



Varsity Music Guidelines:

- Click here for an overview: [Music Guidelines Overview](#)
- WHY?: Varsity has been monitoring the music industry and saw that cheer and dance team music editors were being sued by record labels for violating copyright laws. The music companies were getting very aggressive and we wanted to protect our teams as well as comply with and reduce their exposure to US copyright laws. Unfortunately, many of us have been violating copyright laws this entire time without knowing, and we haven't been getting the proper permissions from both the record labels and music publishers. Varsity's legal counsel has strongly encouraged us and our customers to move in this directions and abide by the laws in place by our government so we avoid any infringement issues and hefty fines. Our Varsity brands teach integrity to our students/teams/coaches, and we felt we needed to do the right thing and that was to abide by the US copyright laws.
- Here is a list of Preferred Music Providers that are in compliance: [Preferred Music Providers](#)
 - At the top of the list, you'll find 5 companies that offer properly licensed cover music - Unleashed Beats, Power Music, Cheer Sounds, IPP, and Firstcom
 - All the other options on list can produce Original Music or can edit cover music from one of the top 5 sites listed.

Music Options:

- **Option #1:** You can download from iTunes or Amazon and use as is or make minimal edits but you can't change speed of music. And, you cannot change the order of the song. When you change the order, you are essentially "remixing" the song so it needs to stay in order of the original. It can be edited for timing purposes (i.e. removing a bridge, chorus or verse to adjust the running time of the recording), but it cannot otherwise be edited, mixed or sampled with any other music (sound effects may not be added). (Example: This is a great option for routines using one song – i.e. Jazz routines)
- **Option #2:** Pull cover music from one of the FIVE music providers (UNLEASHED BEATS, POWER MUSIC, CHEER SOUNDS, IPP, OR FIRSTCOME) from the Preferred Provider List to provide you with a dance mix or edits of proper licensing songs. The music they provide are cover songs that have been properly licensed and are in compliance. You can use your own music editor to cut the music or make the mix... but, they need to purchase cover songs off of one of the 5 sites to ensure they are properly licensed. You can include sounds effects but they must be purchased and you can change the speed of music. You can use as many cover songs together as you wish. (Example: Great for Pom or Hip Hop mixes or when wanting to combine multiple songs together).
- **Option #3:** Original Music/Put together an original song. A group of musicians create an original song for your routine. Please refer to the list of preferred providers that offer this

service. Click here to see a sample of an original Hip Hop Music mix created by Cheer Sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33rvhF3n47w&feature=youtu.be>

- **Option #4:** You can use music that Varsity has provided at summer camps or clinics and can be purchased at the Varsity store.
- **Option #5:** You can use popular music as a part of a remix, but you need to get the appropriate permissions to edit the recording and the underlying composition or song. This can be difficult because it's time consuming and expensive as you might not get immediate approvals from these groups in time for your performances. (Example: If you're wanting to mix music from the original artist and put their songs together – i.e. Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson, you would need to reach out to both artists to get approvals and for all artists within your mix.)
- **Questions regarding Legitmix:** We have receive many inquiries about whether mixes purchased from a company known as "Legitmix" comply with the Varsity Music Guidelines. To be sure, music purchased from Legitmix does not comply with USA Cheer Music or Varsity Guidelines. Presenting proof of purchase from Legitmix will not satisfy the Varsity Music Guidelines. Purchases made from a preferred provider of music that include any portion of a Legitmix product will not comply with USA Cheer Music/Varsity Guidelines nor will music for which permission has not been secured from the owner of all the recordings and all the publishers.
- **Do I need to show music documentation at competitions and Nationals?** Within the competition rules, it will ask if you have the proper licensing and have followed the music guidelines. Your signature will confirm your compliance with the music guidelines. Documentation including proof of purchase will be asked of you should an event producer question your music during the competition. Please make sure you carry a copy of your proof of purchase that your music editor provides you. If you're using one song off of iTunes, please make sure you print out your receipt too. Those that do not follow the music guidelines, may be disqualified from the competition.
- Music Questions: Please email ncestone@varsity.com or dancemusic@varsity.com .

Looking forward to seeing you at a Varsity competition this season!

All the best!

Nicole Cestone *\/o/*

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SAVE THE DATE:

USA DANCE NATIONALS

MARCH 31-APRIL 1

LONG BEACH CONVENTION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

<https://usa.varsity.com/Competitions/Dance>

<https://usa.varsity.com/Competitions/Dance-Nationals>

Watch Dance Nationals Highlights [HERE!](#)

SAVE THE DATE:

USA Spirit Nationals (Cheer & Song/Pom) March 24-26 at Anaheim, CA

<https://usa.varsity.com/Competitions/Spirit>

NDA:

<http://nda.varsity.com/>

SAVE THE DATE:

MARCH 3-5 @ HARD ROCK LIVE, ORLANDO FL

<http://www.nda.varsity.com/Competitions/High-School-Nationals>

<http://www.nda.varsity.com/Competitions/Regional-Championships>