

## Music Preparation (UDO)

There are a few guidelines for your (team/ school/ crew) to follow in order for your music to be played successfully at a UDO competition.

First of all, make sure you (the competitor) follow the guidelines set out in the UDO rules for handing in team music for competitions.

The main points to pay attention to are:

- Check your music for swearing and inappropriate language (especially in regards to dancehall/ragga where explicit terms in *\*patois* seem to be usually left in).

**If you fail to do this, penalties will apply as outlined in the UDO rules handbook.**

*\*patois – Caribbean dialect (if you do not know, please ask someone who knows about the language used)*

- Confirm the correct timing and length of the music used for your respective age and division category

**If you fail to do this, penalties will apply**

- Make sure the music levels are set to a decent standard by checking it on a PA system

**If you fail to do this, please understand that the DJ(s) will not \*alter the volume if the recording is low.**

*\*Alterations to music levels will only be done if the sound/music level is harmful to the equipment and may cause a short circuit. In which case, the music will be turned down to an appropriate level and then put back to the appropriate mark when needed.*

We understand that many teams, crews and teachers use different software/ programmes to manage their soundtracks for competitions.

The first thing to adhere to is **sourcing** your music.

**Please use sources that allow you to hear the music at its optimum level.**

For those technically inclined, music produced and sourced higher than (or at) **192kbps** is ideal.

Anything lower will mean that the **quality** of the sound will be sacrificed.

For example, we recommend avoiding downloading music from **YouTube** as the majority of music on YouTube is of low quality. When recording on a device, please ensure that white noise is kept to a minimum.

Handing in a soundtrack with a song that you downloaded from YouTube will always vary in quality and especially, volume.

**Buy your music (support the Artist) or find a sound engineer to assist in 'cleaning up' the track.**

**UDO DJs** provide services to help competitors with their music for such instances. If you are unable to have a technician overlook your soundtrack, the UDO DJ's are available through emailing the UDO office: [christie@theudogroup.com](mailto:christie@theudogroup.com)

After having checked the quality of the song(s)/ soundtrack, test your music on various systems. Watch your **equaliser** settings, if you have to turn the volume up, there is likely to be an issue with the soundtrack. You can test the sound track on a car stereo, headphones, laptop and ideally **loud speakers**.

Testing your soundtrack on different devices will allow you to pinpoint where adjustments may need to be made prior to handing in your music. Please ensure such testing has been made before uploading your music before the correct deadline.

We hope that these instructions are clear and concise for you to follow and will aid your understanding of obtaining a quality soundtrack for your performance.

The general rules are: use decent sourced music, test the levels and quality on several devices and finally, **hand in your music on time**.

For further information, please contact the UDO team by telephone (02920 799 199) or by email ([hello@theudogroup.com](mailto:hello@theudogroup.com)). You can also contact UDO DJ's by the details given on the UDO website.