



**Competition Dance Teams
Parent/Student Handbook
2019-2020**

A competitive dance team is designed for the serious dancer who is highly motivated in the performing arts. Those selected for team will need to possess the following:

- Be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate
- Have solid technical and performance skills
- Strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer
- Have a sense of humor, bright smile, and positive attitude
- Have respect for the team, staff, and parents
- Show support for the studio and fellow dancers

The Competition Experience:

It is important to understand that the “competition” aspect of being a member of a Competitive Dance Team should be considered a “performance” opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and each dancer’s growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. It is important to keep competition experiences positive, and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within your dancer. Team members are not in competition with each other. Students are encouraged to strive to improve themselves and to work to their full capacity. Each dancer is uniquely different, each with their own strengths and weaknesses and each brings their own talent to the team.

Attendance/Late Arrivals:

Attendance is mandatory for all dance classes. The studio tries its best to be flexible and accommodating with conflicts due to school and/or important family activities. However, by becoming a member of a team, you have agreed that this is a priority in your schedule. Missed classes for any reason other than illness must be approved in advance. Student absences will be recorded. If more than 3 unexcused absences have occurred, it is possible the dancer may not be able to compete in the competition OR they may be required to take some private lessons at a cost to catch up. Students must arrive on time for class or earlier. Missing the first part of class causes the students to become behind on stretching and warming up which can lead to injuries. More than 3 late arrivals may result in additional classes assigned by the competition teachers to make up for the lost time. Being part of the competition team requires a full team effort and attendance is very important for all dancers. Dance teachers do understand that they are dealing with busy children and socially active teens with many school demands; being a well-rounded individual is important, however, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught....students must be present!

Required Classes:

Each dancer is required to take a certain set of classes based on which team they are a part of (X-Factor, X-Cel or X-Treme Team). Team specific schedules can be picked up at the front desk. If you have questions or concerns about your child's ability to meet their set schedule, please set an appointment to meet with Miss Shari to discuss options.

Specialty Solo/Duo/Trio Requirements

If your child is selected for a solo, duo, and/trio, the choreographer will arrange practice times separate from regular classes.

JUDGING

Every competition has different criteria for judging routines. The four basic things that routines are ALWAYS judged on are:

1. Technique:

The reason for all those extra ballet techs and stretch/strength classes is **TECHNIQUE!**

This includes:

- pointed feet
- turn-out
- extensions
- proper execution of turns
- use of plié
- placement of hands

****TECHNIQUE IS ALWAYS AT LEAST 50% OF A ROUTINE'S SCORE, SO GET TO THOSE BALLET CLASSES!!***

2. Overall Performance Quality

How well each student knows their routine and how well they entertain the judges and audience with it. Also, in this area, is the use of facial expression to convey the "feeling " of the routine.

3. Choreography

Here the **TEACHER** is judged! Choreography scores are based on appropriate choice of music and costumes, use of stage, difficulty of routine and how well the movement in the dance relates to the music. This is often the smallest portion of the overall score.

4. Appearance

This pertains to costume fit, whether undergarments are showing, neatness of hair and make-up. Hats and hair pieces must be securely attached and, if performing in a group, consistently placed. Costumes will be tested BEFORE the first competition to determine if adjustments are needed. This is non-negotiable for all students and all teams, including solos/duets/trios. Double check that you have the proper bra/tights/shoe for each dance. Wardrobe malfunctions can bring down a score very quickly!

Awards:

Awards Ceremonies are usually held a few times each day of competitions and are the MOST FUN time of the weekend! Students are required to wear their team jackets on stage for all award ceremonies that they attend. They are required to attend all award ceremonies for the teams that they are on but students often like to go on stage for others.

Awards are the time to:

- Hoot and holler (parents AND dancers)
- Take pictures
- Sit back and relax.

*The most important thing to remember about awards is that ALL scores are the opinions of 3 or 4 judges.

Trophies/Prizes:

Solo trophies are kept by the individual who earned them. Duo/Trio/Group trophies will be brought to the studio. The representative from the group who went up to accept the award is responsible for ensuring that it gets to the coach who is attending. Cash prizes: Any cash prize awarded at a competition for groups will go to the studio. Any cash prizes awarded for a solo will go to the soloist. Any cash prize awarded to a duo or trio will be split between those dancers. Any cash prizes awarded for choreography will go to the choreographer.

Financial Commitment

Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment. Competitive teams not only have to plan for monthly tuition, but also costume, choreography, and competition fees. We encourage each dancer to be proactive in their efforts to fundraise and or seek out sponsors to help meet these costs.

Fees

Team members may select their own choreographer for solos. The choreographer that a student chooses will have their personal fee, this will be paid directly to the choreographer. It is the responsibility of the parent/student to be aware of the fee and to insure full payment prior to the start of the choreography. DancExpo, Inc. team members will receive 8 hours of studio time to master their choreography. For studio dancers needing additional time for rehearsing their routines they can use “open floor” time when available at no cost. If no “open floor” time is available, they must book studio time with the front desk at a cost of \$20.00 an hour. If you need further assistance in selecting a choreographer, please schedule a time with Miss Shari to discuss.

Competition/Convention Entry Fees

You will be given a convention and competition schedule at the beginning of the season. Each dancer’s competition costs vary based on their age, the size of the group performing each dance, and the number of dances the dancer is participating in. If your monthly company fees are not paid in a timely manner it may result in your dancer’s performances not being entered in the competition.

Travel/Hotel Expenses

Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. While we try to select “local” competitions, there are some instances where a competition will require some travel and hotel expenses. These expenses are at the cost of the families. The studio does not provide compensation for such expenses.

Required Company Jacket

Each team member is required to purchase a company jacket. Prices will be available at the front desk.

Costume Expenses

Costume charges are additional. Each dance that your child participates in will require a costume purchase. These prices will be provided once they are set. If you quit or are asked to leave a team, you are required to leave your costumes at the studio for another person to fill your spot. This is not negotiable. Your costume will be returned to you at the end of the season.

Fundraising

Competition teams often require a lot of fundraising and sponsorship. Individual fundraisers and sponsorships will go directly to the student's personal account. Studio fundraisers will be for a specific purpose and will be used towards studio needs. We are a non-profit studio; our mission is to give our students the best opportunity to succeed. We will focus on giving them the best equipment, instructors, and performance opportunities. The dancers are expected to be fully involved in fundraising because it is for them after all.

Please remember that while you are fundraising you are representing DancExpo, Inc. and you are to follow everything laid out in this handbook regarding etiquette, respect, and professionalism.

Etiquette / Code of Conduct

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the DancExpo, Inc. Competitive Dance Teams is to provide students with an opportunity to participate in an activity and develop sportsmanship, character, and competitiveness. Participation on the Dance Team is a privilege, not a right. As a member of the team you represent your studio; and your conduct and actions on the dance floor, in the audience and in the community should not deviate from the regulations set forth in our Code of Conduct. Team members must show determination, dedication, and desire to be a productive member of this team.

CONDUCT RULES:

We always expect for our dancers to uphold age appropriate and respectful behavior. If your actions are not deemed appropriate and respectful and do not coincide with this organization's guidelines you will be denied participation on the Dance Team.

SOCIAL MEDIA and STUDIO ETIQUETTE:

This policy is not meant to be taken personally or lightly. If you post negative things on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. or exhibit behavior reflecting negatively on our studio, we will consider this ground for probation or suspension from the company. This includes the behavior of the parents. If we are in a public situation (competitions, performances, conventions, etc.) the expectation is that you will conduct your behavior responsibly. Remember you are a representative of DancExpo, Inc. If there are situations that need to be addressed, please remember that we can handle those upon return to the studio. In a public forum, it is unacceptable. Our goal is to foster a healthy competitive team environment. With so many personalities, we realize that conflicts may arise, but we must be respectful of one another. Be kind to one another. There is no room for personal conflicts amongst the team. Do not bring them to the dance studio. It is hard to stop gossip among students and parents altogether, but we do not want it to

become destructive. If you have a problem with a parent or another student, please try to resolve it with the person you are having the issue with. If it cannot be resolved contact the Director to discuss your concerns and the proper corrections will be made.

Dance Competition Etiquette:

1) Sportsmanship

One thing you must remember is that every single dancer works very hard to perform. Every parent wants their child to do well and be noticed. Every dance teacher works diligently so that their students perform to the best of their ability. Everybody at a dance competition has at least all of that in common. Therefore, YOU, as a student, parent, or teacher should clap for every single dance and every single award given if you are present in the auditorium. Dancers, you would want to be clapped for, so do the same for others. Appreciate the art not just when YOU are being recognized. Parents set the example. Tell your children in advance how important it is to wish others good luck and clap for other dancers. Parents try not to live vicariously through your dancer. Instead, appreciate every child for putting effort into their hobby.

2) Backstage

A. In reference to sportsmanship, wish the dancers before you and after you; “good luck”. When dancers come off stage, tell them that they did a “good job”. These words cost you no extra effort. In fact, you may even make a few friends. It doesn’t matter what studio they are from. They need encouragement just as you would. Your efforts will most likely be noticed and very appreciated.

B. Do not block the wings to watch. Dancers often have wing changes, props, and/or run off after the dance. If you are sitting in the wings, you are in the way. It’s as simple as that. Be at least 3 feet away from the wings. If you are the next dance, you will most likely have time to enter the wings while you are being announced.

C. Be quiet. I know dancers get nervous backstage. However, that’s no reason to start laughing uncontrollably loud. Saying “shhhhhh” is a lot louder than tapping a person and whispering to them to remind them to hold the volume down.

D. Know your dance and be aware of your space. Do not decide to practice your entire dance backstage. Movement backstage is extremely distracting to the dancer. Not to mention, dangerous. You could hurt yourself and others. Stretching backstage usually means you’re in the way. Instead, consider stretching in the dressing room.

3) Dressing Rooms

It's common for studios to segregate themselves in the dressing rooms. That's fine. However, be mindful of everyone's space. Throw your trash away. Don't touch anything that isn't yours. Don't practice dances full out.

4) Schedule

Most competitions will schedule numbers in between yours or accommodate costume changes. Either way, competitions prefer to stay on schedule. If you have a decent number of dances close together, do your best to make it backstage a few numbers beforehand. If a competition runs late, it's usually the fault of dancers' changes and that time adds up. It's up to the dancer to change quickly and report backstage. Don't make the backstage manager have to come find you. If you have 5-10 dances in between your numbers, now is not the time to check your cell phone, watch dances from the audience, run your dance, or sit back and relax. Change and wait backstage. Most costume changes can be done in about 5 minutes or less if a dancer is really making the effort.

5) Awards Ceremony

A. Even at the awards ceremony, you are performing. You are on stage. Do not bring your cell phone with you. Your texts and Facebook status of your results can wait a few minutes.

B. Leave room for the judges (or whoever is handing out awards) to walk. If you are asked to move over, please do so. There is plenty of room available.

C. We know you're tired by this point, but you can be energetic for a few more minutes. This means clap for EVERYONE. Refer back to #1.

D. When accepting an award, an improper response would be to grab the award and walk away. A more acceptable response is a handshake, and ALWAYS a "Thank You". It doesn't matter if you get a bronze or a platinum. It's nice to show your gratitude toward the judges for taking the time to evaluate you.

6) Competition

Competitions aren't just about the trophies. Competitions are about bettering yourself and challenging yourself. Therefore, you should participate in all of the available workshops and seminars at competitions. You should also take the time to watch dancers from other studios. Also, when you get home, ask your teacher if you can see the critiques so you can fix your mistakes for the future.

7) Attitude

While a certain amount of confidence is required to perform on stage, there is a thin line between confidence and arrogance. Be gracious. Your parents and teachers have worked extremely hard to get you to where you are today. Thank them before patting yourself on the back. Stay grounded, humble, and aware of other dancer's feelings....and after all that, THEN be proud of yourself because everyone else is.

8) Etiquette in the Auditorium

- No videotaping or flash photography of any kind is allowed at dance competitions. It is for the safety of both student and teacher's choreography. It can also cause disqualification. Please turn off your cell phones and enjoy watching the wonderful world of dance.
- Please do not enter or exit during performances, wait until they have completed the routine before leaving your seat. The opening and closing of the doors can be distracting and is disrespectful to the dancer(s).
- Never approach a judge with questions regarding an adjudication or mark.
- Never speak negatively about another dancer/routine, you never know whose family is sitting next to you. Be kind and respectful.

We look forward to another amazing season!

TEAM TUTION AND FEE SCHEDULE

X-Factor and X-Cel Teams

Registration - \$15.00 (season)

Tuition - \$250.00 (monthly)

Costume - \$350.00 (season) due before Sunday 10 November 2019

X-Treme Team

Registration - \$15.00 (season)

Tuition - \$175.00 (monthly)

Costume - \$250.00 (season) due before Sunday 10 November 2019

ALL Choreography Fees (per routine)

\$200.00 (solos / duets)

\$240.00 (trios)

\$300.00 (small group)

DancExpo, Inc. team members will receive 8 hours of studio time to master their choreography. For studio dancers needing additional time for rehearsing their routines they can use “open floor” time when available at no cost. If no “open floor” time is available, they must book studio time with the front desk at a cost of \$20.00 an hour.

Competition and Tour Fees

These will be announced and published in advance