

EPIC BRANDS – MUSIC COPYRIGHT EXPECTATIONS

Any team participating in Epic events must comply with the following Copyright guidelines.

1. What is a Copyright and how does it apply to our Team?

A copyright is the right that an author of a work of art has to control the use of his or her work. As it relates to Epic competitions, copyrights are important because each team uses music in each of their performances. Each piece of music that forms part of a team routine belongs to a copyright holder.

2. Why is it important to respect the Copyrights of others?

First, respecting the work of others is the right thing to do. You would not want someone to steal a product that you have worked very hard to create. Second, failure to respect these types of rights can result in significant personal liability to you, your team, and other parties associated with the competition. You can be fined up to \$150,000 for each infringement of another party's copyright. A court could find that each time the music was used at a competition constitutes a separate infringement. As a result the costs can be significant. In addition, such fine does not include all other costs that may be associated with defending yourself against a suit for copyright infringement, such as lawyer's fees and court costs.

3. How does a Team avoid infringing a third party's copyright?

In order to avoid a third party's copyright, you must obtain a license from the copyright holder or its representative. You must be careful, however, to ensure that you obtain the correct types of license to perform the work.

4. What type of license do I need in order to make sure I do not infringe a third party's copyright?

There are several types of licenses that may be required in order for you to ensure you are covered. The following is a brief description of the type of licenses that may be required.

- a. A mechanical license: This license covers the use of the underlying sheet music and lyrics to the composition.
- b. A master license: This is license allows you to combine a pre-recorded piece of music with other pieces of music. In some instances, the master license will include the mechanical license for the underlying composition. It may also include the right to publicly perform the music at an event (as described in letter "c" below).

- c. A public performance license: This license allows you to use the recording in public, such as at a competition. This license may be included in a master license, but you need to make sure that it is.
- d. A synchronization license: A synchronization license allows one to combine music with other elements in an audio-visual recording, such as a video. This is not required for live, public performance.

5. Is there an easy way to obtain the required licenses?

Yes. There are online services that will allow you to put together the music from libraries to which they already have access. Such services, will give you the required license that ensures you are protected. You should make sure, however, that you purchase the right type of license that allows you to perform the routine at a competition. You must ensure that you have your license with you at the competition. The team may not be allowed to perform if you cannot provide the license to the judges at the event. You should not put together a routine from a personal library (iTunes, owned CDs, etc.) because you are only allowed to utilize that music for your personal enjoyment, not to perform or combine it with other music. Epic will not accept music that does not comply with the licensing requirements from the publishers/owners of the music.

Some examples of producers who can provide you with appropriate licenses can be found at the following link:

<http://usacheer.net/presssafety/preferred-providers>

If you use any of these producers, it is important to ensure they provide you with the appropriate documentation.

6. What do I need to provide to the judges or promoters of the event if asked for a license?

Please complete the attached License Confirmation Form.



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LICENSE CONFIRMATION FORM

Date	
Team Name	
Coach	
Team Number	
I hereby confirm that I have the following licenses for each segment of the music the team is utilizing for their routine, please attach copy or each license listed:	
Public Performance	
Master	
Other	
Please provide the following information about the music producer from whom you obtained the license:	
Producer Name	
Producer Address	
Producer Telephone Number	
Producer e-mail Address	
I have attached the proof of license to this form. If proof of license is not attached, I will provide it upon request.	
I understand that I may be solely responsible for any claims of copyright infringement for the use of the music track during this routine.	
Name	
Address	
Telephone Number	
E-mail address	
Signature	