

# **COMPETITION GROUPS INFORMATION AND CONTRACT**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To provide a more challenging dance environment with increased opportunities to perform and compete.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

A) must be in 4<sup>th</sup> grade or higher.

B) must have danced at least one year

C) must have a background in Ballet , with added backgrounds in whatever group(s) you try out for.

## **PERFORMING GROUPS:**

1) Junior Company Class (JCC) - strength in tap-jazz and musical theatre

2) Senior Company Class (SCC) -strength in tap-jazz and musical theatre

3) Junior Performing Group (JPG) - strength in tap- jazz and musical theatre

4) Senior Performing Group (SPG) - strong technique in tap-jazz and musical theatre

5) Lyrical Performing Group (LPG) - strong technique in ballet and Lyrical dance

6) Modern Performing Group (MPG)- strong technique in ballet and Modern dance

7) Contemporary Performing Group (CPG) combined Lyrical and Modern dance

8) Hip Hop Performing Group (HHPG) - strong jazz and Hip Hop dance movement

9) Ballet Performing Group (BPG) - very strong ballet technique

## **AUDITIONS:**

Auditions are held in August after having taken the mandatory ballet and additional classes in whatever group(s) you wish to be considered for during the summer session. Decisions are based on technique, confidence, ability and overall presentation. You will be notified by mail before September registration as to which group(s) you were chosen for. Final placement is done by the end of September.

**NATIONALS:** Are competed every other year. As a member of the Performing Groups, it is mandatory to attend Nationals, regardless of its location.

- A) You can fund raise to help defray the cost of competing. (see fund raising rules).
- B) You will have to pay on your own whatever costs the fund raising did not cover.
- C) You may be expected to pay additional fees over your regular tuition to cover the cost of extra rehearsals and studio time.
- D) You may be expected to purchase additional clothing as team wear during national years.
- E) All competition fees- regional and national must be paid in a timely manner.
- F) While at nationals, our main focus is on competing. All extra activities are only after rehearsals and events are finished.

**NUTCRACKER:** is performed every other year alternating with nationals.

- A) As a member of the Performing Groups, it is mandatory to perform in the Nutcracker and Holiday Music Revue.
- B) There is an additional fee- aside from your regular tuition to be paid for being in the show and also a separate costume fee.
- C) As a member of P.G., you are given first preference for the main character roles. Your placement is determined by audition and by teachers discretion. However if roles cannot be filled with the ranks of PG, these roles will then be offered to other dance students.

**GROUPS:**

*JUNIOR COMPANY CLASS (JCC):*

- A) Beginning level competition class. Minimum 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up to and including 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- B) Will usually compete 1 routine (in a non-nationals year) and up to , but not always 3 routines in a Nationals year.
- C) Expected to purchase a team outfit, and it must be worn at all team functions.
- D) Can, but not mandatory, participate in all fund raising activities.
- E) Must be available to compete in all regional's , Nationals (every other year) , Nutcracker (alternating every other year with Nationals) and local performances. If not available, must let instructors know as soon a possible.
- F) Expected to be at all competitions, even when not competing, as part of the group and to offer support to the other team members.

G) Must take ballet class the entire time you are a member of the performing groups .

H) Must maintain satisfactory grades during the school year.

I) Must be willing to take criticism and be willing to work extra hard in class.

J) Must be kind and respectful to team members and instructors and all staff members.

K) Not eligible to do any solo-duo-or trio work.

L) May remain in any one group for up to 4 years.

M) Must follow attendance policy or will not be eligible to compete.

### *JUNIOR AND SENIOR AND ALL OTHER PERFORMING GROUPS*

A) Intermediate and advanced level groups. Minimum 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and overlapping through high school. May remain in Junior Performing group for up to 4 years.

B) Must be available to compete in all regional's, nationals (every other year) , Nutcracker ( alternating every other year with nationals) and all other performances. If not available, must let the instructors know as soon as possible . Will compete in 2 or more routines in a non-national or nationals year depending on group attendance, abilities, injuries, etc. Must also participate in the semi -annual Nutcracker and Holiday Music performance.

C) Expected to purchase team outfit and competition hooded jacket and must wear it to all team functions.

D) Can, but not mandatory, participate in all fund raising activities.

E) Expected to be at all competitions, even when not competing , as a part of the group and to offer support to the other team members.

F) Must take ballet class the entire time as a member of the JPG ,SPG, and all other competition groups.

G) Must maintain satisfactory grades during the school year.

H) Must be willing to take correction and be willing to work extra hard in class.

I) Must be kind and respectful to team members and to the instructors as well as other staff members.

J) As a member of the JPG (or is equivalent in grade and age status), you may compete in Duos and Trios. As a member of the SPG ( or its equivalent in grade and age status), You may also include solo work.

1) As a member of JPG, if your trio turns into a duo, you may continue to compete. If your duo turns into a solo, you may only compete in that upcoming competition, and then the routine is dropped. You are however, still responsible for all costs relating to your dance.

K) Must attend all extra rehearsals. These extra rehearsals are held throughout the year and on Saturdays. Your attendance is mandatory and there is usually no extra fee for these classes.

L) May be placed in a group as an alternate as a precursor to being in that group. Being an alternate does not automatically place you in that group the following year. You must also take that PG and the immediately preceding class at the same time. You may choose or not to be in that group's recital dance. As an alternate, you will definitely be in the recital. As an alternate, you must actively participate in the class, not just be a wall flower.

M) If you are a member of a group that has alternates, and you miss more than the allotted number of absences, your spot will be replaced with an alternate at the teacher's discretion, for the upcoming competition. You will be allowed to return to your place in class after the competition, as long as all other rules have been met.

N) If you cannot compete and your alternate takes over, the alternate is then responsible for those competition fees. If the fees have already been paid, the alternate must pay back the person who they are replacing. If you cannot compete due to illness, injury, or any sudden event, attempts will be made to recover your money. However, most competition fees are non-refundable.

O) If you are a member of a group that has no alternates, and you miss more than the allotted number of absences, your place in the choreography will be replaced by a member of the group that is more dedicated. There is no guarantee that your spot will be returned to you.

P) If you are not able to meet your obligations of the Performing Groups, at any time during the year, you can withdraw, one time only. If you continue to dance in the recreational classes, your withdrawal will not be held against you for the following year. Again, you are allowed to withdraw only once. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> withdrawal, you drop back to the status of a regular dance student and must re-audition for all groups the following year.

Q) Must follow the attendance policy you will lose the privilege of dancing hat routine.

R) You may not be in Performing Groups only in non-national years. In for a penny, in for a pound.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

A) Required to take all of your competition classes and ballet classes. You are allowed no more than 4 absences in each class before any consequences.

B) You should make up all the classes you missed by attending a lower or higher level class before each competition.

C) You are required to be at all competitions, local performances, community service projects, etc. Lack of participation may lead to your replacement.

### **ATTITUDES & DEMEANOR**

A) You are expected to behave well and set a good example.

B) You must maintain an upbeat attitude .

C) You must be supportive and respectful to your fellow students and teachers .

D) Instructors are hereto correct you and make you a better performer. Arguing with any instructor will not be tolerated.

### **FUND RAISING**

You may or may not participate in fund raising. All monies raised by you will be collected and placed into an account, to be distributed at the end of the year. If your account with REDancers is current and up to date, you will receive your money.

However, if your account is in arrears, all of your funds will go to pay off your account, and any money left over will then be given to you. The fund raising is done by a group of dedicated competition parents and has no bearing on the performance group at all.

### **COSTUMES AND SHOES, ETC.**

A) You are expected to purchase your costumes in a timely manner.

B) Shoe requirements change from year to year, and because of costume restraints, may not be the same shoes as the previous year. (When you compete, you are judged on everything!) You are must purchase whatever shoes are required for your routines. You are also expected to keep your shoes in good repair.

C) If you are in Ballet Performing group, you are responsible for keeping your Pointe shoes in good repair. Those shoes only last for 6 months or less, due to usage.

D) All costumes -shoes and accessories are usually required for more than one year, as PG routines overlap semesters. You should not throw or give away any costumes etc. for at least 2 years.

E) Every once in a while , we might need to share or borrow costumes from one another. You are expected to willingly share, and if you are the borrower, you are expected to keep that costume in good repair return it in a timely manner.

F) Not all classes have a dress code, but those that do, you must to follow the rules regarding that class.

G) Hair: for class, must be in a bun for ballet and other wise neatly contained for all other classes. Bangs are not allowed in class. Scrunchies and head bands do not stay on, and therefore are not allowed in class.

### **EXPENSES:**

You are expected to pay in a timely manner all costs relating to the group. This includes, but is not solely limited to, tuition, competition fees, costume costs, privates, etc. If at any time this becomes a burden, you must speak to me immediately!

### **INJURIES:**

Injuries are a fact of life when involved in any sport or dance activities. If you are injured during class, the instructor must be notified immediately. Usually, such injuries are minor slips and falls, resulting in mild sprains. You must rest and take appropriate actions. For more severe injuries, whether they are from dance or outside activities, you must receive a doctors note clearing you to dance or you will not be allowed to perform. However, if there is a competition on the horizon, you should make every effort to perform. If you cannot dance, your spot will be replaced or the dance will be re-choreographed. Whenever a routine has to be changed at the last minute, it always results in a weakened performance. Most dances only last 3 minutes, therefore every effort must be made to dance. (see Senior and Junior Performing Group rules M-O).

### **FINAL STATEMENT**

I've tried to address the major and minor points of being in these groups as I've experienced them throughout the years. Circumstances change and every situation is different.

Accommodations will be attempted, but the purpose of these groups is an accelerated program.

**EVERY** student, from JCC through the senior PG's is a valued member of that group. Every time one student is absent it affects the entire group, not just that one person. I realize that being in these groups is a big commitment , but the rewards are just as great.

Every student who has stayed with the group through graduation has learned many valuable skills , such as organization of property and time management . Learning to work together as a group , seeing something from beginning to end, and of course , life long friendships , and there are many others to numerous to mention . Every member of the performing groups have gone onto college and I would say all have graduated with a B.A. degree or higher.

This document tries to cover every event and question you may have. Things may change and this may be edited for future use.

By signing the bottom, means you have read this document and agree to its rules and regulations.

PARENTS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENTS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_