



# TTDS COMPETITION POLICY & CONTRACT

A competitive dance team is designed for the serious dancer who is highly motivated in the performing arts and is able to commit to all practices and events required to be in the competition program.

## Those selected for studio competition teams will possess the following:

- Be physically fit with emphasis on healthy mind and body
- Be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate
- Have solid technical and performance skills
- Strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer
- 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

## THE COMPETITION EXPERIENCE:

It is important to understand that the “competition” aspect of being a member of a Competitive Dance Team should be considered a “performance” opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and each dancer’s growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. **It is important to keep competition experiences positive, and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within your dancer.** Team members are not in competition with each other and should support their team mates. Students are encouraged to strive to improve themselves and to work to their full capacity. Each dancer is uniquely different, each with their own strengths and their own weaknesses and each brings their own talent to the team as a whole.

## ATTENDANCE/TARDIES:

Attendance is mandatory. The studio tries its best to be flexible and accommodating with conflicts & other commitments; However, students are still expected to be committed to practices. Students who can NOT commit to a competition team and schedule are recommended to only take recreational classes. **By becoming a member of a competition team, you have agreed that this is a PRIORITY in your schedule.** Missed classes for any reason other than illness must be approved in advance. Competition families are expected to schedule birthday parties and “fun” events Thursday through Sunday when the studio is closed. Our “AT A GLANCE” schedule is given to each family in advance so that you can plan around the competition event schedule. Student absences will be recorded. If a student misses at least 2 weeks of practice in a row then they are REQUIRED to take and pay for a private lesson according to instructor openings when the schedule allows for it. Missing classes puts **EXTRA** stress on the team, instructors, and can hold an entire class back. Missed practices during important choreography nights or multiple practices in a row may result in a student being WINGED during 1 or more sections of a routine until student can catch up with the remainder of the class. TTDS has the right to pull students before any competition event if he/she has had too many absences with out making the classes up or has missed mandatory practices hindering the students and the class routine. Being part of the competition program is a team effort and attendance is very important to the other dancers. Dance teachers do understand that they are dealing with busy children and socially active teens with many school demands; being a well-rounded individual is important, however, when it comes to participation on a competition team, skills are constantly being taught... students must be present!

## GETTING ✨ WINGED ✨

Student will be responsible for making up any choreography missed due to absence. If a student misses mandatory practices or a student has missed *too many* practices- resulting in being unaware of changes, spacing, or choreography- then TTDS has the right to WING any student for any duration or section(s) throughout a routine. Being winged is not always a punishment, and there still may be times where students are in the wings for different sections of a routine based on the concept and vision of the routine and performance.

## UN-ENROLLMENT/WITHDRAWAL/CANCELLATION

Competition students **SHOULD NOT CONSIDER** withdrawal. So many decisions, choreography, spacing, team work, lifts, props, ect. go into each competition routine. When competition students unenroll during the season, it causes **TREMENDOUS** stress on the team and competition staff. We do understand that sometimes unforeseen events may arise, BUT being on a competition team is for **COMMITTED STUDENTS ONLY who intend on participating through the entire season** (including through “burn outs”). Being on a competition team teaches students about commitment, following through, not giving up, discipline, responsibility, and so much more. If you have any doubt about being on a competition team, we recommend recreational classes instead. If a situation occurs where you have no choice but to unenroll, then all tuition, costume, and competition related fees **up to current MUST** be paid for in full, as well as a **\$125 withdrawal fee.** The withdrawal fee helps to cover any extra practices that may be required for re-blocking. **IN ADDITION-** Your costume may need to be returned to the studio for an understudy student to take your child’s place if needed. Costume(s) will then be returned back to you at the end of the season.

## **REQUIRED CLASSES:**

Each dancer on the competition team is required to take 4 training classes such as flexibility/deep stretch, tumbling/strengthening, ballet, and technique/intro tap. Students must also attend all mandatory competition rehearsals and must also attend parade practices and participate in the parade.

## **SOLOS/DUET/TRIOS:**

Private lessons can be scheduled at a rate of \$20 per 30 minute session or \$30 for 1 hour session. Competition students are required to have a minimum of 9 private lessons for a solo routine. More may be required if needed. Students **MUST** perform a solo at recital *before* competing at regional competition event. Only soloists who place in the top 5 in regional overalls at more than 1 competition should consider taking their solo to nationals. Soloists are allowed to compete at more regionals than group dances are scheduled for, but **SHOULD** go through the studio to do so. ***Our studio instructors are the only ones allowed to choreograph solos!*** Students should not seek out other choreographers from other studios for solo/duet/trios and the instructor is the only one allowed to make the decision on bringing in another choreographer once approved by the directors.

## **MASTER CLASSES:**

Students are allowed to participate in master classes here and there from other studios, but are **NOT** allowed to attend regular classes at another dance studio facility. Students should not miss any of their scheduled classes to attend at another studio's master class- unless approved by your class instructor and competition directors.

## **CLASS OBSERVATIONS:**

Parent/Guardians should not sit in during classes to give instructors and students the full ability to stay focused and for the best quality of class. This includes group classes, solo, duet, or trio classes and private lessons. If you have a concern or specific request, those can be discussed privately throughout the season, but classes should not be interrupted for these discussions. In addition, no videos can be posted of any routines or choreography whether in class or on stage until **AFTER** nationals in July.

## **SUPER SOLOIST, MISS/MISTER, TITLE COMPETITION**

Students have the opportunity to be a super soloist **ONCE** they have placed in the top 3 in overalls at multiple competitions. A super soloist is a student who competes with more than 1 solo. For some competitions that offer a "Super Solo category" - Students who are "super soloist" typically do not compete in the regular overall scoring and are placed in a separate "Super Soloist Category" instead. The highest two solo scores for each Super Solo are averaged to determine the Super Solo score for overall placement. Students performing only one solo per competition will be judged separately and will compete for the Top Soloist in every age division. Soloists also have the opportunity to compete for Miss/Mister or for Title at some competitions. This is an additional \$30 charge on average. Miss & Mister titles are typically determined by adding your overall score with your showmanship score.

## **AT A GLANCE SCHEDULE:**

You will be given an "AT A GLANCE" schedule for full season competition events as well as additional practices and other studio events for your convenience. **PLEASE** mark your calendars with these important dates so that you are prepared and aware of all upcoming events. Any additional events or dates not listed on the "at a glance" schedule will be sent via email and posted on Team Reach. It is **REQUIRED** for all families to download and use the Team Reach app. TTDS makes every effort to ensure you are aware of all events; However, it is your responsibility to keep up with all the information sent out. We are always here to answer any questions or concerns that you may have through out the season.

## **COMPETITION SCHEDULE:**

For competition events, details regarding times and specific days will be sent out 10-14 days prior to each competition event. Families should go ahead and block their schedule for the entire competition weekend. For each competition event, students could compete on any of the days that the event is scheduled for. **Missing a competition event may result in dismissal from the competition program and competition routines.** **COMPETITION IS FOR THE SERIOUS DANCER AND REQUIRES COMMITMENT.** Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. TTDS is not held accountable for any cancelled competition events, however TTDS will first try to schedule a replacement competition and if that is not feasible, TTDS will refund you your Competition Entry Fees back to your account. ***Cash/check refunds are not given.***

## **TRANSPORTATION / HOTELS:**

Transportation to and from competitions and other studio events are not arranged or provided. Families are encouraged to work together or post on the Team Reach app for house/condo/hotel sharing for any non-local competition events.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND STUDIO ETIQUETTE:**

Please do not take this personally or lightly. If you bully, gossip, post defamatory or inappropriate content on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, snapchat, etc, exhibit behavior reflecting negatively on our studio, or participate in drinking or smoking, we will consider this grounds for a strike, probation or suspension from the studio. Some examples of bullying include, but are not limited to: threats, physical aggression, negative discourse on social media, etc. ***This includes the behavior of parents/guardians.*** If we are in a public situation (competitions, performances, conventions, events, etc.), the expectation is that you will conduct your behavior responsibly. Remember you are a representative of Triple Threat Dance Studio. If there are situations that need to be addressed, please remember that we can handle those upon our return to the studio. In a public forum, it is ***unacceptable***. Our goal is to foster a healthy competitive team environment. With so many personalities, we realize that conflicts may arise, but we must be respectful and kind to one another. There is no room for personal conflicts amongst the team. Do not bring them to the dance studio or to an event. It is hard to stop gossip among students and parents all together, but we do not want it to become destructive. If you have a problem with a parent, instructor, staff member or student, ***please contact the directors to discuss your concerns and make the proper corrections.***

## **COMPETITION SCORING**

### **Judging:**

Every competition has different criteria for judging routines. The four basic things that routines are **ALWAYS** judged on are:

### **1. TECHNIQUE:**

The reason for ballet, technique, stretch/flexibility and tumbling class is **TECHNIQUE!** This includes:

- pointed feet
- turn-out
- extensions
- proper execution of turns
- use of plié
- placement of hands

**TECHNIQUE IS ALWAYS AT LEAST 50% OF A ROUTINE'S SCORE, SO YOUR BALLET AND TECHNIQUE CLASSES ARE SO IMPORTANT.**

### **2. OVERALL PERFORMANCE QUALITY**

How well each student knows their routine and how well they entertain the judges and audience with it, as well as musicality and understanding of music and rhythm. Also, in this area is the use of facial expression to convey the "feeling" and "emotion" of the routine.

### **3. APPEARANCE**

This pertains to costume fit, whether undergarments are showing, neatness of hair (taming fly-aways) and make-up. Hats and hair pieces being securely and consistently attached and pinned in the same place on each student. Costumes will be tested **BEFORE** the first competition to determine if you need to pin or secure any additional pieces. Double check that you have the proper undergarment, bra, tights & shoes for each different dance. Wardrobe malfunctions can bring down a score very quickly.

### **4. CHOREOGRAPHY**

Here it is the **TEACHER** that is judged! Choreography scores are based on appropriate choice of music and costumes according to their age division, use of stage, difficulty of routine, and how well the movement in the dance relates to the music. ***This is often the smallest portion of the overall score.***

## **AWARDS**

Award Ceremonies are usually held a few times each day at the end of each segment. Students are required to wear their team jacket and/or other TTDS attire on stage for all award ceremonies that they attend. They are required to attend all award ceremonies for the teams/routines they are in and are welcome to go on stage for others as well (depending on current regulations) as long as the student **BEHAVES, LOOKS PRESENTABLE, AND IS IN TTDS GEAR.** Dance Captains will be selected before each competition event. Dance captains are responsible for picking up awards at competition and for passing out any medals, pins, ribbons, etc from the group routine they are captain of at the end of the awards ceremony. If any medal or pin is missing, then it is the **DANCE CAPTAIN'S** responsibility to go backstage to request any missing awards. Dance captains are also responsible for giving any trophies or plaques for group routines to the studio when we return back for classes. Any cash prize awarded at a competition will go to the studio, with the exception of a cash prize for a Solo which will be given to the dancer or kept on the account for future competition entry fees.

### **Awards are the time to:**

- Hoot and holler (parents AND dancers),
- Take pictures
- Sit back and relax.

*The most important thing to remember about awards is that ALL scores are the opinions of 3 or 4 judges with different opinions. Scores & placements may vary from competition to competition.*

## **COVER UPS/ATTIRE AT COMPETITIONS & EVENTS**

Students should wear TTDS gear at all competitions and events. Students should always wear their team jacket or a TTDS top over costumes at events and on stage for awards. You are responsible for purchasing TTDS gear from our online store when the store is “open”. There are dedicated weeks for when the store is open to purchase TTDS gear as well as parade uniforms and you must purchase TTDS gear during the time period offered. Gear is **NOT** available to purchase year-round, or outside of the offered “open” dates. Students should always represent the studio well when wearing attire at competitions and events. Students should **NEVER** wear clothing with drugs, alcohol, or any other inappropriate imagery/language while at competitions and studio events.

## **CLASS DRESS CODE**

### ***Competition Ballet***

- Any solid black leotard
- Pink or Black tights
- Shoes: Any split sole ballet shoe NO bare feet or half soles
- Hair **PULLED BACK** in a bun/ponytail
- Boys: black or white t-shirt & black ballet shoes

### ***All other classes:***

- Leotards, sports bras or other fitted tops
- Dance pants, capris, or booty shorts
- Shoes - The required jazz shoe or foot undeez
- Hair **PULLED BACK** in a clean bun/ponytail
- Boys: athletic wear

### **NOT ACCEPTABLE**

- Flashy Jewelry, including earrings larger than a nickel or rings during routines with lifts.
- Jeans, pjs, hoodies

Please understand that students may be required to hold splits, do pushups& sit-ups, and more if student shows up to class not in the proper attire and shoes.

## **NAILS AT COMPETITION**

Students should NOT have ANY fake nails or fingernail polish on at any competition events. The **ONLY** exception for nails are French nails or NUDE color for students going to **PROM ONLY**. This must be discussed with directors before the event. With having multiple barefoot performances **NO STUDENT** should have toenail polish on for any competition event, *including any prom students*.

## **STRIKES:**

If a student or parents actions go against our studio, studio policy, or competition contract, the consequence will result in a strike. Each student/parent together are allowed 1 warning and up to 3 strikes. This may result in suspension from the competition program, events and/or practices. If a student is dropped or suspended from the competition program, he/she may choose to join recreational classes. If the same issues arise in the recreational program then student will then be suspended from all TTDS programs. Please see strike system below:

**WARNING** - only 1 warning will be given to the student/parent.

### **STRIKE 1-**

*Student will be required to sit out and watch for 1 week and will need to complete a strike form regarding their actions.*

### **STRIKE 2-**

*Student will be required to sit out to watch for 2 weeks during class and will need to complete a strike form & essay regarding their actions*

### **STRIKE 3-**

*Suspension from the competition team for the remainder of the season will be discussed with directors and teachers*

## **PLEASE UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING:**

*Student will be responsible for making up any choreography missed through a private lesson to catch up. **If a student has to sit out during mandatory practices or student has missed too many practices resulting in being unaware of changes, then TTDS has the right to WING any student or pull student all together from competition events without refund. During strikes and sitting out, TTDS has the right to move students out of sections to off stage/wings as well as any other necessary spacing changes and special part changes.***

## **REQUIRED FINANCIAL COMMITMENT:**

*Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment. Below are the fees associated with being on the competition team. Additional fees have been divided up and are due throughout the season. Please see next page for what fees are due in each month of the season. In addition, monthly tuition is due on the 1st of each month and late after the 15th where a \$10 late fee will be automatically charged to the account on the 16th and again on the 1st of the following month if tuition remains unpaid. Please understand that once account is 2 months past due, student is not allowed go participate in classes until the account is up to current. Please understand that student may get winged for missed choreography and changes until the student is caught up.*

## TTDS COMPETITION PROGRAM REGISTRATION FEE

\$25 Per student

## COMPETITION ENTRY FEE REGISTRATION

\$5 Per group routine per event (per student)

## MONTHLY STUDIO TUITION FOR COMPETITION STUDENT:

\$115 - \$165 per month. This fully depends on how many routines you are in and how many classes you take.

## COST FOR SOLO & DUETS:

\$20 per 30 minute session \$30 per 1 hour session. (Minimum of 9 sessions required) + costume & entry fees

## END OF SEASON RECITAL

\$107 and includes Recital Fee, Trophy Fee, Recital T-Shirt and Bottoms

## COMPETITION COSTUMES & MORE

\$100-\$175 per costume and does not include shoes or some accessories. \*Cost varies depending on alterations, rhinestones, props, etc.. In addition to competition costumes, **you will be responsible for ordering your dancer's required competition shoes BY SEPTEMBER**. ALL of our dance shoes cost under \$40 (aside from any hiphop branded shoe).

## COSMETIC BAG

A cosmetic bag and certain cosmetics will be required to purchase if you don't already have them with the option to purchase new or additional items. For earrings, **we will be using the same 13mm Ronde with Rivoili Button Earrings this season**. We will be using a new LIP STAIN color & new EYESHADOW color that you will need to order from us. A order form for cosmetic items will sent home in October. If you are a new competition student to TTDS this season, you will need to order the cosmetic bag itself from the team store now through September. Our goal is for all students to look the same on stage and to save time for parents on hunting needed cosmetic items.

\*\*\*If you are dismissed from a team or have to withdraw for any reason, you are required to leave your costumes at the studio for another person to fill your spot. ***This is not negotiable.*** Your costume will be returned to you at the end of the season. ***If you do not leave your costumes, for each costume needed, your account will be charged a replacement cost.***

## PARADE

\$30 parade fee + parade uniform. All competition students are required to participate in the parades and must purchase the parade/competition Jacket. Students will also wear their competition jacket at all competition events to act as a cover up over costumes and on stage for awards. Along with the NEW jacket this season, students will be required to wear black leggings and any all white tennis shoe.

## AVERAGE REGIONALS COMPETITION ENTRY FEES PER EVENT:

Solos→ \$135-\$189 *average per student*

Duet/trio→ \$78-\$100 *average per student*

Group→ \$75-\$85 *average per student per group routine*

Competition Entry Fees are due 60-90 days before each competition event. Due dates will be posted on calendars that can be found on the info wall located in the lobby, or your "AT A GLANCE" schedule. Entry Fee deadlines will be clearly defined on an invoice given out at the beginning of the season and must be paid timely! If you do not pay on time, a \$25 late charge will be added with the possibility of the dancer not allowed to participate in class and could also result in student being *winged*.

# ***DUE DATE SCHEDULE THAT SHOWS WHAT ADDITIONAL FEES ARE DUE EACH MONTH OF THE SEASON!!***

*This season we have made a new fee schedule so that no additional fees are due in the month December to help families during the Christmas buying season. :)*

**AUGUST:** *New Season Registration Fee, Competition Entry Registration Fees, Costume Deposit & shoe orders*

**SEPTEMBER:** *Parade Fee, Parade Gear, Cosmetic Bag (bag only if needed) \*FEES DUE BY SEPTEMBER 28th*

**OCTOBER:** *Costumes, Cosmetic items \*FEES DUE BY OCTOBER 31ST*

**NOVEMBER:** *1st Competition Fee Due for all teams. (Ultimate Dance Tour AND Showstopper) \*FEES DUE BY NOVEMBER 15TH*

**DECEMBER:** *NO FEES DUE*

**JANUARY:** *2nd Competition Fee Due all teams (Endless Talent) \* FEES DUE BY JANUARY 10TH*

**FEBRUARY:** *3rd Competition Fee Due for Performance Team & Competitive Team only (Encore DCS) \*FEES DUE BY FEBRUARY 7TH*

**MARCH:** *Recital Fee Due & any recreational costumes \* FEES DUE BY MARCH 6TH*

**APRIL:** *NO FEES DUE (Can purchase recital program ads)*

**MAY:** *Nationals Fees Due \*FEES DUE BY MAY 1ST*

**JUNE:** *NO FEES DUE, but purchase Recital Tickets*

# Triple Threat Dance Studio

**Please sign and return this page. Keep the Competition Contract for your reference.**

Both dancer and parent/guardian have read and understood all that is expected as a member of Triple Threat Dance Studio's Competition Teams. We understand that these policies are created to ensure the absolute best training and most positive and rewarding experience for everyone. Both dancer and parent/guardian understand that failure to meet the conditions set forth in this contract could result in the dancer's dismissal from the team.

Dancer's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU & WELCOME TO THE TEAM!