

Cheerleading Music Information

As an organization, the OCCA wants to make sure its members are current with cheerleading rules and safety. We work to stay informed, and we share that information with our members. However, since this new information has caused a big blow to our industry, we feel the need to reach out to all coaches in order to educate. Effective May 15, 2016, USA Cheer announced that all cheer and dance routine music may only use covers of popular songs or original compositions. It is highly recommended that teams purchase their routine music from the authorized list of providers (<http://usacheer.net/presssafety/preferred-providers>). Using music from a provider not on this list could result in a lawsuit against you of up to \$150,000 PER USE. USA Cheer explains that copyright laws are in place to protect and promote creativity while compensating the artists for their creations.

This information is not an easy pill to swallow. It is completely new for EVERYONE, and EVERYONE is in the same predicament. With that being said, we are sure the main thing on your mind is, "What do I do?" The SAFEST thing to do is to buy your music from one on the list of providers (<http://usacheer.net/presssafety/preferred-providers>). There are music producers claiming that they are following these new guidelines, but proceed with caution. If you choose to use a producer not on that list, we would recommend that you ask a lot of questions. In the end, you are responsible for making an informed decision to keep yourself and your program free from litigation. Below is some information to know:

- From this point forward, all mixes need to be licensed and information about this licensing should be available to you. If you request a license and do not receive one, you do not have permission to use the music.
- If a routine is done to a single song, you can use a legally purchased copy of that song (from Amazon, iTunes, etc.) as long as the song is not remixed (sound effect, changed tempo or mixed with other songs). However, minor changes can be made for timing purposes (removing a section of the song to fit the time of performance).

Since this is such a HUGE change in our industry, information is constantly being clarified. It is important to stay educated. The OCCA will do what we can to share information as we receive it, but continually checking the USA Cheer website concerning the music information (<http://usacheer.net/presssafety/music>) is recommended. USA Cheer also understands that this information is new and confusing, so they encourage you to contact them at info@usacheer.net to answer further questions.

The OCCA has taken the time to look into this situation, and we have spoken to many different people that have a lot of knowledge of this copyright issue. We have also spoken to many different music producers. We have come to the conclusion that the preferred producers are stepping up their game to give you quality music to fit the

guidelines. It also feels safest to order music through the preferred providers, because they have the backing of USA Cheer. Music producers who are not on the preferred list also make quality music, but they seem to feel they have found a “loophole” in the law. The main argument is that DJ’s manipulate music all of the time, and they are not being sued. We are not lawyers, and we do not know why this is the case. It may be that DJ’s are next to be hit with this copyright issue. However, be careful of anything that may sound too good to be true, because it probably is.

Please feel free to read more about the new copyright guidelines through the links below. Also, please feel free to contact your OCCA Rep for further information. If you want to stay educated in all aspects of cheerleading in Oregon, become a member. You can do this by clicking the membership link on our website (www.occa.net).

USA Cheer Music Announcement

(http://usacheer.net/aspnet_client/FreeTextBox/upload/documents/USACheerAnnouncement.pdf)

FAQ’s

(http://usacheer.net/aspnet_client/FreeTextBox/upload/documents/USACheerFAQ.pdf)

USA Cheer Music Guidelines

(http://usacheer.net/aspnet_client/FreeTextBox/upload/documents/USACheerGuidelines.pdf)