

ISDTA MUSIC GUIDELINES

Music Verification Forms available at www.isdta.net

For your own protection as well as assuring the our ISDTA competitions are using due diligence to be compliant with Federal Music Copyright Law:

- We are asking all ISDTA member schools to comply with Federal Music Copyright laws and purchase your music from legitimate and legal sources (iTunes, Amazon, etc).
- If you are using competition music that has been edited/mixed, make sure the music provider has the proper licensing to edit/mix the music. This is a different license than just being allowed to play the music, so be sure the person editing your music has the appropriate licensing to EDIT. Most dance studios, radio stations, etc have the proper licensing from ASCAP, BMI and SESAC to play music, but it is not as common to have the edit/mixing licensing.
- Once you have purchased your music (whether it's an edited mix or one song) you can not sell any portion of it.

To be compliant with Federal Music Copyright Law for the ISDTA Solo and Team competitions:

1. Purchase your music legally and have proof of this purchase (iTunes or Amazon receipt, etc.)
2. You can personally edit it. Editing must be limited to removing sections of the music to comply with time limitations
 - Solos 1:30 - 2:00 minutes
 - Team (other than Show Production) 1:30 - 2:00 suggestedalthough team routines can be up to 2:15 in length.
 - Show Production 3:00 - 5:00 minutes

HOWEVER, sections of the song should not be cut and then inserted out of order.

For example :

- In your purchased original, the song starts with a 4-count drum riff. It only happens at the very beginning of the song and isn't heard again.
- You would like to cut this from the beginning and insert it at the end for a dramatic finish to your routine's music.
- You shouldn't do this...you are re-arranging/changing the music from it's original format.

3. Tempos shouldn't be dramatically altered from the original. Sound effects and sound overlays/mash-ups are not recommended, as this changes the original piece of music.

4. If you are combining more than one song (all of which you have legally purchased), it is recommended to clearly define when one song ends and the next one begins.

5. If you want to mix songs together and utilize layered sound effects, voice-overs, etc. you would need to purchase a mixed music edit from a Preferred Music Provider who has the proper licenses to edit and then to sell to you. The coach is responsible for getting copies/proof of the provider's licensing which clearly shows that they are licensed to edit music, add sound effects and voice-overs, etc.

6. If you are purchasing music that has already been mixed from iTunes, Amazon, etc. then that is OK because you are purchasing it in that format and not making additional mixing changes yourself.

7. If you plan to compete in other competitions sponsored by other companies, be sure to check their music guidelines and requirements as they may differ from the ISDTA guidelines listed above.

8. All coaches will be asked to sign the ISDTA Music Verification form and have proof of legal music purchases as well as a statement or photo-copy of licensing if you are using a music mix. In addition: You will also need to list the name of the person responsible for editing the music (yourself, a studio choreographer, etc). OR a document showing the properly licensed Preferred Music Provider that did your music.

9. Staple your receipts and any additional documents to the Music Verification form and turn it in at Registration. If you have multiple soloists you will have a Music Verification form to turn in for each dancer. However, if the same person did multiple music edits then one form can be used for those dancers.

Example #1:

Coach Turnage purchased the music from iTunes and did the editing (cuts made for time purposes with no additional sound effects, etc) for three of her soloists. She can turn in one Music Verification form listing all three dancers, and she will have three receipts stapled to her form.

Example #2:

Coach Turnage has three more soloists that are using their studio instructors for solo choreography and music. She will have three different Music Verification forms, with each form having the signature of the studio person that did their music and each form has a receipt stapled to it as proof of legal purchase.

9. For multiple team routines you will list each person responsible for each music edit.