



SECTION VI: MUSIC

OUR POLICY

Our camps and competitions comply with all applicable laws. We will obtain the music license(s) we need as hosts in order to present our camps and competitions.

Our music policy for attendees of our camps and competitions is straightforward: you may perform to **any** music that complies with the law. The law permits you to use original songs, “cover” songs or so-called “exclusive” songs (generally new songs by “unknown” music artists) under various circumstances depending upon your team’s specific use. You should always legally purchase your music, and then you should obtain any necessary permission(s) for your music based on your own consideration of applicable law.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do you have a list of “preferred” music vendors whose songs are definitely acceptable at your competitions?

No. We do not promote a “preferred” list of music vendors because we believe teams should have maximum creative freedom. Although we respect the rights of vendors that sell and/or mix covers of popular songs (and you are welcome to use those songs at our competitions, subject to our music policy), we believe encouraging or “preferring” that performers use covers instead of original songs takes profits away from record labels and original music artists. Generally, a competition company that “prefers” cover music vendors simply “prefers” them because the “preferred” cover music vendors have agreed to insure the competition company (not you) against legal liability.

Creative freedom is a foundation of the cheer/dance industry and the College Classic. We believe that a rule that encourages teams to use the music they want, while still honoring the legal rights of copyright holders, is most appropriate for our industry and our company. Thus, we repeat our general rule: you may perform to **any** music that complies with the law.

Why not just give us a list of music, vendors and edits that are definitely okay or not okay?

Our simple rule that you may perform to **any** music that complies with the law, without detailing specific songs, vendors or edits that are definitely okay, is best for you because:



COLLEGE CLASSIC RULES 2019-2020

(1) *Our approach permits maximum creativity.* Creating a “short list” of permissible songs, vendors or edits necessarily excludes other songs, vendors or edits that may be perfectly legal based on your individual circumstances.

(2) *Our approach allows you to control your own destiny.* You can and should educate yourself about copyright law and make your own determination. No one knows your program, your situation or your music needs better than you.

(3) *Our approach does not give you a false sense of security.* No competition company can provide you with legal advice or guarantee that your specific music mix is legally acceptable, given how many millions of possible variations of songs and types of edits you might use. A competition company might adopt a policy that certain specific music and/or a certain type of edit is permitted (or not) at its competitions, but that does not mean that (a) teams following that policy are complying with the law, or (b) teams NOT following that policy (or companies that choose to adopt a different policy) are “illegal.” **Competition rules are just competition rules - they are not the same as the law. Educate yourself about the rights of copyright holders and make informed music choices.**

What will you require for compliance?

We will simply require you to confirm within the online registration process for our competitions that you have read and understand all of our rules and regulations (including our music policy) and agree to comply with same. You should also have information about your music available in case a copyright holder has any questions about it.

What kind of permission(s) might my team need?

Compliance with applicable law in mixing one or more songs typically involves two types of permissions: (1) permission from the recording artist(s) to create derivative works such as editing their song, and (2) permission from the publisher(s) of music to create similar derivative works.

Note that cover songs are not exempt from these requirements and require the same steps to be taken. Getting a license to use cover music from the “owner” of the cover music may be easier than getting a license to use original music from a record company, simply because cover music companies are smaller and cheer or dance teams are often their core audience. However, you would still need to obtain a separate license from the publisher(s) to mix or edit such cover music.

In the next section, we provide resources for your team to assist you in contacting copyright holders about obtaining permission(s) to use and/or edit their songs if you determine it is necessary for your specific music selection.



RESOURCES FOR YOUR TEAM

For a richer understanding of the music permissions universe and how to protect your team's copyrightable work (including your choreography and the right to broadcast your team's performances), take a look at the FAQ published by the National Dance Coaches Association (NDCA), found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/national-dance-coachesassociation/ndca-faq-copyright-and-dance-teams/274095962980858>. This FAQ may also help you evaluate whether you may or may not need specific music permissions.

Here is an online resource we found that contains additional information and contact information and sample letters to music companies:

<http://www.copyrightkids.org/permissioninformation.htm>

Most major record labels and music publishers now have a way to request permission online if you determine it is necessary. Please note that these processes can change and following this process does not guarantee that you will be granted permission or get any response at all.