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POP WARNER LITTLE SCHOLARS CHEER AND DANCE MUSIC POLICY – REVISED 08-26-16

Ownership and creative rights of music are intellectual property covered by Copyright law. Pop Warner respects the intellectual property rights of others and expects all participants to adhere to the following rules regarding use of third party music for cheer and dance performance:

All music used for cheer and dance performance must be purchased from a source authorized to sell a copy.

You may use a mix purchased from an authorized mix vendor.

You may use a song in its complete original form, purchased from an authorized vendor (such as iTunes, or a traditional retail store).

For either a mix or a complete song, save your receipt.

Regional and National championship performances will be covered by licenses secured by Pop Warner Little Scholars.

Any recording or broadcast of the cheer / dance event must be done with the music in background / off mic and with a voiceover describing the participants and the performance.



CURRENT FAQ's

FOR COACHES

1. How about using music during practices or in season events?
 - a. It's OK to use music during practice since it is not a public performance, and is not broadcast or recorded.
 - b. The same would apply for in season events that are not competition and for which no admission is charged.
2. Are the mixes purchased at Summer Camps OK to use at competition? Shouldn't the company that produced the CD have licensed the music? Can those be used?
 - a. Yes, summer camp mixes from a camp provider are permitted for use, please check back with the camp provider to insure that the mix can be used for performance.
3. Can you confirm that a team does not have to use cover songs as long as they purchase music from a source authorized to sell a copy?
 - a. Correct, All PWLS routine music must be purchased from a source authorized to sell a copy regardless if it is a cover song or original artist/composer. This includes cover songs.
4. Does this Music Policy pertain to competitive teams only? What about Tiny Mite/Mitey Mite?
 - a. The policy applies to all age divisions (competitive and non-competitive).
5. Can a cheer or dance team use non-proprietary music (i.e., Star Spangle Banner, Amazing Grace) thus foregoing the requirement of providing licensing?
 - a. Yes, a cheer or dance team can use non-proprietary music foregoing the requirement of licensing.
6. If a cheer or dance team uses original track / something that has not been published by anyone - ever, what must they provide in terms of licensing?
 - a. Ok to use and does not require a license.
7. Can a dance team (or cheer) perform to Spoken word rather than music?
 - a. The PWLS Rule Book states:
 - i. Each cheer team will perform a choreographed routine not to exceed two minutes and thirty second, up to ninety seconds may be performed to music. Each dance team will perform a choreographed routine not to exceed two minutes and thirty seconds.
 - b. Yes, a cheer team can perform to spoken word rather than music. A cheer team "may" perform up to ninety seconds of music, music is not a requirement; however, "Use of Music" is judged in the YCADA Score Sheet under Choreography/Overall Impression, keeping in mind that it is just one of many elements considered in the Overall Impression along with Flow of Routine, Smooth Transitions, Timing, Visual Effects, Level Changes, Roll Offs, Creativity and Execution of Routine.
 - c. Yes, a dance team can perform to spoken word rather than music but it may be more difficult because dance is interpretive to music. Therefore, lack of music may affect your score more so in a Theme Routine. A Theme Routine is judged on Theme Composition – Music, music selection, music expression and compliments theme.
8. Can a Cheer team cheer over their music thus foregoing the requirement of providing licensing?
 - a. Yes, a cheer team can cheer over their music. It will only have an impact on how the use of music in routine is in comparison to other routines in your respective division. It is up to the Judges' objectivity based on the other teams in the division and how they used the music differently.
9. The problem that I am running into is the pre-selected songs on the cheer music websites are not normally approved by PWLS guidelines. So with that being said can we use a song if the lyrics or one part of them are questionable as long as we do not include the "bad" part in the cheer music itself?
 - a. YCADA is judging music being used as it exists and not in its full form. Yes, it is best to use portions of the music, earlier or later in the song, acceptable for family listening. If a song has a curse word, there presumably is a clean "radio" version available for use. You cannot bleep a curse/bad word(s), change a curse word, cover it with a sound or cheer over it.
10. "Proof of Purchase" sounds like all the coaches have to do is prove they paid for their music, from whomever and/or wherever? Is that correct?
 - a. All teams that perform must purchase their music from a source authorized to sell a copy. We strongly recommend that the Head Coach keep a copy for his/her records along with documentation on permitted use of the music.



11. Once I purchase scenarios:
 - a. Once I purchase the license am I free to do whatever with the music?
 - i. Please review your documentation for permitted use of music for complete information.
 - b. If there are teams using the same music (even across the associations) is one purchase enough? So for example if TEAM A purchases a track, can they share amongst the teams, and then, can they share across towns, say giving the music to another Association with the league?
 - i. Yes, they can share but only within the Association.
 - c. Can I use a single song in the routine?
 - i. Yes, a coach may use only one song in a routine.
12. Is there a “No Music” Division in 2016 PWLS Events?
 - a. Although YCADA has a division for “No Music”, PWLS has not adopted the division for the 2016 season. We will discuss at length once we have completed one season with the new music policy.

FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENT ADMINISTRATORS (League, Region and National)

1. What about recording competition and streaming and/or selling DVD's of the competition?
 - a. Music must be in background / off mic, and with voiceover describing the participants and performance.
 - b. May also record / stream / sell without sound.
2. What about recording short-term for Judges' review?
 - a. It's OK to record with sound for Judge's review, then discard / erase.
 - b. You may also record without sound for Judge's review, and save.
3. What if the League/Association does not charge admission to the event (PW Spirit Championships or PW Football Games) does the cheer/dance team still need to purchase from a source authorized to sell a copy?
 - a. Yes, all music used for cheer and dance performances must be purchased from a source authorized to sell a copy.
4. Do I need to confirm with the DJ that he/she has a “Performance License”?
 - a. The music played at the venue should fall under the Venue or Event Host Performance License, please review your event contract with venue and/or DJ.