



Music Licensing Rights at USEF Licensed Competitions

As an organizer of a USEF licensed competition, you have access to resources to assist in the smooth operation of your event. These resources include several music licensing options that can be utilized throughout your event to provide your participants and spectators alike with an enjoyable experience.

When playing any type of recorded music (e.g., streamed music) in public, you need a public performance license, which can be obtained from one of the several Performing Rights Organizations (PRO). There are currently four PROs in the United States, ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, and GMR. Currently ASCAP and BMI are the two largest PROs and have a combined library of more than 25 million songs. Because each PRO maintains its own unique library of music and can own either full rights or only partial rights to a song, it is important to know which PRO owns the public performance license for the music you want to play.

For many years, USEF has obtained public performance licenses from ASCAP and BMI. These public performance licenses permit you, as a competition organizer, to play music from the ASCAP and BMI libraries over the sound systems and speakers at your Federation Licensed Competitions. In order to ensure compliance with the requirements of music licensure, it is important that, unless your competition has obtained its own public performance licenses, you only play music from the ASCAP and BMI libraries; additionally, you will need to subscribe to a commercial music service (such as Soundtrack Your Brand (a Spotify partner) or Pandora for Business) that will allow you to play recorded music. Most online music streaming platforms provide curated libraries of songs searchable by PRO, and some also offer public performance licenses with use of their platform. In addition to using the proper library of songs, please ensure you are using your selected music streaming platform in accordance with the terms and conditions of the platform's usage.

If your competition is being streamed online, either on the USEF Network, or another streaming location, any audible music captured in the streamed video will need an additional license referred to as a synchronization license. Typically, this license can be obtained from the songwriter/composer's music publishing company and the recording label. For our members' convenience, USEF has obtained a global blanket license from Warner Chappell, which includes both synchronization and public performance licenses to their owned library of music. If you are hosting a streamed licensed competition, you have access to the full catalog of music owned by Warner Chappell and will be able to provide music to accompany your streamed video.

The following is a summary of USEF's music licenses available for use by competition organizers:

	ASCAP (US Territories)	BMI (US Territories)	Warner Chappell (Worldwide)
Music Use by Competition Org:			
• Competition NOT streamed	X	X	X
• Competition streamed on USEF Network			X
• Competition streamed on third party platform (e.g., You Tube, ESPN, NBC, etc.)			X

For more information about music options, including use of the Warner Chappell library of music, please contact USEF at generalcounsel@usef.org.