

Legal Music Clarification

The Illinois Drill Team Association will expect all coaches/teams/soloists to abide by the copyright laws regarding music usage as part of performances. These laws were designed to protect artists and ensure that artists are compensated for their creations.

The following explanations below should clarify what music is in compliance with the U.S. Copyright laws.

1. To use ONE song for a routine: you are allowed to use one song (legally purchased from iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, etc; **youtube is NOT a legal site to obtain music!**) and remove small sections in chronological order. The reason that you cannot do more is that you are not purchasing a Custom/Permission license from the actual artist and/or publisher. In addition, you cannot change the rhythm and/or speed of the music.
2. To use a “mix” of songs: You must purchase "cover songs" from a preferred provider, such as unleashthebeats.com. You may create a mix of this music. You may also place a sound effect or voiceover that you created or purchased from a third party between the cover songs that you are using in the playlist chain. However, the cover songs and/or sound effects and voiceovers cannot overlap or blend into each other.

The purchaser of these cover songs is allowed to make his/her own music mix.

3. To use a music editor or company to make a mix of songs: If you are purchasing a Licensed (cover) Song music mix from a music editor or company, be sure to read their Licenses and Terms and Conditions to make sure that they have the appropriate licensing from the copyright holders to permit them to mix copyrighted material and then determine exactly what rights they are giving to you. The editor or company will either have you purchase the covers songs you want to use and allow them access to them, or they will purchase the cover songs and provide you with the receipt of purchase.
4. To use a pre-made music mix: Make sure to purchase a mix from a music compliant provider (for example – cheermixfactory.com). They should also provide licenses to you to use the mix.
5. To use a non-commercial provider (for example - an original song created by someone who owns the song): Simply keep the documentation that assigns all applicable rights to you and/or the team.

To read more information about the expectations for copyright adherence, please visit the following link: <http://usacheer.net/presssafety/music>

If you have any questions, please contact IDTA President, Michelle Deets, at michelledeets@idta.org.