



## **USA Cheer Music Guidelines for Music Providers\*:**

*Coaches: You should only work with a music provider that agrees to the following guidelines and can provide the appropriate licenses required under U.S. copyright law:*

- When recordings and compositions are completely original:
  - All elements in the recordings, including instrumentation and vocal performances, are owned or controlled by the music provider. If any elements are not owned or controlled by the music provider, the music provider must obtain the appropriate licenses from the applicable copyright owners to edit, re-arrange or otherwise alter such works to create a new work for your team.
  - If teams want to create their own re-mix or otherwise edit any music purchased from a provider of original music, their license agreement with such provider of original music must also specifically include this right to edit, re-arrange or otherwise alter works.
- When recordings are cover recordings of popular music:
  - USA Cheer music guidelines provide that cover recordings of popular music may be used in re-mixes only if the purchase/license of the cover recording includes an explicit right to alter the cover recordings and create new works from these cover recording elements.
- Unlicensed samples may not be used in routine music.
  - No unauthorized third party recordings may be used in any way in the new recordings without a proper license. “Sampling” a series of words or beats from any recording is not permitted unless an appropriate written sampling license was obtained.
- Music providers should allow each team to make up to 40 copies of the recordings
  - A mechanical license fee may need to be paid to reproduce copyrighted musical compositions on CDs, records, downloads, etc. If the music provider does not own or control the underlying musical composition, they will need to obtain a mechanical license to make copies of each recording. The music provider is responsible for obtaining the mechanical license and paying any royalties for each copy made – this includes the copy provided upon your initial purchase of the recording, any subsequent recordings in which they are incorporated, and any additional copies that will be distributed to cheer team members or coaches.

### **Downloading music from authorized digital music retailers does not grant the right to create any re-mixes, mash-ups or medleys using such music.**

- Music purchased from commercial sources like iTunes, Amazon MP3, Google Play, and all other authorized commercial digital music stores only give the user the right to use the music for personal, non-commercial uses.
- However, if teams and coaches wish to only use a single song in their routine, they may bring a legally purchased (from iTunes, Amazon, etc.) copy of that recording to be used at the applicable event. Teams may not re-mix these recordings in any way (such as adding sound effects, changing tempo or mixing with any other recordings), but teams may make minor edits for timing purposes only (for example, removing a chorus or bridge to fit the duration of the team’s performance).

*\*These guidelines should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any concerns, we encourage you to obtain independent legal advice.*