



LICENSING MUSIC FOR CHEER, DANCE, AND GYMNASTICS

Copyright compliance is an important part of using any material that you did not create. When another person's work is used it is important the creator of that work is compensated for the way it is being used. [Copyright law in the United States](#) is clear in what rights a copyright owner has when it comes to protecting their work and the income that work can generate.

MASHUPS

When a school creates a mashup, permission must be secured. The most common uses for mashups are used in Cheer and Dance. A mashup license allows the team to change the original work and create a new work by either combining works or changing them in a way to fit the intended use. Because these changes are beyond a minor edit, the copyright owner has exclusive rights to allow these changes or not.

PERMISSIONS NEEDED TO USE MUSIC IN A ROUTINE

Anytime music that is not originally created is used in a routine, permission must be received. There are many ways to obtain the permissions needed, permissions should include:

- Editing if looking to combine songs, or to add sound effects, drum tracks, new lyrics, ect.
- Choreography
- Public Performance
- Mechanical license if a recording of your school band will be used.

Simply purchasing the song, have a streaming subscription, or taking it from YouTube does not provide the permissions needed.

UNALTERED MUSIC EXCEPT FOR TIME

Teams may use music that is unaltered in their routines as long as the music begins at the start of the song and is only ended for timing purposes. No other edits may be used. A public performance license is required for this type of use.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS

Public performance licenses can be obtained to cover an entire school and all public performance needs by visiting the copyright resources page at <https://copyright.nfhs.org/>