



THEATRE NEXT DOOR DANCELIFE ACADEMY^{LLC}

A Home Away From Home . . . Dancing Through Life!

COMPETITION TEAM GUIDELINES/POLICIES

I. Purpose of the Theatre Next Door & Dancelife Academy Competition Team

- A. Provide opportunities to develop and increase self-confidence and self-esteem.
- B. Promote solid, consistent dance and performance technique.
- C. Encourage leadership qualities and develop life-long social skills of team members.
- D. Promote Studio Spirit and fun!!

II. Requirements/Eligibility

- A. The competition team **MUST** take priority over other extracurricular activities, including jobs and other performance commitments. However, because we are an acting, singing, and dancing school, we understand that most of our students are involved in school plays, and we support that responsibility during play season.
- B. Team members **MUST** attend **ALL** required activities, such as dance classes at TNDDLA from September-June, rehearsals, performances, competitions, and fundraisers, unless that dancer is ill or has a family emergency, for which they can use one of their (3) unexcused absences (see letter C). Failure to attend a mandatory event unexcused will result in immediate withdrawal from the TNDDLA Competition Team.



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C. Team member is allowed only 3 unexcused absences from each of their competition classes and primary ballet classes at TNDDLA (this *includes leaving early, arriving late, family emergency, illness or any other absence as one*) throughout the entire Studio Year (September-June).

As stated before, (see II. Requirements/Eligibility letter A) we understand the obligations the students have when they are part of the school play. If you decide to be a part of a school play, as soon as you receive a play schedule of rehearsal dates they must be submitted to TNDDLA staff to be reviewed that week. If you plan on auditioning for the school play in the spring, please be aware and cautious of your absences at the start of the year (September-June).

Absences will be excused for illness with a medical note, illness/death of an immediate family member with note from a parent, or religious obligation only. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

D. Being on the competition team one year **IN NO WAY GUARANTEES PLACEMENT ON THE TEAM FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.** All members must go through the selection process in the spring. **In addition to ability, each competition team member's cooperation, effort and attitude will be considered.**

III. Conduct

A. By accepting the privilege/honor of being a member of the Theatre Next Door & Dancelife Academy Competition Team, a team member accepts the fact that his/her actions are more prominent than those of persons not associated with such an activity.

B. Because of this prominence and because members represent Theatre Next Door & Dancelife Academy, exemplary behavior is mandatory at **ALL** times, and at all functions where competition team members are recognized as representatives of Theatre Next Door & Dancelife Academy.

C. Proper appearance is required at **ALL** times, with clothing appropriate to the occasion.



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D. Members must display proper behavior in class. Interrupting the teacher and excessive talking during classes and/or rehearsals will not be tolerated.

E. Poor conduct/behavior under any circumstance may result in warnings, suspension, or removal from the team. Inappropriate behaviors not only reflect on the individual, but can also affect the image of the entire team.

IV. Dance and Theatre Class Requirements

A. Dance Team Members must attend at least one (1) ballet class per week as well as an additional technique class (SLT) per week to increase their dance technique.

B. Musical Theatre Team members must attend at least one class in each of the triple-threat genres of acting, singing, and dancing per week.

-Acting: Team members must take an acting class at their age level OR at least two blocks of five private acting lessons in total during the studio year OR continuous private acting lessons throughout the year.

-Singing: Team members must take a singing class at their age level OR at least two blocks of five private singing lessons in total during the studio year OR continuous private voice lessons throughout the year.

-Dancing: Team members must attend at least one (1) ballet class per week as well as an additional technique class per week to increase their dance technique. For East Hanover Musical Theatre team members, there are two dance class placement options to be determined by the directors—SLT and Broadway Dance.

C. Vocal Team Members must attend at least one singing or musical theatre class per week, as well as at least four blocks of five private singing lessons in total during the studio year OR continuous private voice lessons throughout the year.

D. Members must dress appropriately for all dance classes. Dance clothing and shoes should be appropriate for the activity. If dancers are not dressed appropriately for class, they will receive a warning. The second time a dancer is dressed inappropriately for class, a call will go out to the dancer's parents. The third time a dancer is dressed inappropriately for class, they will be withdrawn from the team.



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E. No cell phones are allowed at class or in rehearsal. They should be turned off once class/rehearsal begins. If calls need to be made in case of emergency, your teacher must approve them first.

F. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled as needed. This will be done with as much notice as possible.

G. Missing a scheduled dress rehearsal before an event will result in the individual **NOT** performing for that event unless he or she has an illness or family emergency that he or she has already discussed with Melissa

H. Members must **NOT LEAVE Class/Rehearsal EARLY** unless given prior approval (THIS WILL COUNT FOR ONE OF THE THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES).

I. Jewelry is not to be worn at dance class. Dangling earrings, necklaces and bracelets are not permitted in dance class for safety reasons.

V. Performances/Competitions

A. All competitions (invitational, regional, and state) are mandatory. All extra choreography sessions and rehearsals for the competition teams are also mandatory. There will be 2-3 competitions per year. You will be notified via email with the exact dates when they are booked by the competition companies. **We will not know the exact day/time of each competition until one week prior to that competition. You will be notified via email and/or phone with the day/times of competitions as soon as we are.** Please be advised that there are competition fees per routine per competition. Fees will be attached to your invoice and you will be notified of the competition fee amounts at the time of registration per competition.

B. Arrive on time with (at least one hour prior to your scheduled time) with complete and full Costumes and props (includes shoes, tights, etc. or other stated equipment). This includes hair and make-up before arrival. **If performer doesn't have all costume pieces, he/she will not be able to perform in the competition.**

C. Jewelry is not to be worn during performances, unless part of the costume.



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D. Melissa and staff reserve the right to prohibit a member from performing if it appears that he or she is unable to properly execute the moves or does not uphold team expectations. This applies to competitions, benefits or any other performances.

VII. Fundraisers

- A. All fundraisers are mandatory for ALL members.
- B. Attendance will be taken at each fundraising event.

VIII. Costumes and Other Expenses

A. Members are responsible for the expense of the team competition costumes, warm up sweat suit, shoes, tights, and/or performance t-shirt and pants.

B. Melissa and staff shall make final decision with the approval of the administration on any costume, shoes, hair and makeup.

C. Costumes are to be kept clean, neat and in good repair at all times, and may only be used for performances (not classes or social events).

D. Costumes/props ruined, lost or stolen will be replaced by that member at her own expense.

E. If a performer is negligent in fee payment and has not made arrangements for payment, the performer will not be allowed to perform until his or her payment has been made.

H. Other Expenses at Competition such as: Competition Fee (See Above), Gas for trips, hotel rooms for over night stays, and meals while on the road to competitions and performance is the responsibility of the dancer and fees will not be reimbursed by TNDDLA.