

**DYNAMIC DANCE ACADEMY
2019-2020 COMPANY TEAM CONTRACT**

The purpose of this contract is to make sure that all company members are aware of the commitment and expectations that come along with being a member of the DDA Company Team, and that they accept this responsibility. The focus of our team is to help dancers grow technically and competitively while gaining the invaluable lessons of good sportsmanship, friendships, team unity, and a deeper love for dance. **THIS IS A NOT A RECREATIONAL GROUP!** Please read through this contract carefully.

No student of Dynamic Dance Academy is required to be a member of this Company Team, therefore; participation is considered a *privilege and an honor*. It is imperative that students selected as Company Team members, and their parents/guardians, understand the contract and all rules therein, and that failure to adhere to these rules may result in dismissal from the team. New and updated information in this contract has been highlighted for you.

TECHNIQUE CLASS REQUIREMENTS

PEANUT TEAM

2 hours ballet

1 hour jumps & turns

PREP/PARTIAL TEAM

1 hour prep team class/1 conditioning or jumps and turns class

HIP-HOP TEAM

1 conditioning class

FULL TEAM

3 hours ballet

1 hour team conditioning

1.5 hours jumps & turns

WHY IS BALLET/TECHNIQUE SO IMPORTANT?

Learning proper dance technique is essential to a student's success. While taking classes that focus on choreography is fun; taking only those types of classes does not make a student a skilled dancer. Good technique will ensure a dancer's longevity, prevent injuries, build strength and flexibility, and refine movement quality. This provides technically skilled dancers with the ability to dance using correct body placement and alignment and beautiful lines. But what does that all mean? Ultimately, it means moving efficiently with the least amount of effort possible, making dance look easy and effortless.

Ballet classes are always composed of a series of exercises that begin at the barre and progress to the center exercises, performed without the barre. The exercises progress in the same order as each exercise prepares students for the elements that follow. Performing these exercises regularly and consistently continues to condition muscles and muscle memory. Students learn that there is always room for improvement. Ballet training is a system based on repetition that develops in students a keen body awareness. So often we have been asked, "Why are there so many stretches at the barre?"

To make a comparison, is there any doubt why Tiger Woods practices his golf swing so many times, or why a major league baseball player goes to the batting cage? No one would ask that because the answer is clear. It is the same with dance class.

Basic skills need to be analyzed, practiced, and executed correctly and repeatedly in classes that have been assigned to students.

ATTENDANCE

Students cannot work to their full potential if they are consistently late or absent. Dance must be a priority to every company member and their parents/guardians. Make every effort to schedule doctor appointments, parties and other activities around class. Please make these sacrifices without complaint because as part of a team, your actions and choices will affect the entire team. Every effort is made to schedule all classes and practices to make it efficient for each member of the team. Attendance for technique classes will be recorded in a Google document and available to view at your convenience 24/7. All decisions and consequences regarding dancer absences/tardiness are at the discretion of the teacher.

Absences from **technique classes** must be made up within the month they are missed. **There are many important reasons why we place each student in their assigned technique classes.** In addition, consistently only taking a ballet class that a student is not assigned in (a level above or below) is detrimental to their improvement and growth! Any technique class missed must be made up in a ballet class. Students can choose to make up their missed class at either studio location. If a dancer is making it a habit to miss and make up classes, solo lessons will stop until we feel attendance has improved. Leaving early or coming late to class should be a **rarity**, not a common occurrence.

DRESS CODE

Following a dress code makes the dancers take the class and themselves seriously by dressing the part. Dress code is important in every class, even the youngest classes, because it helps eliminate distractions. Leotards and tight-fitting tops and bottoms allow instructors to see the dancers' body lines. Baggy clothes like t-shirts make these lines, obscuring essential aspects of technique for corrections.

BALLET

Black leotard (no skirt or shorts), pink tights, pink ballet shoes. **Hair must be in a ballet bun (must use bobby pins). NO EXCEPTIONS.**

CONDITIONING/JUMPS AND TURNS

Leotard, or shorts/leggings with crop top/tank top. If students have ballet on the same day as other classes, they can stay in their pink tights and black leotard. No t-shirts, leggings, sweatshirts, sweatpants. Hair must be in a secure ponytail.

ALL OTHER CLASSES

Leotard or shorts/leggings and crop top/tank top. Hair must be in a secure ponytail. Students may stay in their pink tights and black leotard for conditioning, jumps and turns, and choreography classes on the same day if desired.

Throughout the year we may ask that students come dressed in all black - either leotard or shorts and crop top/tank top (no leggings or t-shirts). [Dancewear Solutions's](#) Balera brand is a great place to stock up on inexpensive solid black dancewear.

PLACEMENT

Level placement, musical selection, choreography, costuming and blocking (formations) of all routines are at the choreographer's discretion and are not up for discussion. These decisions are made from many years of teaching and experience. All staff members are passionate about each child and our competition team. We take pride in every student and every dance routine. All decisions are made in the best interest of each student. Inappropriate/demeaning comments from parents or students will not be tolerated.

SOLOS

Competing a solo is a privilege and must be earned through year-round hard work. When students are given a solo and go to competition under our name, they represent the training/teachings of our studio. It would be a disservice to the reputation of our studio, and to the soloists themselves to allow students who have poor attendance records and lack of commitment to compete a solo under the DDA name.

CONVENTION/COMPETITION

Team members are a direct representation of Dynamic Dance Academy and will, therefore, be held to a high standard of behavior, participation, and dedication. This is a big responsibility. We expect all team members and their families to be supportive of each other and our staff, and to exercise extreme good sportsmanship at competitive events.

You will be notified well in advance of all competition/convention dates. If there are any dates you know are already a conflict, you must submit them ASAP. **These conflicts should only include immediate family weddings, vacations that have been already booked before this contract was handed out, or the dancer's own prom or graduation. DO NOT ask for the competition schedule to be changed for any reason other than a severe emergency. In the past, this has put DDA in a very difficult situation and we all need to make sacrifices for the commitment we have made.** Many DDA families have come up with creative solutions when a conflict arises, such as sending their child to competition with another dance mom or member of your family. You can make it work!

1. All dancers will be at the competition venue 2 hours prior to call time, ready to dance with hair and make-up already done. Do not assume someone will be available to help you once you've arrived at the venue. **Students who are late to competition and have to rush to get ready cannot perform to the best of their abilities. Please remember this. We want each student to be their best, confident selves on stage, and know you as parents do too!**

2. All dancers must attend all award ceremonies for the session they have danced in out of respect to teammates, teachers, and judges, no matter the time. This includes any "Battle" or "Showcase" at the end of Nationals Week. Please plan your hotel stay/driving situation accordingly. Failure to comply will result in a re-evaluation of team standings for the following year. We are a TEAM! All team members are required to wear their DDA team jackets zipped up on stage for all award ceremonies.

3. We expect all dance families to support each other in all aspects of competition. While things like title pageants and solo showdowns may not involve every single team member, they are very special and a very big deal to the dancers and families participating as well as the studio, **so all students are required to be present.** When our dancers on stage look into the audience during these events, we expect that they will see their “dance family” cheering them on! We know that there are many fun things to do at nationals during the time you’re not dancing, but the reason we are there first and foremost is for dance competition.

4. It is normal to sometimes be upset with yourself at competition, but under no circumstances it is ever okay to cry during or after an award ceremony. It shows bad sportsmanship and makes you look like a sore loser (even if that isn’t your intent). It also hurts the feelings of your teammates. If you are mature enough to be on this team, you are mature enough to contain your feelings until you are in your car or hotel room. Be happy for your fellow team members. When someone makes it into overalls, look at it as someone from the DDA team made it there. YAY! You all train together. Love each other. Be proud of each other.

NATIONAL COMPETITION

Between the recital and Nationals, there will be competition rehearsals. These are MANDATORY for all dancers attending Nationals. We win, lose, and practice as a TEAM. Do not schedule a vacation or anything of that sort between the recital and Nationals unless we have already okayed it. If you are unable to choose between a family barbeque and competition rehearsal, please do not sign this contract. **Once again, DO NOT ask for the rehearsal or competition schedule to be changed for any reason other than a severe emergency. Other extra-curricular sports and activities do not qualify as a severe emergency. Students are GREATLY affected when they miss rehearsals and this will (and has) shown on stage. Simply put, they will not perform to the best of their abilities and impact the rest of their group if they miss out on rehearsal time.**

CURRENT CONVENTION/COMPETITION SCHEDULE

- **FULL TEAM & PEANUT TEAM CONVENTION**

November 1st-3rd - RADIX
HILTON MEADOWLANDS
2 Meadowlands Plaza
East Rutherford, NJ 07073
(201) 896-0500

This is a two-day convention. Students are required to attend Saturday, with the option of attending both Saturday and Sunday. As per RADIX's rules, students who only attend classes on Saturday will not be eligible for scholarships and any other awards, or the option to compete their solo. If you have a conflict on this weekend, you must attend a different convention on your own. All students can attend other additional conventions as long as they don't interfere with our schedule.

- **REGIONAL COMPETITION (OUR QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR NATIONALS):**

Please keep these weekends open while we finalize locations:

March 20th-22nd, March 27th-29th, April 17th-19th

If you know of a conflict (listed in the COMPETITION section) that falls on one of these weekends please let us know ASAP.

- **One additional regional competition and one optional solo competition** will be decided on within the month of September that do not include the dates listed above.

- **NATIONAL COMPETITION:**

July 7-12th - KAR
FOXWOODS RESORT
39 Norwich-Westerly Rd
Ledyard, CT 06338

This hotel has a 48-hour cancellation policy, so since we don't receive the competition schedule until 10 days prior, we recommend booking your hotel stay for the whole week and then cancelling the nights you don't need.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

- I have read and agreed to all points in the Dynamic Dance Academy Company Team Contract.
- I will make sure I am ready to leave my house for dance on time so I am not late. I will always come to dance dressed in the correct dancewear for the day. If I have to come straight from school, I am in charge of packing my clothes and shoes the night before (not my mom). I am old enough to understand that “I forgot” or “My mom forgot” is not an excuse anymore. I understand that I might be asked to sit out if I do not have the correct shoes or clothes.
- I understand how important my attendance is. I know that my teachers cannot help me improve if I am constantly missing technique class, and my group routines will suffer because I won’t know what we went over. I know that an 11-month commitment is a long time, so I am 100% sure that I won’t choose to attend another activity instead of dance. I will not procrastinate with my schoolwork so that I do not have to miss dance to study. I know that if I am determined, I can manage my time well, and that this is an important skill to have as I grow up.
- I will not abuse my ability to “bank” technique classes. I will only use these banked classes when I’m sick or hurt, or have a very important conflict. I won’t use these “banked” classes just to be able to hang out with my school friends on a dance day, or to do another activity when I’m supposed to be in class. I understand that when I take classes that are not on my level, I will not improve, and that as part of a team, we are all held to the same standard. I understand that my solo lessons might be stopped and my solo scratched completely if I don’t take my attendance seriously. If I don’t have a solo, I might be choreographed out of a section of one of my dances.
- I understand that my teachers want me to have the best dance education possible. They know which technique classes will help me become the best dancer I can be, and the routines, choreography, music, spots and costume they select are in my best interest. If I have any questions, I know I can always ask to speak to my teacher.
- I will pay attention in class and not fool around. I will follow all instructions from my teachers. I will be kind and respectful to all members of my team, my teachers and my family. I will be a role model to the younger team members.
- I understand that rehearsal for nationals is very important. I will not miss nationals rehearsals for pool parties, sleepovers, day trips or any other activity. I understand that it’s not fair to the rest of my team if I don’t take this commitment seriously. If I choose to miss rehearsal, I might be asked to sit out of a dance at nationals or scratch my solo.
- I understand that being on this team is not mandatory and I do not have to sign this contract unless I want to. I am choosing to accept and follow all these rules listed above. I will represent Dynamic Dance Academy, my teammates, and my teachers in person, on social media, and at competition with pride and class.

Student signature

PARENT AGREEMENT

- I have read and agreed to all points in the Dynamic Dance Academy Company Team Contract.
- I will help my dancer understand that this is a commitment they are making. I know that being part of a team is an important part of my child's development, and that from time to time I may need to remind them of these expectations, and that they have read, and agreed to them.
- I will make sure my dancer arrives to class, competition, and other dance events on time. I understand that from September-July, (**especially** July), dance comes before any other activity or event.
- I understand that my dancer may be asked to sit if they are not dressed appropriately.
- I understand that attending each class is a very important part of this team and that my dancer should not be missing dance class for any reason other than illness or an emergency. I understand that my child's solo may be put on hold or they might be choreographed out of parts of a dance if the team attendance criteria is not met. I will help my child with their time-management skills so that they can get all their homework and studying done in order to attend class. I will make every effort to NOT take away dance class as a punishment. I understand that this hurts all other members of the team, the staff, and the company as a whole.
- I understand that the staff always has the best interest of each child in mind when making all decisions. They are dedicated to making each dancer and each routine the best that it can be. I understand that there may be times that my child may not understand or agree with the decisions made by a teacher, but I will remember to trust their knowledge, and will remind my dancer of this as well.
- I will not speak negatively about any team member or teacher. I will not question the decisions made by a teacher, and I will not speak to them in a disrespectful manner. I will not threaten to pull my child off of the team. I understand that I may be asked to remove my child from the studio if this occurs.
- I will not directly contact a competition official, judge or staff member for any reason. I understand that this may result in a dismissal from the team.
- I will represent Dynamic Dance Academy, my fellow team families, and my child's teachers in person, on social media, and at competition with pride and class.

Parent signature

If you feel that you or your dancer are unable to agree to these expectations, that's okay. Company team is not for every dancer. Please let us know if we can help find a class that will work for you.

TEACHER AGREEMENT

- I will provide all students with a healthy, fun, friendly and safe environment where they can develop confidence and skills that will be valuable in all aspects of life.
- I will provide all students with an exceptionally high standard of teaching in all aspects of dance.
- I will encourage hard work and dedication and celebrate the achievements of every student.
- I will hold all students to the same behavioral standard.
- I take pride in every piece I create. I will use my many years of experience to select appropriate choreography, music, spots, and costumes to help achieve my vision, while keeping the best interest of each student in mind.
- I am committed to helping all students grow as dancers, therefore I will need to correct students in class. I **do not** use corrections as a way to embarrass students.
- **I do not ever set a child up for failure.**
- I do not ever speak negatively about any child or their family.
- I want to see each child succeed in all aspects of their life.
- I will represent Dynamic Dance Academy, our students, their families and my fellow staff members in person, on social media, and at competition with pride and class.

Lisa De Siena

Lisa De Siena

Nikki Ceglecki

Nikki Ceglecki

Corinne Bongiorno

Corinne Bongiorno