

Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey
in Cooperation with the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder and the NJ Dept. of Human Services

njba NEW JERSEY Broadcasters Association

WRAT 95.9 The RAT ROCKS!

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: Should I submit a video or a recording of my song?
Answer: You must submit a recording of your song and the instrumental/soundtrack in MP3 files. You can also submit a performance video with your entry, in an MP4 file, if you wish to. Videos will be used for the pre-recorded Virtual Concert featuring the finalists. However, if you choose not to submit a video, and you are chosen as a finalist, your recorded song will be played during the Concert. If you do not submit a video, it will not affect your chances of winning.

Question 2: What format should I submit my music entry in?
Answer: MP3 files are required for recordings and MP4 for videos. If you have trouble uploading your files, please contact the program coordinator for assistance at Matt@DrugFreeNJ.org. We will work with you to submit your entry.

Question 3: Should I "announce" myself on my recording or video?
Answer: No. You should not speak or otherwise identify yourself on your video or recording.

Question 4: What if I don't play an instrument, or I am going to school remotely and don't have access to instruments at my school?
Answer: There are apps available (some for free) where you can download music and beats and create your own Soundtrack but please make sure not to use any copyrighted music.

Question 5: Can my song go over the 3 minute-limit?
Answer: NOOOO! Songs MUST comply with the 3-minute limit or they will be rejected.

Question 6: For groups - do all members of a group have to attend the same high school? And must we all register?
Answer: Group members can attend different high schools, but they all must live in New Jersey. Every group member must register at https://shoutdowndrugs.com/register/

Question 7: I attend a New Jersey high school, but I am not a New Jersey resident. Can I still participate?
Answer: No, this contest is only open to high school students who reside in New Jersey.

Question 8: Do all members of a group have to currently be in high school?
Answer: Yes, you all must be in high school, grades 9-12, during the current school year and live in New Jersey to enter the contest.

Question 9: Can someone accompany me with music or vocals in my video or recorded song?
Any accompanying vocalist or musician must be a part of your entry and must register in the contest. If they are not a high school student and New Jersey resident, they cannot be a part of your entry and cannot perform with you in your video and would not be a part of any winnings you might receive.

However, you may include recorded backup vocals or instrumentals in your video or recording. Please also remember to adhere to copyright rules.

Question 10: I participated in the contest before. Can I participate again - even if I was a finalist?
Answer: Yes. Only past winners cannot re-enter. However, you must submit a new, original song.

Question 11: If one member of a group drops out of the contest, can we substitute that member with another person?
Answer: No. However, the remaining members of the group can still continue in the contest, after contacting the program coordinator for permission.

Question 12: Is an entry disqualified if the student has signed a professional contract?
Answer: No. However, if the student's contract does not allow them to adhere to the "Contest Rules" or to assign and give PDFNJ exclusive rights to their song (if they win the contest) in accordance with the "Copyright License, Copyright Assignment and Talent Release" their entry and any winnings will be disqualified.

Question 13: Can I submit my song if it has been copyright protected?
Answer: If the song you are entering is the subject of a copyright registration or pending copyright application, and you are a Winner in the contest, you must re-assign all rights for the song to PDFNJ, via a form that will be provided to you by PDFNJ. If you win the contest and choose not to assign ownership to PDFNJ, your Winner status will be nullified,
and you will be ineligible to collect any benefits as a Winner of the Competition, including but not limited to monetary prizes and media promotion. See Paragraph 5 of the Copyright License, Copyright Assignment & Talent Release for details.

Question 14: Why must I assign/reassign all rights of my winning song to PDFNJ if I win the contest?
Answer: This initiative was created by PDFNJ to allow New Jersey teens to use the power of their music to encourage their peers to live a life free from substance use and misuse. Since the winning songs are representative of our organization's mission, it is necessary for PDFNJ to take ownership to protect the song from ever being altered. We do gladly encourage winners to continue to perform their winning songs with the hopes of reaching even more with their powerful messages. PDFNJ is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and does not receive any profit or royalties from any of its statewide programs, including the music from Your Song! Your Voice! Shout
Down Drugs NJ. If your song is the subject of a copyright registration and you are not comfortable with this rule, we respectfully suggest you reconsider entering the contest.

Question 15: Can I enter more than one song in the contest in the same year?
Answer: No, only one song entry is permitted per person per contest year.

Question 16: Can I participate in more than one group entry?
Answer: No, you are only permitted to participate in one entry - group or individual performance.

Question 17: What if I am having trouble meeting the deadline?
Answer: If you are having trouble with any part of your entry, contact the program coordinator for assistance. We will gladly assist you! Also, many high schools are willing to assist their students with their entry, including SACs, music teachers, guidance counselors, etc.

IF YOUR QUESTION STILL HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED, PLEASE CONTACT THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR:
Matt@DrugFreeNJ.org