



WELCOME COMPETITION TEAM HANDBOOK 2017/2018

Congratulations on being invited to be part of J'Danse Studios Competitive Team! TEAM JDS

In this Handbook you will find information detailing information with respect to being part of the competitive dance team and more. Please review this outline thoroughly and let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Upon accepting you will be provided with the J'Danse Studio Competitive Dance Team Handbook providing all the studio rules and parents/dancers responsibilities as being part of TEAM JDS.

J'Danse Studio Dance promotes a positive environment for all dancers. The Competition Team requires 100% commitment from the studio, students, parents, and staff. We intend to make dance a fun, learning, and character-building program – with winning results! J'Danse Studio will provide you with the information you need to make decisions regarding your dancer(s) and the competitive program. Please make sure you can commit to rehearsals, showcases competitions and all other requirements outlined in this handbook prior to accepting a position as a competition team dancer/parent. J'Danse Studio and its staff will make intelligent decisions that are in the best interest of the studio and the competitive team. The bar in the competitive dance world is constantly being raised and we face new challenges daily.

Our Team JDS faculty and staff are 100% committed to meet and exceed those challenges. TEAM JDS had a very successful 2016/2017 competition season and we look forward to a bright future. J'Danse Studio is happy to discuss issues and work with dancers and parents regarding any questions or concerns that arise. We look forward to a successful, rewarding experience for the upcoming dance year and competition season should you choose to accept.

We will attend 2(pre comp) to 4 competitions(part time/full time comp) where one of the 4 is out of town (previously Niagara and Blue Mountain) between the months of March to May(generally).

There will be a mandatory showcase in February. This will be a mock competition to perform your dances on stage in front on your families and friends.

A final list of competitions and dates/locations will be available by August/September. All of these events are mandatory for all company members. Competitions run between Thursday and Sunday and your dancer may have to miss school if they are scheduled during the school day.

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JDS Competitive Dance Team

Dancer Agreement

The signing of this document is a statement of the commitment between the dancer, the parent or guardian, teacher and the studio. Competition is a co-operative effort and is only a successful endeavor when all parties involved are equally committed.

T.E.A.M =Together Everyone Achieves More!!!

What is the difference between recreational and competitive dance?

Recreational dance at its core is meant to develop basic skills and instill the love and joy of dance in all children. Although this is the base for most of our work, competitive dance is slightly different in that the dancers already have a love and passion for the art, therefore the core focus is shifted to a concentration on promoting high skill levels, strong work ethics and teamwork. All training decisions are based on what is best for the student's progress and the progress of the team. The goal of competition isn't to win but to enjoy the experience of being on stage and performing. When we decided to set up a competitive team we all had the same goal and that was to ensure that children have the opportunity to perform and challenge themselves. We are extremely dedicated to making sure that each child has a good time performing each dance to the best of their ability and to constantly challenge themselves! These are life lessons.

[Dance Studio Mission

- To provide quality dance education in a positive environment
- To provide a venue for dancers to enjoy themselves and express themselves
- To provide diversified instruction in numerous genres
- To provide a fair, reasonable, and consistent dance competition team environment
- To do what is in the best interest of the TEAM and to work together with students and parents to achieve our goals
- To learn life lessons (ie. Stage performance/discipline/confidence vs interviews)

FAQs

- ***Will I be guaranteed a solo/duet/trio/small group number?
How are solo/duets/trio/small group numbers chosen?***
- No - not all dancers are guaranteed a solo/duet/trio/small group.
- Solo/duet/trio/small group numbers will be offered to a dancer when the director feels the dancer is ready for such a performance.
- Rehearsals to learn solo/duets/trios/ small groups will take place on during the week or weekends starting in September according to the dancers and choreographer's availability.

- **Choreography/Clean up Classes/Rehearsals will take place between September and the end of the competition season (generally May)**

- ***Will my dancer get a chance to perform on stage before competition?***

To prepare our dancers for the competition season, we will be running a “Showcase” where all of our competitive routines will perform on stage at the end of February. This will give our dancers a chance to work-out any issues that might occur with spacing and costuming. The fee is included in this year’s competitive tuition. Everyone is invited, friends and family and there is no fee at the door for these guests.

RESPONSIBILITY

Dancer Requirements

- Be supportive and trust in the team directors and teachers and the mission we uphold
- Be a kind, hardworking student with a passion for dance and a positive attitude
- Can take constructive criticism and apply it immediately
- Understand how to work within a team and the value of each member’s role
- Commit to practicing dance at home to master the curriculum
- Commit to giving 100% effort in every class
- **A competition team member is not allowed to take classes or participate in any dance or related events and/or take lessons or teach at another dance studio without prior permission**
- **The choreography is the property of J'Danse Studio first and the Choreographer second. Written permission must be granted in that order before performing the routine at an event that doesn't include J'Danse Studio or posting the video online.**

Parent Requirements

- Be supportive and trust in the team directors and teachers and the mission we uphold
- For your dancer to have the tools they need to uphold their requirements, parents must commit to making sure their dancer attends classes on a regular basis, practices at home
- Encourage your dancer to be independent and uphold their own requirements with minimal parental intervention

- **Make sure students are attending all classes. Attendance is key at the competitive level, it is very important that students do not miss choreography or rehearsals.**
- Hair and makeup is done properly. It will be mandatory to attend the demonstrations and practice on your dancer before the date of the competition.
- At the competition, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure their dancer is dressed and warmed up/stretched at the appropriate time (as informed by JDS Staff).
- Parents must make sure dancers report backstage at call time.
- Make sure dancer's tights, shoes, and costumes are clean.
- You are a role model for your child in how to interact with others in a professional setting
- Any negative or derogatory postings on any social media forums or to any JDS staff member by any J'Danse Studio dancer or parent may result in the immediate suspension and/ or removal of that dancer or family from J'Danse Studio. Rumors and gossip feed negative attitudes, and negative environments. Please do not start, listen to, or repeat any gossip or small talk. This will not be tolerated.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Contacting a competition or director of an event for any reason is PROHIBITED by both parents and students and result in the removal of the student from the competition team(s). If you have a concern, please contact the studio.

VIMEO VIDEOS - CHOREOGRAPHY

Each week instructors will video record your dancer's choreography and post it to a secured link on VIMEO. Dancers are required to view and learn/practice the choreography. Every week we will build and add to the choreography. We will be monitoring how many times you watch your video. If you consistently come to class unprepared and haven't watched your video you may be removed from the competitive team without refund.

Academics

- Dancers need to be able to manage their time accordingly between dance and school to remain on the team. The dancer agrees to maintain academic grades that are acceptable to their parent's standards. As per parental and director discretion, a dancer will be removed from competition (Competition fees, costume fees and any other expenses incurred will not be refunded under any circumstances.)

Attendance to Class- See "Health" also

- Regular attendance creates team spirit and success!
- Please be on time for all classes, rehearsals and performances.
- All members of the Competitive Dance Team must continue to take their respective class as well as their competitive choreography class.
- Communicate all delays, emergencies or absences as soon as possible.
- Regular attendance at all classes is necessary for participation on the Competitive Dance Team.

- It is the student's responsibility to arrange to learn choreography from any missed class or rehearsal.
- **Dancers are not allowed to miss more than 3 classes (Illness and family situations are evaluated differently at director discretion).**
- In the case of injury or sickness that prevents the dancer from training or performing for an extended period then a doctor or physiotherapist note is required. Dancers will still be required to attend class and watch.

Attitude and Discipline

- Dancers are expected to maintain a positive attitude in class, at competitions or other events towards their teachers and peers always as negativity will not be tolerated and may lead to dismissal.
- Dancers must have discipline and follow the correct uniform and dress codes at all times while rehearsing or at competitions (attire dress code or tracksuits)
- Dancers hair must be in a proper bun for each class
- Dancers who attend class without proper dance attire/hair will be asked to sit out
- Dancers must come to class a minimum of 15min early and warm up before entering the classroom. Failure to do so may result in injuries.
- Dancers must understand that teachers will correct them because the goal is to master and perfect each movement with the correct musical timing and style.
- Dancers must understand that teachers can change the steps, places and formations in choreography at any time during the year if they see fit.
- Dancers are assigned places in a competition choreography based on ability level, commitment to fixing their corrections and overall class attitude.

COMPETITIONS

Attendance to Competitions/Rehearsals

- Attendance at all registered competitions is mandatory.
- Should dancer(s) not attend a competition they may be dismissed from the team
- Should a dancer decide to not compete in a specialty routine for reasons other than injury the following would occur: if the routine (s) can still compete, the dancer who did not compete would still be required to pay their share of ALL the original fees.
- If extra fees apply due to category changes or otherwise, the dancer who chose to not compete would then have to cover those extra costs as well as their share of the original entry fee. If the routine can no longer compete because of their choice to not compete, that dancer would now have to cover the entire entry fee for the entire group including but not limited to choreography, rehearsals, registration fees, extra fees, costumes, extra practices, administrative costs.
- In specialty routines, if a dancer misses class and therefore compromises the success of the routine, the teacher may decide to remove the routine from competition. Should this happen, the dancer who missed the classes would have to refund the others for the lost entry

At the competitions and etiquette:

- NO video cameras, cameras or digital photography is allowed during the competition of the dancers routines. Studio can be disqualified if caught.
- Dancers must arrive a minimum of 90 minutes prior to the schedule performance time. This ensure everyone is stretched, warmed up, rehearsed. The Director reserves the right to now allow a routine to be performed if they feel that have not given themselves enough time to warm up and not at the competition with a reasonable amount of time or missing costumes accessories. Your routine is 3 minutes long and you get one shot at it. Being prepared is most important. Arrive early not to be disappointed!
- Parents are not permitted in the rehearsal area or backstage without prior permission from the Director or unless helping with props or volunteering.
- The Director or the instructors cannot be responsible for your dancer/child including doing hair, make up or ensuring they eat. Their job is to warm up and ensure the dancer(s) are rehearsed prior to performing. They also have other responsibilities such as helping with props, watching dances and marking down scores. If for whatever reason you are unable to attend, please ask another parent to assist with your child.

Make-up Classes

- **Not attending a scheduled rehearsal (regardless of being sick, injured or otherwise) means that other arrangements operationally must happen. There is a lot of work involved in scheduling rehearsals, instructors, studio time, lost studio time etc. The studio makes great efforts to change the schedule to accommodate everyone. Going forward there will be no make-up classes unless it is paid for and scheduled during a time convenient for the studio and the instructor.**

Competition Parent Team Meetings

Parent meetings are mandatory and will be held throughout the season. Both parents and students are expected to attend unless the meeting is scheduled during a dancer rehearsal than only the parents are expected to attend. This meeting will contain information about the upcoming competitions, fees, rehearsals, etc.

Curfew at Competitions

When we go to competitions we are a team, we have all put in a great deal of time and energy in hopes of doing well. Late nights and early mornings can erase all your hard work. A curfew will be in place for shows and competitions. We ask that all dancers be in their rooms by 9pm regardless of the time you are performing the next day. During our overnight hotel stay, there will be no running in hallways, no noise complaints or unruly behavior. The Director will have discretion to remove any dancers from the competition that does not follow the above and fees will not be returned.

Props

It is understood that if your child's routine has props associated with it, the parents are responsible to build, pay and transport the prop. In some cases, we may have a 3rd party build the prop(s). We are always economically sensitive where we can be to reduce costs. Parents must cover these costs. It is the parent's responsibility to find a way to transport the props(s). The Directors call is final in this matter.

Competition Outcome: varies from competition

- Dancers are going into competition to do their PERSONAL best, that's what matters!
- Every judge has their own opinion (we cannot get upset or discouraged)
- Awards process: there will be an award ceremony where the dance routines will receive their standing and awards. During these ceremonies one student will be elected to accept the award on behalf of the group. All dancers must be present at their award ceremony and dressed in the JDS full branded tracksuit.
- Every competition scoring system varies
- Awards standings (1st, 2nd, 3rd) medal/ribbons/trophy levels and trophy overalls
- There will be dancers from other studios competing. We expect our students to be respectful towards their competitors and not engage should there be any negative issues.
- After the dancer's finish performing, they are welcome to watch the other dances at the competition before their award ceremony

Competition Trophies/Monetary Awards

- All Trophies and plaques awarded to the dancers for all routines become property of J'Danse Studio and to be displayed at the studio. The dancer will take home the medal(s), ribbon(s) and certificate(s) they are awarded. The studio will take a scanned copy of the certificate to display at the studio. All monetary awards will go to the studio to cover administrative costs and put back into the studio for the benefit of the dancers. Dancers may purchase a trophy at the competition at their own cost.

MORE INFO

In the case of injury, J'Danse Studio Recommends:

Health Spectrum in Toronto
Physiotherapy, Osteopathy and Massage Therapy
<http://healthspectrum.ca/>
416 445 2200

Health

Please be certain you feel well when participating in classes or competition. Dancing on injuries or when emotionally upset not only affects one's dancing but the spirit of the team. We want our dancers to work hard yet enjoy every aspect of their participation.

- The dancer agrees to report any injury occurring while in class, at rehearsal or at a performance immediately to the teacher or while engaged in a non-dance activity
- The dancer agrees to observe classes, rehearsals, and performances while injured, if possible. The dancer/parent agrees to have written permission from the doctor before returning to classes, rehearsals, performances after an absence from an injury even if they are returning with limitations.
- The dancer/parent agrees to keep all contagious illnesses out of the dance studio.

Extra performance opportunities

Showcase: There will be a mandatory comp showcase in February at a venue tbd. This is so dancers have the chance to perform on stage in front of parents and loved ones for extra rehearsal time, stage time, last minute corrections and for parents to prepare for the multiple costume changes.

- Charity benefits, recitals and promotional events are wonderful opportunities for our teams to hone their performance skills. Dance is a performing art and the more the dancers get the chance to perform, the better and the more skilled they will become. These are for the dancers benefit and additional rehearsal time.
- Should such opportunities arise, all dancers need to be available for rehearsals and the performance for a routine to be eligible.
- At any point in the year, teachers may call for extra practices. Extra practices are held to correct or improve a dance. Notice will be given where possible. Commitment is imperative and rehearsals are called for the dancer's benefit.
- Competitors must commit to at least 2 summer 2017 events/performances.
- Taste of Lawrence Festival – 3 day event usually the beginning of July

Training Camp (Summer/March Break)

Summer Intensive Training camp is mandatory and likely takes place in August. All comp team dancers must attend Training Camp to be eligible to continue with the team. Camp Tuition varies from year to year. There may also be a March Break training camp.

Fundraising/Sponsorships

Any parents that are interested in organizing fundraisers to offset uniform and competition/performance expenses, please speak to us. We will form a fundraising committee consisting of parents and one JDS staff member. J'Danse Studio will need to approve all fundraisers. Please note we encourage fundraisers but they will be the responsibility of the parents and students. J'Danse Studio will assist in fundraising programs as much as possible. We have a sponsorship campaign for next season.

Communication

Please be aware that all communication is done via email (practice changes, cancellations, competition times, waiver, announcements, etc.). **Please make sure to check your email and our website regularly for reminders, updates, etc.** If you need to talk to a coach, please contact us by email or phone. Important and more sensitive issues should be directed to Janie or George only. Instructors should never be approached for complaints. No text messaging any staff members is permitted. Text messages will not be responded to.

There specifics on this comp handbook may change at any time that the Director and Studio sees necessary without prior notice.

Costumes/Hair/Make-up

- Please be conscientious about the care of your costumes, personal dance attire, costume pieces as required, and makeup. We look forward to our dancers looking polished and professional.
- New dance shoes are required for all competitive students. Dancers with old worn out dance shoes will not be allowed on stage.
- Garments bags are to be used to transport costumes
- The dancer/parent agrees to take responsibility for all costumes, tights, shoes while in their care whether the property of the dancer or of JDS.
- The dancer/parent agrees to be prepared for all performances with all costume pieces and personal dance attire (i.e.; hair, makeup, tights, etc) as required.
- The dancer/parent agrees to immediately report to the teacher of any costume that is falling apart, has a broken piece, or needs repair.
- Costume Fees are non-refundable
- **Dancers are required to have a minimum of 2 pairs of tights for competitions**

*Choreography/costumes cannot be re used from previous seasons.

Financial Commitment Due Dates and Details:

Overall fees have only gone up nominally from last season, as part time comp fees now includes an additional class and the showcase. Fees are thoughtfully spread as much as possible where possible. Please ensure you pay your fees on or before the due dates. Payment after the due date(s) will result in late payment charges/administration fees and may result in your dancer being pulled from a competition or routines without refund.

- Terms of Agreement: Competition fees, costume fees and any other expenses incurred will not be refunded under any circumstance if the dancer is to withdraw or breach the terms of agreement or conduct is in any way deemed inappropriate by the Director which will lead to instant dismissal from the JDS Competitive Team.

Fees:

a) Registration Fees:

25% of total registration fee is due when registering

- + \$45 costume fee deposit per class (doesn't include comp costumes)
- + \$100 competition entrance fee deposit (will be deducted from total due)
- + \$200 Tracksuit Fee is due upon signing comp commitment for new students

Balance of registration fees due in equal monthly installments by posted dated cheque or credit card to be automatically deducted on the 28th of each month starting August 28th and ending March 28th (8 months)

b) Choreography Fees(additional cost from registration fees, and depends on how many routines your dancer accepts. See page 13): due monthly over 8 payments added to monthly payment total

c) Comp Costume Fees Due: in September after acceptance of Comp Routines

d) Competition Entrance Fees Due: November 1st by cash, cheque or email transfer only(cost depends on how many routines you will be in. see page 12)

e) Balance of Rec Costumes Fees Due: February 1st, 2018

f) Comp Showcase: This will happen in February before the first competition. This fee is included in your registration fees.

g) Prop fees – varies – tbd

Time commitment and how many competitions per season?

Pre comp members – 3.5 to 6 years of age

- Minimum of 2 Competitions – to be decided
- Must take a minimum of 3 dance classes a week with the additional choreography class for the comp routine selected
- Required Classes: ballet, jazz, acro, plus choreography

Part-Time Competitive – 6 to 16+ years of age

- Minimum of 4 Competitions (1 away competition)
- Must take a minimum of 7 dance classes a week with the addition of choreography (not included in the 7). Musical Theatre will be a Group Routine included as part of the 7 classes.
- Required to take: Technique, Ballet, Jazz, Stretch n' Strength(SNS), Acro, Musical Theatre with optional classes in Tap, Lyrical, Funk/Hip Hop, pointe or an addition, Ballet, Acro, or Jazz
- *Older students are encouraged to take a pointe (intro to pointe) as their addition class
- **All Part time competitive dancers are required to take both SNS classes. Only counts towards one class

Potential Competitions for 2018

- **StarCatchers Dance – March 2-4th (Scarborough)**
- **Luv2Dance – April 12th -15th (Niagara Falls – Crowne Plaza)**
- **Believe Dance Competition – April 27th-29th (Barrie – Georgian College Theatre)**
- **Inspire Dance Challenge – May 4th -6th (Scarborough)**

Optional Canadian Nationals – July 10th – 16th (Blue Mountain Resort)

J'Danse Studio Team Commitment Contract

I am a proud member of the TEAM JDS

and

We have read, understood and agree to the rules and expectations of being a member of the 2017-2018 Competition Team as outlined in the Team Handbook. The specifics and rules in the comp handbook may change at any time as seen necessary by the Director without the prior written notice.

Please sign and return

NAME OF DANCER: _____ DOB: _____

NAME OF PARENT(S) _____

Parents Signature

Parents Signature

Date:

Director:

Janie Charocopos