUTOMATIC

No

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Extra prerequisites

- Content ID revenue requires your recording to be registered separately — typically through your distributor — before fan uploads using your song can be claimed and monetized on your behalf.

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- YouTube Music pays subscription and ad royalties on direct streams, exactly like a standard DSP — but it's also the only platform here where a second, separate income stream exists: Content ID revenue from ads run on other people's videos that use your song.
- These two revenue paths are tracked and reported differently, and Content ID doesn't happen automatically just by having music on YouTube Music — registration is a distinct step.

GOOD TO KNOW

- If you've never registered for Content ID, fan videos using your song are generating real ad views right now that produce zero revenue for you — commonly cited as the most under-claimed revenue source among the platforms in this guide.
- A viral moment driven by fan uploads (dances, covers, reaction videos) can generate more Content ID revenue than the direct YouTube Music streams from the same song.



TikTok's royalty pool works on usage licensing, not a per-stream model — and it reports on a real lag.

MODEL	REPORTING LAG	REAL-TIME
Usage-based licensing	Often a full quarter+	No

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- TikTok doesn't run a simple per-stream model like a DSP — it pays out from a licensing pool based on how much a sound is actually used across videos, and that usage is commonly reported and reconciled a full quarter or more after it happens.
- If you distribute specifically through SoundOn (TikTok's own distribution arm) rather than a third-party distributor, SoundOn's own published terms are notably different from a typical DSP deal: 100% of royalties indefinitely on TikTok and other ByteDance-owned products, and 100% in the first year / 90% after on off-ByteDance platforms like Spotify and Apple Music. These terms are specific to using SoundOn itself, not TikTok's royalty structure in general.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Budget for a real delay between a sound going viral and seeing it reflected in earnings — several months is common, not days or weeks.
- A sound's video-usage count in the TikTok app is a good early signal of momentum, but it isn't your royalty statement — treat it as a leading indicator, not a running total of what you've earned.



WRAP UP

Thanks for reading

The same pro-rata mechanics run behind every platform in this guide — understanding how the pool is calculated and reported is what turns a confusing royalty statement into something you can actually plan around. WKS keeps 0% of what you earn, on every plan, no matter which platform it came from.

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NEXT IN THIS SERIES

Guide 6 of 6 — Marketing Your Music

Pre-release marketing strategies, social media best practices, and playlist pitching guidance for the final guide in this series.