



A division of Techniques Dance Center

The TDC National Team Company Handbook

The TDC Company is a competitive dance company designed for the serious dancer. Those selected for company will possess the following:

- Must be physically fit with emphasis on healthy mind and body
- Must be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate
- Must have solid technical and performance skills
- Strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer
- Must have a sense of humor, bright smile, and positive attitude
- Have respect for the team and staff
- Show support for the studio, teachers and fellow dancers
- Must have a supportive family base that shows respect for the teachers and students at all times

Commitment:

Company participants are required to participate from August 2024 through Nationals 2025. This is a serious commitment and will not be taken lightly. Participants are expected to fulfill this commitment. All students and their parents will be required to sign a parent/student agreement. The TDC Company may attend 4 local regional competitions and 1 national competition in the summer (usually early to mid July) & 4 optional conventions. All dancers are required to participate in all regional and national competitions and conventions. All are mandatory, unless noted otherwise. Any violation of this handbook/ commitment/contract may result in the dancer's immediate removal from the TDC Company. If a dancer quits Company mid-season, said dancer is not allowed into Company again.

Summer Dance:

Summer classes in June & July/August are Mandatory. If July/August classes are missed you must schedule a make-up. Techniques must be continued through the summer months & are necessary for placement for the following season.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for all Company classes. Ballet, tech and tap technique, conditioning, stretch, acro and rehearsal classes are extremely important! When it comes to school and family activities you will find Techniques Dance Center to be accommodating and flexible. However, by accepting placement in this program, you have agreed that this is a priority in your schedule. Missed classes for any reason other than illness or emergency must be cleared personally through Miss Maria. Student absences will be recorded. You will be allowed 5 excused total absences for your core classes & 3 for rehearsals.

Being a well-rounded individual is important, and we support students pursuing other activities. However, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught....students must be present!

Competition Fees:

A pre-registration fee of \$75/student for regionals fees will be due by July 15th. To insure our spot in a competition, we must pre-register. Fees associated with each competition are based upon prices set by the competition itself. These generally run around \$55-\$65 per person per routine. Solos are \$125-\$165 per competition routine. Duet/Trios are \$65-\$75 per dancer per competition routine. Fees for competitions are due to the studio by the due date indicated on the invoice. In most instances this is at least 45 days prior to/in advance of each competition. Missing an assigned deadline will result in a \$5.00 per day late penalty.

. NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IF FEES ARE NOT PAID.

Competitions:

All dancers are required to participate in all regional and national competitions and conventions. Failure to attend may result in expulsion. The regionals will take place locally. Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. Any cash prize awarded at a competition will go to the studio, with the exception a cash prize for a Solo will be given to a dancer via a credit to the dancer's Techniques account. Any issue or disgruntlement with a competition or convention needs to be brought to the attention of Miss Maria. Dancers, parents or family members are not allowed to contact or complain to the competition or convention staff or management.

Techniques Dance Center approaches competition with a few things in mind:

- Educational Opportunity- competition against the finest teams allows our teachers and students the opportunity to "see what is out there" and grow from there.
- Pre-professional Opportunity- students who wish to pursue the professional world of dance have an opportunity to grow and develop their performance skills through competition.
- Fun Family Activity- Techniques wants to attend competitions that are fun for the whole family. Students learn team-building skills, performing arts skills, and develop self-confidence that will last a life time. Having fun is the number one priority for this program.

Please note that permission must be obtained from Miss Maria if your child enters any TDC Company routines or solos at an additional competition not scheduled through Techniques Dance Center.

National Competition:

Nationals always take place out of the state and are mandatory for all Company dancers. Families are responsible for their transportation and hotel. The studio will try to give recommendations and guidance regarding lodging if needed. Nationals are typically from 4 to 7 days (depending on the nationals we are attending) and you need to be able to stay all those days. Some families choose to room and/or carpool together to save money. Nationals is a fun activity for the whole family and a great way to conclude a fabulous season! It is a great opportunity to meet and watch dancers from throughout the United States.

Opportunities Available:

Students who meet the necessary technical/performance requirements are given opportunities in solo and duo/trio work. Techniques Dance Center will select the choreographer for specialty routines.

The Competition Experience:

It is important to understand that the "competition" aspect of being a member of The TDC Company should be considered a "performance" opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and your child's growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. It is important to keep your competition experience positive and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within your child. We do not foster competition within our Company, and all we ask from our students is that each child works to their full capacity. We understand that each child is a gift to us, and each is uniquely different.

Extra Practices:

On occasion a teacher may find it important to add additional mandatory rehearsals before a competition. We make every effort to give enough notice so families are able to coordinate their schedules. These practices do not cost extra money. They usually take place on Saturdays or Sundays. Remember these are to benefit the dancers. We all want them to be comfortable and to dance their best. Sometimes due to weather cancellations or other issues a routine just needs some extra time.

Jewelry, Make-Up and Costumes:

All Company members are required to purchase Company jewelry. Cost is usually around \$20.00-\$30.00. A separate costume will be chosen for each routine that a dancer is selected. By accepting placement in this program, you agree to purchase and wear the

costumes designed by the director or choreographer. We usually try to keep the cost of costumes under \$100 a piece. You will receive a costume invoice when all costumes are selected.

PLEASE NOTE: If a Company member violates this handbook/commitment/contract and quits, there will be NO refunds on ANY monies paid to date.

Team Apparel:

All Company members are required to purchase a team jersey. A list of available apparel will be distributed.

Spring Recital:

The Company members are required to fully participate in the 2024 Spring Recital. This means that company routines (with the exception of solos, duos & trios) will be placed throughout the day in the shows. Only in the event of a family emergency will students be allowed to miss the Spring Recital performance.

Code of Conduct & Social Media:

All students are to conduct themselves with respect & pride for themselves, their families & their studio when posting pictures and or comments on social media. Inappropriate pictures & use of lewd language & gestures will not be tolerated. You are a representative of the studio & are expected to act as such. Violating this code of conduct will result in immediate dismissal from the team.

Parent Roles:

Techniques Dance Center is a drama free zone! Parents are expected to be supportive, respectful and courteous to all team members and their families at all times. This studio will not tolerate rudeness, jealousy and resentment, and disrespect to another team member, their family, a teacher, nor the director. It makes no difference to this studio how good your child is or who you are...you are not permitted to bring into this facility, which is full of fabulous families and kids, any negativity whatsoever. Your role is the following:

- Lift up and support **ALL** of our children
- Teach your child to be happy for others
- Give a hand to those who may be behind or struggling
- Stand firmly behind the teaching staff
- Work with the teaching staff, showing your child that you are behind their coaches