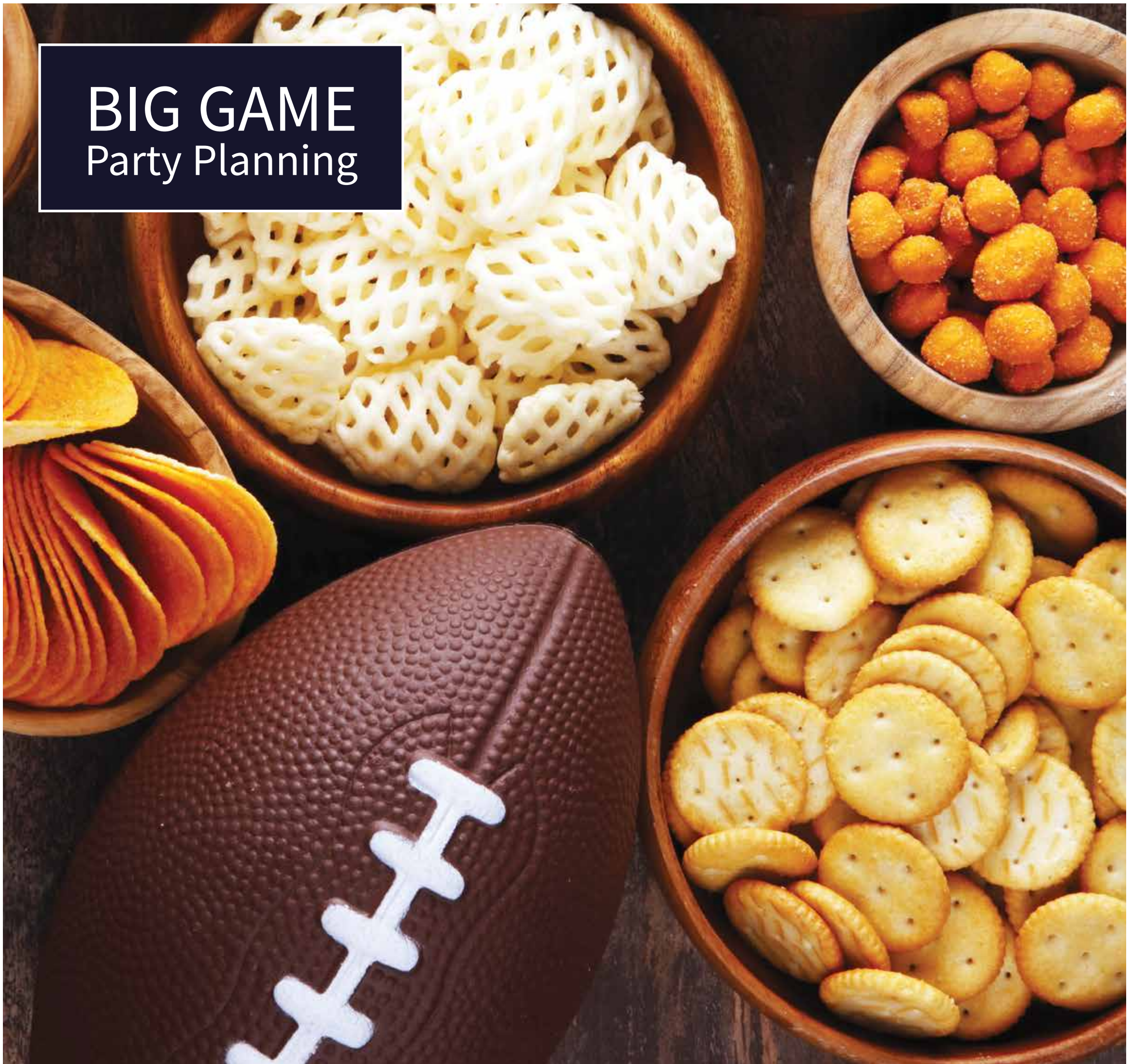


BIG GAME Party Planning



Dish Up Delicious Sandwiches

Ordering sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday is a smart, crowd-friendly move.

Bon Appetit says subs, hoagies and grinders “want to be your Super Bowl party sandwiches.”

If you’re gearing up for the big game and thinking about ordering sandwiches, here’s a practical guide to make sure your spread scores as well as the plays on the field.

1. Figure out your numbers. Estimate how many people you’ll have and how hungry they’ll be. Sandwiches are great game-day fare because they’re handheld, filling and easy to eat while watching the action. Aim for about one sandwich per guest if you’re providing other sides, or more if sandwiches are the main item.

2. Choose a strong sandwich order. When placing your order, pick varieties that cater to different tastes and can handle being eaten in front of the TV (no fancy cutlery required). Some favorites:

- Classic deli meat or Italian sub.
- Fried chicken or pork-based sandwich for something more indulgent.
- Vegetarian or lighter option so all guests are covered.
- You might even theme a sandwich by your team’s region or flavor profile for fun.



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3. Order smart for logistics. Because Super Bowl Sunday brings a surge of orders, keep the logistics in mind. Schedule pick-up or delivery ahead of time. Demand will be high, and choices may be limited as

kickoff approaches.

Choose sandwiches that travel well and won’t get soggy. Make sure your vendor can handle a large order and ask about earliest drop-off times.

4. Mix it with sides and

variety. Sandwiches are great, but you’ll want a few sides or extras to round it out: chips, veggies and dip, maybe wings. Besides the main items, set up shareable finger-foods and cater for breaks in the game.

5. Plan for mess. Sandwiches can be messy when they’ve got lots of fillings, sauces or extra layers. Have plenty of napkins on hand, as well as plates big enough to contain a mess. Ask the vendor to cut sandwiches into manageable portions.



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Wings: A Big-Game Fave

Chicken wings have gone from a humble kitchen workaround to the undisputed MVP of Super Bowl snack tables.

WING HISTORY

The most widely told origin story traces the Buffalo wing to 1964, when Teresa Bellissimo of the Anchor Bar in Buffalo, N.Y., deep-fried leftover wing sections and tossed them in a cayenne-butter sauce — and a regional favorite became a national phenomenon.

GROWING POPULARITY

That origin helped establish wings as an iconic American bar food through the 1970s and '80s; their

portability, bold flavors and suitability for casual, shareable consumption made them perfect for game-day hosting.

Over the decades, restaurants, sports bars, and home cooks developed new wing styles — from classic Buffalo to dry-rub wings, Korean-style gochujang glazes and a dizzying array of dipping sauces — which only strengthened wings' association with sporting events like the Super Bowl.

The National Chicken Council's annual wing report has documented steady growth in Big-Game consumption of wings: recent projections estimated Americans will eat roughly 1.47 billion chicken wings over Super Bowl weekend.

Restaurants and retailers feel that demand. Industry data show dramatic year-over-year sales spikes for wings around the Big Game. One

platform analysis reported an 87% increase in wing sales on Super Bowl Sunday compared with an average Sunday, while grocers and suppliers juggle price and supply challenges as demand surges.

Why do wings endure as the Big-Game darling? They're social (easy to share), theatrical (sticky hands, messy glory), endlessly variable (spicy, sweet, smoky) and they pair naturally with the ritual of watching sports.

As the Super Bowl grew into a food-centered event, wings have secured their status as the ultimate game-day staple among chips, pizza and beer.

As you're planning your game-day menu, consider ordering ahead from a local wing or pizza place to put wings on the table without a fuss.

Making your own dipping sauce can help you put a personal touch on

your snack table. Here's a recipe from TheCurryMommy.com.

JALAPENO CILANTRO SAUCE

Ingredients

- 1 cup cilantro, stems and leaves (about 1 bunch of cilantro)
- 1 cup sour cream (see above for substitutions)
- 3 cloves fresh garlic (more or less)
- 1 green chili pepper of choice (jalapeno, thai chili, serrano, etc)
- salt
- water (optional)

Directions

1. Blend the cilantro, garlic and green chili pepper into a fine paste.
2. Mix the blended contents with sour cream and some salt. If you prefer a more dressing-like consistency, add some water and mix well.
3. Chill in the refrigerator or enjoy immediately.

Pizzas Set Parties Spinning

Who doesn't love pizza? Feeding a crowd for the big game is easy with a spread of delicious pies.

Order up pizzas with toppings to satisfy varied tastes, from traditional pepperoni and cheese to spicy buffalo macaroni and cheese. Your imagination is the limit when placing a pizza order.

Your local pizza place probably has some specials for game day, and they'll deliver right to your front door, taking some of the work of food prep off your hands so you can focus more on friends, fun and cheering on your team.

PLAN AHEAD FOR SUCCESS

Pizzerias will be busy on the big day, so get your order in ahead of time to be sure your pies will arrive on time. Ideally you should place your order one to two days before game day.

If any guests have food allergies or sensitivities, you might be able to find a local pizza place that can meet their needs. Gluten-free pizza is increasingly available as diners navigate Celiac disease and gluten sensitivity.

HOW MUCH PIZZA TO BUY

A good rule of thumb is to multiply the number of people times $\frac{3}{8}$ (.375), then round up to the nearest whole number. Since a large pizza is typically divided into 8 slices, this rule assumes that, on average, guests will have three slices of pizza.

If the pizzas are thin crust or deep dish, adjust your calculations with this in mind.

MORE THAN PIZZA

While you're ordering pies, don't



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forget the wings, pasta, salads, calzones, sandwiches and even sodas. Adding these items will help you get

more of your food order handled in one place and delivered all at once. Many pizzerias also offer dessert

pizzas with toppings such as cinnamon sugar, chocolate chips and even fruit, like peaches or blueberry.

Alternative Viewing

The big game isn't the only thing on TV, believe it or not. There are other options.

While you may keep the game on one or two screens around the party, consider these other options for your Sunday watching.

PUPPY BOWL AND KITTEN BOWL

Watch baby animals play on Sunday, Feb. 8, on Animal Planet and streaming services. These games feature a mock football match played by baby critters. All at once now: Awwwwwww.

WINTER OLYMPICS

The Winter Olympics in Italy will run Feb. 6-22. Catch winter events such as curling, hockey, figure skating, skiing and more. The Olympics will be broadcast primarily on NBC and Peacock, which will stream all 116 medal events, including 24/7 live sports channels.

BINGE WATCH

Queue up several seasons of a show you've been meaning to watch. Some shows to consider are "The Last of Us" on HBO, "That '90s Show" on Netflix or classics such as "The Sopranos," "Breaking Bad" or "The Wire."

MOVIE MARATHON

Play a different kind of sport, the movie marathon. Some suggestions that would fit with the game on the main screen: "Friday Night Lights," "Any



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Given Sunday," "We Are Marshall," "Varsity Blues," "Rudy," "The Blind Side," "Remember the Titans," and "Jerry Maguire."

FOR THE LITTLES

For the kiddos, turn on a Kids Super Bowl event on Twinkl that will include crafts, games and educational

materials. Alternatively, put on some cartoons such as "Bluey," "SpongeBob Squarepants," "Peppa Pig" or, for older kids, "Derry Girls," "Atypical," "Glee," or "Awkward."

TRUE CRIME

Spend a good few hours immersed in the thrills and chills of true crime

documentaries. Try out "Gone Girls: The Long Island Serial Killer," "Trophy Wife: Murder on Safari," "Scamanda," "Happy Face," "The Serial Killer's Apprentice," or "Murder 360."

HAPPY DAYS

Give your brain a little hit of endorphins with feel-good shows such as "The Great

British Baking Show," a rewatch of "Ted Lasso," "Abbott Elementary," "Severance" or "The Good Place." Or grab a good laugh with shows such as "Platonic," the "King of the Hill" reboot, "South Park," or a stand-up comedy special. Look for specials from Marc Maron, Joe DeRosa, Yannis Pappas and David Spade.

Packing a Punch

Food gets a lot of attention at parties, and with good reason, but don’t neglect the beverages, either.

You can stock up on soft drinks, water, juice and other drinks, and you can also offer homemade beverages, with alcohol or without.

THE BEST PARTY PUNCH

Recipe is from Mel’s Kitchen Café. Makes 20 1-cup servings.

Ingredients

- 64 ounces cran-raspberry juice
- 64 ounces fruit punch that’s not Hawaiian Punch
- 32 ounces pineapple-orange juice
- 1-1 1/2 liters ginger ale

Directions

Combine everything in a pitcher and refrigerate until ready to serve. If making ahead of time, add the ginger ale right before serving.

REFRESHING RASPBERRY ICED TEA

Recipe is from Taste of Home. Makes 16 servings.

Ingredients

- 6 cups of water
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 8 tea bags
- 3/4 cup frozen apple-raspberry juice concentrate
- 8 cups cold water
- Ice cubes
- Fresh raspberries

Directions

1. Bring six cups of water and sugar to a boil, then remove from heat.
2. Add tea bags and steep, covered, 3-5 minutes. Discard tea bags and add juice concentrate.
3. Stir in cold water and serve over ice. Garnish with raspberries.

VIENNESE COFFEE

Recipe is from Taste of Home. Makes 4 servings.

Ingredients

- 3 cups strong brewed coffee
- 3 tablespoons chocolate syrup
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream

- 1/4 cup crème de cacao or Irish cream liqueur
- Whipped cream and chocolate curls

Directions

1. In a slow cooker, combine the coffee, chocolate syrup and sugar. Cover and cook on low for 2 1/2



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hours.

2. Stir in heavy cream and crème de cacao or Irish cream liqueur. Cover and cook 30 minutes longer.
3. Ladle coffee into mugs and garnish with whipped cream and chocolate curls.

SUNDAY FUNDAY PUNCH

Recipe is from We’re the Joneses.

Ingredients

- 2 liter bottle of lemon-lime soda
- 1 bottle prosecco
- 2 cups vodka
- 2 cups mango orange juice
- 2 cups pineapple juice
- Sliced oranges
- Sliced strawberries

Directions

Add soda, juices, vodka and pro-secco to a large pitcher. Add the sliced fruit to the pitcher and chill for 1-2 hours.

GREEN PUNCH

Recipe is from The Food Network. Makes 1 gallon.

Ingredients

- 2 0.13-oz. packets of unsweet-ened lemon-lime drink mix
- 2 cups sugar
- 46 ounces pineapple juice
- 12 ounces frozen lemonade con-centrate, thawed
- 32 ounces ginger ale

Directions

1. Put two quarts of water in a 1-gallon container. Add the sugar and drink mix, then stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add the pineap-ple juice and lemonade concentrate and stir well.
2. Just before serving, add the ginger ale.



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Football Facts for Party Talk

So you know next to nothing about football (there's a ball, maybe?) and you're invited to a party wherein an entire football game will be viewed. Don't worry.

Here are some football facts to get you through the night.

1. American football evolved from soccer and rugby. The first game was played Nov. 6, 1869, between Rutgers and Princeton. Rutgers won the game 6-4.

2. Football is the most popular sport in the U.S. in terms of broadcast viewership audience. The NFL has the highest average attendance of any sporting league in the world.

3. In 1905, 19 fatalities were recorded from playing football. President Theodore Roosevelt threatened to abolish the game unless changes were made. Sixty-plus colleges and universities met in New York to discuss rule changes, and thus was formed the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

4. Six-point touchdowns were instituted in 1912. Previously, they were worth four points.

5. The first professional football

player was Pudge Heffelfinger, who was paid \$500 to play a game for the Allegheny Athletic Association against the Pittsburgh Athletic Club in 1892. That's equivalent to more than \$17,000 today.

6. By 1920, the National Football League was formed to end bidding wars over players, prevent the use of college players in professional games, and stop players from being paid to leave for another team.

7. Women are eligible to play in high school, college and professional football. Women have played at every level except the NFL. The NFL does have women as officials. Sarah Thomas became the first female official in

2015.

8. Safeties are scored when the ball carrier is tackled in his own end zone. Two points are awarded to the defense.

9. Before the advent of artificial rubber, a pig's bladder was used to hold the air inside a foot-ball.

10. Even though it's usually referred to as American football, it is now becoming more popular around the world. In both Canada and Mexico, the game is increasingly popular. It was introduced in Japan in 1934, and now has teams at the high school, college and in the X-League. The NFL now plays games abroad every season and it's growing in popularity in Brazil and in the Arab world.

Your Big Game Playlist

So you can't get Dr. Dre or Janet Jackson or Lady Gaga to show up for your party. That's OK, you can set up a playlist that will keep the jams coming all night. Here are some suggestions.

- "We are the Champions" by Queen.
- "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor.
- "Party Rock Anthem" by LMFAO.
- "Industry Baby" by Lil Nas X featuring Jack Harlow.
- "Thunderstruck" by AC/DC.
- "Seven Nation Army" by The White Stripes.
- "Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns N' Roses.
- "Jump Around" by House of Pain.
- "Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi.
- "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers.
- "Crazy in Love" by Beyonce featuring Jay-Z.
- "Till I Collapse" by Eminem featuring Nate Dogg.
- "Enter Sandman" by Metallica.
- "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne.
- "Run This Town" by Jay-Z featuring Rihanna and Kanye West.
- "We Will Rock You" by Queen.
- "Baba O'Riley" by The



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| Who. | Khaled, Snoop Dogg and T-Pain. | • "Turn Down for What" by DJ Snake and Lil Jon. | Shot" by Pat Benatar. |
| • "Shake it Off" by Taylor Swift. | • "The Greatest" by Sia and Kendrick Lamar. | • "Can't Hold Us" Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. | • "I Feel It Coming" The Weeknd and Daft Punk. |
| • "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars. | • "U Can't Touch This" by MC Hammer. | • "The Boys Are Back in Town" by Thin Lizzy. | • "Paradise City" by Guns N' Roses. |
| • "The Final Countdown" by Europe. | • "Another One Bites the Dust" by Queen. | • "My House" by Flo Rida. | • "A Bar Song" by Shaboozey. |
| • "Beer Can't Fix" by Thomas Rhett. | • "Black Betty" by Ram Jam. | • "Bad to the Bone" by George Thorogood and The Destroyers. | • "Hollaback Girl" by Gwen Stefani. |
| • "Takin' Care of Business" by Bachman-Turner Overdrive. | • "Red Solo Cup" by Toby Keith. | • "Let's Get it Started" by the Black-Eyed Peas. | • "Hot to Go!" by Chappell Roan. |
| • "The Champion" by Carrie Underwood and Ludacris. | • "Walk This Way" by Aerosmith. | • "Chicken Fried" by Zac Brown Band. | • "One Margarita" by Luke Bryan. |
| • "All I Do is Win" by DJ | • "Whatever it Takes" by Imagine Dragons. | • "Hit Me With Your Best | • "APT." by Rose and Bruno Mars. |