

## **East County Performing Arts Center Competition Team Parent Handbook 2023/2024**

### **Part 1 Culture Counts**

You are responsible for the energy you bring to this team!

Our #1 goal: To give kids the skills to succeed in dance and in life

Our Team Motto: Team Before Talent!

### **Recommended Reading for Parents, Kids and Teens**

We take continued education and self-improvement very seriously at ECPAC! You and your dancer are part of this team. Here is a list of books that help shape and drive our culture:

- Energy Bus- Jon Gordon
- Energy Bus for Kids- Jon Gordon
- Grit- Angela Duckworth (she also has a TED Talk that is great!)
- You Win in the Locker Room First- Jon Gordon
- Mindset- Carol Dweck
- Success for Teens- Darren Hardy (I have some copies if your kids are interested)
- Compound Effect- Darren Hardy

Competition Team is a wonderful opportunity for you to grow as dancers and form friendships that can last forever. Maintaining a positive culture is vital to having a winning team.

### **Our Core Values are Respect, Community and Excellence**

All the decisions we make are measured to those 3 Core Values. Our Core Value Action that we expect all dancers, parents, teachers and administrators to follow is:

### **Compliments Go Sideways, Complaints Go Up**

**Compliment anyone at any time, the more the better! But if there is a problem it needs positive communication to be addressed correctly.** This means if there is a problem whether it be with a dancer, teacher, competition, or policy, the complaints come to the Competition Director and the Competition Director only. Dancers should not complain to each other or to their teachers, parents should not complain to each other or to their teachers. Complaints and problems go up to the person who can solve them and give you the service you deserve!

To make sure our teams run smoothly and to maintain a positive culture we have guidelines that you are expected to follow.

**These policies are put in place to fulfill the goals and maintain the integrity of the program. Failing to follow these policies may result in dismissal from the team.**

**Levels of Teams - We have 4 different team programs that vary in cost, class commitment and event commitment. Please choose the level that best suits your family.**

**ECPAC SQUAD \*\*New this season!\*\***

ECPAC Squad are pom and hip hop teams that compete 2 times locally, attend community parades and events, and perform an in-house showcase in January. The season runs June-January. It is a short-term and small weekly class commitment.

**Pom Squad ages 4-12**

Class requirement 1 45 min class per week \$85/month

Uniform-\$100

Bow- \$15

Team Shirt- \$20

**Hip Hop Squad ages 4-12**

Class requirement 1 45 min class per week \$85/month

Costume- \$75

Team shirt- \$20

**SEMI COMP TEAMS**

This is a fun, low-cost opportunity to see what competition team is all about.

**Everyone makes a team! No experience necessary! No audition necessary!**

All Semi Comp Teams perform at a tree lighting ceremony, in-house performance, one local competition in the spring, and at our June recital.

All-inclusive tuition includes costume and entry fees.

**Little Mermaid Ballet Team**

Ages 4-5 Ballet Team

Requirements- 1 30 min Bitty Ballet class & 1 30 min choreography rehearsal class

Little Mermaid inspired costume.

Inclusive monthly tuition \$140/month

**Little Mermaid Jazz Team**

Ages 6-7 Jazz Team

Requirements- 1 45 min Tap/Jazz Combo class & 1 30 min choreography rehearsal class

Little Mermaid inspired costume

Inclusive monthly tuition \$170/month

Semi Comp Teams will follow our comp tuition schedule, 12 months of payments August-July. Dancers will attend their Semi-Comp team class until recital, their last performance. Once the recital is over their non-comp team class continues through mid July and dancers may add unlimited classes for the remainder of June and July at no additional cost!

## **LEVEL 1 COMPETITION TEAM**

Level 1 teams are for dancers who want a little bit more than Semi Comp Teams but are not ready to commit to Nationals and conventions. Level 1 teams attend 3 competitions a year.

### **Sparkle Squad Ages 3-7**

*Sparkle Squad Jazz and Tap:* 1 combo or boogie babies class, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal  
Sparkle Squad follows our regular tuition structure.

### **Ages 7+**

*Jazz Team:* 1 ballet class, 1 jazz tech, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal

*Tap Team:* 1 tap tech, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal

*Contemporary Team:* 1 ballet class, 1 contemporary class, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal

*Hip Hop Team:* 1 hip hop class, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal

Anything less than 3 hours a week stays within our regular tuition table. Once a dancer reaches 3 classes a week the competition team tuition structure starts.

***Solos/Duos/Trios are not available for dancers in Level 1***

## **LEVEL 2 COMPETITION TEAM**

Our Level 2 teams are for dancers who are ready to commit to more class requirements and events. Four competitions (1 of these is a convention), in house convention, and Nationals (nationals is also a convention).

All dancers will be required to do a jazz (or musical theater) team. With the exception of Hip Hop, dancers on a hip hop team are not required to be on a jazz or musical theater team.

### **7 and under Jazz Team**

1 ballet class, 1 jazz tech, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal class.

### **8 and up Jazz Team**

2 ballet classes, 1 jazz tech, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal class. If a dancer turns 8 during a season he/she is required to add a ballet class at that time.

### **7 and under Contemporary Team**

1 ballet class, 1 contemporary class, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal class

### **8 and up Contemporary Team**

2 ballet classes, 1 contemporary class, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal class. If a dancer turns 8 during a season he/she is required to add a ballet class at that time.

### **Ballet Team (any age)**

2 ballet classes, ½ hour rehearsal/choreography class

### **Tap Team**

1 ballet or jazz tech (both are recommended), 1 tap tech, ½ hour choreography/rehearsal class

### **Hip Hop Team**

1 hip hop class or jazz tech (both are recommended), ½ hour choreography/rehearsal class

There may be a time when we ask a dancer to dance up to the next age level. This is up to the discretion of the teachers.

### **What Happens After Auditions?**

If your child does not make the team we will contact you within one week after auditions.

If your child does make the team, your child will get a congratulations email letter and you will come to a contract signing day (date to follow). At that meeting you will sign your commitment contract, set up your auto-pay, pay your first team fee and then you will get your Team Assignments. At this time you will also have the opportunity to order your accessories and team warm-ups.

### **Attendance**

Your teachers expect you to be in class, **every class, every week.** The only acceptable reason to miss class is if you are contagiously sick or you have a fever. If you are injured, or have a non-contagious sickness, you are expected to come to class and at the very least watch, take notes and learn.

You need to plan your school studies as well. Reports and tests should not be a reason to miss class. Plan your time wisely and do projects and studying in advance... not at the last minute. If your dancer does need to miss class they are expected to make up their tech and ballet classes. The best case scenario is when a dancer knows she/he is going to miss class and makes up the class in advance. If your dancer is 11 or older, they are responsible enough to schedule their own makeup classes.

If attendance becomes a problem your dancer may be removed from the next competition or removed from the team completely.

If your dancer is removed from the team, tuition and comp team fees cannot be refunded. Costume fees can be refunded IF the studio can return the costume.

**IF YOUR DANCER DOES NOT ATTEND TEAM THE WEEK OF A COMPETITION THEY MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN THAT DANCE.** Competition fees are non-refundable.

### **Class Uniform**

In Ballet class girls will wear pink footed tights and your assigned level/color leotard. Leg warmers and Ballet sweaters are acceptable for warm up only. Hair will be in a tight bun held with hairpins, no floppy half fold buns.

In Ballet classes boys will wear a form fitting white tee shirt and black tight pants or shorts (tights are recommended).

In all other classes the dress code is any color of dancewear. No oversized clothing, no pajamas, we need to be able to see these dancer's bodies to adequately assess and advance their technique. Proper shoes are required for classes, including sneakers for hip hop classes.

No jeans are allowed, **even in Hip Hop classes.**

## **Competition Uniform**

*Convention:* you may wear anything you want!

*Warm-ups:* Jackets and team shirts, must be worn to all competitions

**\*\*\*\*\*JEANS AND PAJAMA BOTTOMS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON STAGE DURING AWARD CEREMONIES UNLESS THEY ARE YOUR COSTUME.\*\*\*\*\***

While on stage or representing the studio dancers would wear a combination of their team shirt, pants and jacket.

## **Tuition**

All families are required to be on auto pay or you can pay for the year in full with a 5% discount. If you are paying in full please pay with a check, if you use a credit card to pay in full there will be a 3% transaction fee.

All families are required to keep a valid checking account on file. We do not accept monthly checks for tuition. Tuition is due on the first of the month. Your total yearly tuition will be broken up into 12 equal payments and charged each month August-July.

For example:

Tuition for the Koch Family = \$255/month

Total tuition for the dance season (August- June) =\$2805

We break this amount into 12 payments (August-July) = \$233.75 due on the first of the month August-July.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** If you dancer is dancing over the summer session, your tuition amount will be more for the month of June since that is when money is due for summer session.

Sibling discount is 10% for the less expensive tuition.

Semi-comp, Level 1 and Level 2 teams get FREE Summer Tuition in July!

## **Payment Extension or Special Payment Arrangement**

If you are in need of an extension or a payment arrangement we can accommodate you.

1. All solo practices and entries are put on hold until the balance is paid.
2. You cannot register for extra events or entries until the balance is paid
3. You must sign a contract. If that contract is broken your dancer will be suspended until your balance is paid in full.

## **Injury**

Injuries are always a problem in a team environment. If your dancer becomes injured and they cannot rehearse they should not perform at the next competition until they are healed and dancing at their best. This is not a punishment, it is for your dancer's safety and for the good of the team. If your dancer has missed classes for a week or two before a competition they are not at their best. The injury will have weakened the dancer putting them at risk for additional injury. Also, if the dancer is not at 100% they will not perform at 100%. Think of it this way... a football

player has to attend practice to play in the game. If a player is injured and has to miss practice for a week or two they will spend the game on the bench, for their own safety and for the good of the team. Please be honest about your dancers' injuries. Their health is the most important thing to us.

### **Special Awards/Entries**

Many competitions have opportunities for dancers to be awarded special awards, titles, or prizes. Please check the competition websites for info and let us know if you would like to enter. Most competitions will take photogenic entries the day of competition, but please check the competition's website for entry information. All "special" entries require an extra fee.

**You may NOT enter any "extras" at the competition if you have a balance on your account.**

### **Recital**

Participation in recitals is not optional. Participation in recital is important for many reasons:

1. they get to dance for fun without the stress of judgment
2. our recreational families see what is ahead for their own dancers
3. Our comp program is the heart of the studio. Our only opportunity to share their talents with our studio community is at the recital.

You will be purchasing your dancer's recital costume at the time you sign your contract. Please expect to perform in all the shows. We also rely heavily on our older dancers, age 11+, to help us with the younger dancers during the show. They are wonderful helpers and the little dancers think they are the coolest babysitters ever.

**Note: Contemporary 2-4 and ballet 3-6 will not have a recital costume to purchase.**

### **Prize Money**

Often we will win prize money at competitions. If this money is for a team it goes into the team fundraising fund. If the prize money is awarded to a soloist, duo or trio the studio will issue the check to the performer(s). Please note the studio must receive the award before we can issue the check(s) to the dancer(s).

### **Competition Schedule**

The Competition Schedule will be released in August and dates will not change. We try not to schedule competition on holiday weekends or during the Brentwood school breaks.

Please know that the competition schedule may require your dancer to miss school or leave early on Friday. We do everything in our power to make changes or move dances but sometimes it is completely out of our control and your child must be there.

We also give the opportunity of a few optional conventions each year, these conventions are open to any dancer on the team regardless of participation level. You are welcome to attend additional competitions and conventions.

**Notes on competition:** Please know that sometimes errors happen on the comp schedule, dances are omitted, dancers are missed, or names of dances may be wrong. We communicate with the competition to fix any errors. Sometimes the errors get fixed on the back end but not in the

competition program. Sometimes your dancer's name may be misspelled in the program, please do not be offended, this is out of our control. Please know this drives us nuts too!

### **Category and Level Placement**

There are many things that go into placing a routine in genre, age category or level. Each competition has a different way of placing the kids by age and level. Sometimes we are totally bound by their guidelines and other times we have the flexibility to place a routine where it is best suited. If you have a question regarding level placement please email your question or concern to [ecpaccomp@gmail.com](mailto:ecpaccomp@gmail.com).

### **Makeup and Accessories**

We partner with MADE Cosmetics in Brentwood. Patricia has developed a custom pallet/package just for ECPAC dancers. Please visit her website [www.madebrentwood.com](http://www.madebrentwood.com), contact Patricia for more info. Make up orders must be placed by November 1 to arrive in time for competitions.

All dancers are required to have performance jewelry and hair accessories. Order forms for jewelry, warm ups, team shirts and dance bags are available at your contract signing..

### **Rhinestones**

Your teachers may want to add rhinestones to your costumes. These are an additional cost. Rhinestones can be ordered through [www.dreamtimecreations.com](http://www.dreamtimecreations.com). Instructions on what to order and how to apply will be given later in the season.

### **Weekly Newsletter**

Each week we update the Comp News on Wednesday. You can find this and ALL Comp Season Information in the ECPAC Hub [www.ecpachub.com](http://www.ecpachub.com). You can find it on the Hub!

Checked the Hub but still need answers?

1. Call/email/text your team mom
2. Email [ecpaccomp@team@gmail.com](mailto:ecpaccomp@team@gmail.com)
3. Call the studio 240-5556

Please do not call the Comp Director or your teachers with team related questions or to notify of absences. Although we love to hear from you, when you call/text/email the teachers not only will we forget by the time we get to class but most likely we will forget to notify the other teachers. It is necessary to contact the front desk with absences and any questions you may have. You have one on one communication with your solo/duo/trio teacher and you can call Nina in emergency situations. Please understand that your teachers may not be able to answer your questions, but mostly please respect their downtime when they are away from the studio. Under most circumstances the front desk staff can answer your question and if they can't they can get the answer for you.

If you would like a meeting or to schedule a phone call with a teacher contact the front desk.

### **Academics**

Dancers, you are expected to maintain grades that are acceptable to your parents. School is your first priority. Once again, you need to plan for your school studies. Reports and tests should not

be a reason to miss class. Plan your time wisely and do projects and studying in advance... not at the last minute. Comps may schedule your dancer on a Friday afternoon. Please have your dancers prepared ahead of time with homework and projects so that a Friday competition will not have a negative effect on your dancer.

### **Parent Conduct**

First and foremost, you will not have a positive experience if you are completely disconnected. Connect with another parent, connect on the Facebook forum, sit with parents during comps, be involved!

It is important that our competition team is a positive and safe environment. Your conduct is a huge part of this. Parents please remember that our children are a reflection of ourselves. Please do not gossip about the goings on at our studio, other studios or dance families. If you hear gossip, keep it to yourself, do not spread it. Do not talk badly about other studios or dancers at other studios. Always take the high road. Remember you are a representative of ECPAC, please behave the way you would like your child to behave.

Please do not air your studio grievances on social media. It always gets back to your teachers and director...and most of the time it hurts our feelings.

While at an event with your child please keep your alcohol consumption to a minimum. We want you all to have a great time together but please remember you are representing your child and our studio, your best behavior is necessary.

All communication with the conventions and competition goes through the studio. Parents may not call a competition or convention directly. Here is why:

1. We work hard to maintain favorable relationships with the companies we do business with. We need to control how the communication goes.
2. A lot goes on behind the scenes with these companies that you do not know about. Please be respectful and understand that there is always more to the story than just the side that you see and it affects more than just your dancer or your schedule.
3. Competitions and conventions do not want to hear from parents. It is what we call a B2B relationship, business to business; not B2C, business to consumer.

**If your conduct is unfavorable, you and your dancer will be asked to leave our program.**

### **Organization**

You are expected to keep track of your costumes, accessories, shoes, makeup and whatever else you may need for performances. All your supplies need to be kept together and not used between performances. Your costumes should always be hung up and ready to go. If everything is together and ready then you only need to do a quick check before a performance. Put your name on EVERYTHING!

### **Practice**

Dancers are expected to come prepared for class by practicing. If they fall behind in class, parents will have to pay for private lessons to catch them up. If an entire team needs extra rehearsals parents may have to pay for those as well.



## **Participation**

Competition Team members are expected to participate in all scheduled events. Remember this is a team effort and to perform at our best full participation is necessary. If you are part of a team and choose not to participate in a competition you may be forfeiting your place on the team. The only acceptable reason to miss a competition is injury or serious illness i.e. vomiting, diarrhea, high fever or other contagious illness. A cold, allergies or illness controlled by antibiotics for 24 hours is not an acceptable reason to miss a competition or convention.

**At each competition, dancers are required to be PERFORMANCE READY 2 hours before their scheduled performance time.**

Performance ready is in costume with full hair and makeup. Each dancer needs to pay attention when hair needs to be redone or makeup needs to be touched up. It is important to present ourselves 100% before we even start to dance. Dancers and parents are also expected to have costumes in presentable condition. Ironed, mended, clean, no holes in tights or shoes etc... We need all the kids ready early so we can have time to rehearse. Please be considerate of the teachers schedule and the other dancers which is why 2 hours ahead is necessary. Competitions can run up to an hour early.

At convention all dancers are required to check in with the Competition Director 45 min before the first class begins. We will meet in the hotel lobby, at that time dancers will get their participation wristbands. Dancers are expected to take all classes whether they have had experience in the genre or not. Dancers are not allowed to sit out of class, switch classes or leave early without prior approval.

**All Competition Team members will audition at every convention and competition that offers one. Auditions are an important part of your dance education and are a great experience. It is also required that team members audition every year for team placements.**

Lack of participation is not a part of our culture and may negatively impact your position on the team.

## **Prom and Life Events**

We make every effort to not schedule competitions on the same weekend as the local high school proms but sometimes it is impossible to avoid it. If we are scheduled to be at a comp or convention on the same day as prom we will attempt to manipulate the performance schedule so the affected dances will perform Friday night, Saturday morning or Sunday. **PLEASE PLAN ON STAYING AT THE EVENT UNTIL 2:00 ON SATURDAY.** We will absolutely attempt to change the performance schedule for the dancer's prom, but unfortunately we cannot accommodate a request to change the schedule for a boyfriend/girlfriend's prom.

In some cases there are other life events we can try to accommodate such as first communion or immediate family weddings. Please know that some conflicts are too heavy to even ask for. If you have an upcoming life event you need to notify the Comp Director.

## **Specialty Numbers**

All dancers in Level 2 of Comp Team, of all ages are invited to apply for solo/duo/trio. There are a few factors involved in the staff choosing which dancers will be placed in these numbers, and how many specialty numbers these dancers may do.

1. Years of experience, level and maturity of the dancer- Is he or she ready?
2. Has the dancer committed to learning new genres and are other teams available to her? Is she/he taking all the opportunities to participate in teams?

Your dancer must participate in a team in the same genre as the specialty number. For example if you dancer wants to do a contemporary trio she/he must be in a contemporary group. (There may be times where a team of 3 may be put together by the teachers because it would be the best for the team and the dancers. In this instance your trio still counts as a team.)

Each dancer will be considered individually.

Private and semi-private lessons are available to every dancer, regardless if they are doing a specialty number or not.

**Solo \$50/half hour**

**Duo/trio \$70/half hour**

**Choreography fees for specialty numbers are as follows:**

**Solo \$200 Duo/trio \$250 (split between participants)**

If your dancer is using outside choreography and the rehearsal is being done at ECPAC there will be a studio rental fee for practice time. All scheduling of rehearsal time will go through the studio.

The studio will handle the billing for all specialty and private lessons. You are billed for 4 lessons a month on the 1st for the month with your tuition. If your teacher cancels or if you cancel your lesson with 24 hours notice, you will be credited for your missed lesson. Please notify [ecpacompteam@gmail.com](mailto:ecpacompteam@gmail.com) if you missed a lesson. If you have more than 4 lessons in the month you will be charged for those additional lessons.

Choreography fees will be automatically charged October 20.

Please make sure you cancel your private lesson with 24 hours notice. If you don't cancel you will still be charged for that time, account credits will be given for private lessons that are canceled with a 24 hour notice.

### **Costumes**

Costume deposits are \$100 per costume (\$50 for tap teams) Please note this is a deposit. Competition costumes may be as expensive as \$200.00. We will be adding a fee to the costumes to cover staff time it takes to order and organize costumes. If costumes come in significantly under budget you will be issued a credit on your dance account. We do not refund cash. Some of our costumes are custom made. Your teachers turn in their costume choices by the end of August. Please know that sometimes there are unforeseen circumstances that delay the delivery of our costumes.

### **Other Important Things**

Please bring sneakers and pants/leggings/sweats to class as well as competition. Often we have to rehearse outside and we want to protect their shoes and costumes from getting dirty or ruined.

**No cell phones in class or on stage during award ceremonies.**

## **MONEY MATTERS**

**Please Note: Some of these fees may go up if the supplier/company raises their fees.**

### **Quit Fee**

We take your commitment to this very seriously. Your child's involvement affects the experience of the other children on the team. If you decide to quit mid-season your credit card will be charged the \$500 quit fee as well as any fees that may be outstanding.

### **Opt- Out Fees**

If for some reason your dancer cannot attend a scheduled competition or convention there is an Opt Out Fee. \$50 per dance for a regional event and \$100 per dance for Nationals. These fees are per dancer. Please know that it seriously impacts the rest of the team when one dancer is missing.

### **Required equipment and fees for Level 1 and Level 2 Teams only:**

***These fees are not required for Semi-Comp Teams or Pom/Hip Hop Squad***

**\*Fees will be added together and split into 3 payments for you.**

- **Unisex Custom Team Jacket:** \$115
- **Jewelry:** Necklace, earrings, and pony holder; approximately \$80. Not all teams will need these. These items will be available to purchase at Gabby's Closet.
- **Bag:** \$50.00 (not required but encouraged)
- **\*Team Tee Shirt:** \$25
- **\*Nationals Shirt:** \$40 (only for teams that attend Nationals)
- **Shoes:** We carry most of your required shoes in our store. If we do not have your size on hand we can order it and have it within the week.
- **Make up:** We partner with MADE Cosmetics in Brentwood. Patricia has developed a custom pallet/package just for ECPAC dancers, the cost is around \$100. Please visit her website [www.madebrentwood.com](http://www.madebrentwood.com), contact Patricia for more info. Orders need to be in by November 1 to get in time for competitions.
- **Competition costs:** \$55-75 per team per competition.
- **Convention costs:** \$225-\$350 (plus competition fees) Hotel stays are not mandatory but may be necessary and encouraged.
- **\*Costumes:** \$200 per team is the max you will pay. Deposits will be required: \$100 per team (\$50 for tap teams). **This fee does not include accessories, rhinestones or sequins.**
- **\*Choreography fee:** \$35 per team.
- **Administrative Fee:** \$5 per team per competition. This fee helps to cover administrative fees and additional fees the studio incurs while registering for competitions.
- **\*Yearly Family Participation Fee:** \$75 per team/solo/duo per dancer. Participation fees cover your teacher's compensation to be at competitions, hotel, food and gas.
- **\*Recital costumes:** \$85 per dance (building ballet-level 2 ballet, intro to contemporary, contemporary 1, and any other recreational classes)

## Payments

At the beginning of the year an email is sent stating when all the fees are due for all the competitions/conventions. You are not invoiced for each event. You are responsible for checking your account and paying your bill. Your account can be accessed online.

Here is how you check your account:

Download our ECPAC app from your app store, search East County PAC.

Click on My account

or

Go to our website [www.brentwooddance.com](http://www.brentwooddance.com)

Click on **Register Now** on the home page

Click on any class on the schedule and it will take you to the registration page

On the registration page if you know your password you can enter in your email and password. If you do not know your password click on **Forgot Password**. You will be prompted to enter your email address and the system will send you your password.

Follow the instructions in the email to set up your password.

After you set your password you may log in to your account, view your balance, pay your bill or enroll in more classes.

**All competition and convention fees will be charged automatically on the due date. If your payment is declined you will be charged a \$20 PER TEAM late fee.**

All tuition and comp fees will be charged automatically on the due date. You may choose to pay your fees in advance by cash, check or with your account on file. **EVERY FAMILY IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A CARD ON FILE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

It is very important you keep your account current with both tuition and comp fees. If your account is not current your solo will not be entered, you may not enter any "extras" at competition and you may not register for extra competitions until your balance is paid.

We will package some of these fees for you. You will get a total of your warm ups, choreography, recital costume, team shirt yearly participation fee and costume deposits. We will break up payments into 3 installments.

**Installment payments are due at the time of contract signing, August 15 and October 15.**

**Level 1 and 2 Teams- You have the option of all-inclusive tuition. We will take all your fees (the total for the year) and break it up into 12 monthly payments.**

**All Dancers are required to follow the Code of Conduct below:**

## **ECPAC Competition Team Dancer Code of Conduct**

You are responsible for the energy you bring to this team. Our contribution to you is to provide a positive, informative and growth driven teaching environment for you. We also provide you with space, time and encouragement to pursue your passions. In turn, your contributions to the team are to share your passion with your teammates, work hard in your classes and on stage, give your time and energy to the team and above all be committed to your own dance journey and that of your entire team.

### **Practice**

You are expected to come prepared for class by practicing. If you fall behind in class, your parents will have to pay for private lessons to catch you up. If an entire team needs extra rehearsals your parents may have to pay for those as well.

### **Other Important Things**

Please bring sneakers and pants/leggings/sweats to competitions. Often we have to rehearse outside at the studio and at competitions and we want to protect your shoes and costumes from getting dirty.

### **Participation**

You are expected to participate in all scheduled events. Remember this is a team effort and to perform at our best, full participation is necessary. If you are part of a team and choose not to participate in a competition you may be forfeiting your place on the team.

**At each competition, dancers are required to be PERFORMANCE READY 2 hours before their scheduled performance time.** Performance ready is full hair and makeup and in costume. You need to pay attention when your hair needs to be redone or makeup needs to be touched up. It's important to present ourselves 100% before we even start to dance. You are also expected to have costumes in presentable condition. Ironed, mended, clean, no holes in tights or shoes, etc. We need you to be ready early so we can have time to rehearse. Your teachers and teammates are juggling their responsibilities to other teams as well as your team which is why arriving 2 hours before your scheduled performance time is necessary. Please note, competitions can run up to an hour early.

At a convention, you are required to check in with the Competition Director 45 min before the first class begins. We will meet in the hotel lobby and you will get your participation wristbands. You are expected to take all classes whether you have had experience in the genre or not. You are not allowed to sit out of class, swap classes, or leave early without prior approval.

You will audition at every convention and competition that offers one. Auditions are an important part of your dance education and the more you do it the easier it gets! You are also required to audition every year for team placements. Lack of participation is not a part of our culture and may negatively impact your position on the team.

## **Prom and Life Events**

If we are scheduled to be at a comp or convention on the same day as prom we will attempt to manipulate the performance schedule so the affected dances will perform Friday night, Saturday morning or Sunday. **PLEASE PLAN ON STAYING AT THE EVENT UNTIL 2:00 ON SATURDAY** We will absolutely attempt to change the performance schedule for your prom, but unfortunately we cannot accommodate requests to change the schedule for a boyfriend/girlfriend's prom.

In some cases, there are other life events we can try to accommodate such as first communion or immediate family weddings. Please know that some conflicts are going to be just too hard to ask for.

## **Attendance**

**IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND TEAM THE WEEK OF A COMPETITION YOU MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN THAT DANCE.** Competition fees are non-refundable. There are extenuating circumstances to this rule that will be left to the discretion of the competition director.

Your teachers expect you to be in class, **every class, every week.** The only acceptable reason to miss class is if you are contagiously sick or you have a fever. If you are injured or have a non-contagious sickness, you are expected to come to class and at the very least watch, take notes and learn.

You need to plan your school studies as well. Reports and tests should not be a reason to miss class. Plan your time wisely and do projects and studying in advance... not at the last minute. If you do need to miss a class you are expected to make up your tech and ballet classes. The best case scenario is to have a solid plan and make up the class in advance. If you are 11 or older, we expect you to schedule your own makeup classes.

Your attendance in competition classes is important. There are details that are discussed and danced in every single class. It's a rhythm, like breathing. The team needs to trust each other.

If attendance becomes a problem you may be removed from the team and your parents will not be refunded for previous fees paid.

## **NO CELL PHONES WILL BE ALLOWED IN CLASS AT ANY TIME**

## **Class Uniform**

In Ballet class, girls will wear pink footed tights and your assigned level/color leotard. Leg warmers and ballet sweaters are acceptable for warm up only. Large sweatshirts and baggy sweatpants are NOT acceptable. Hair will be in a tight bun held with hairpins, no floppy half fold buns. In Ballet class, boys will wear a form-fitting white tee shirt and black tight pants or shorts (tights are recommended).

In all other classes the dress code is any color of dancewear. No oversized clothing, no pajamas, we need to be able to see these dancer's bodies to adequately assess and advance their technique.

Proper shoes are required for classes, including sneakers for hip hop classes  
No jeans are allowed, **even in Hip Hop classes.**

## **Competition Uniform**

*Convention:* you may wear anything you want! However please pay attention to your appearance. Wear nice, well-fitting, appropriate clothing to perform at your best during convention classes

*Warm-ups:* Jackets and team shirts, must be worn to all competitions

**\*\*\*\*\*BLANKETS, JEANS, AND PAJAMA BOTTOMS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON STAGE DURING AWARD CEREMONIES UNLESS THEY ARE YOUR COSTUME.\*\*\*\*\***

Please take pride in your appearance and represent ECPAC in a classy way. While on stage or representing the studio dancers would wear a combination of their team shirt, pants, and jacket.

**No cell phones are permitted on stage during award ceremonies. We want the team to engage with each other and be 100% in the experience.**

## **Injury**

Injuries are always a problem in a team environment. If you become injured and you cannot rehearse, you should not perform. This is not a punishment, it is for your safety and for the good of the team. If you have missed classes for a week or two before a competition you are not at your best. The injury will have weakened you, putting you at risk for additional injury. Also, if you are not at 100% you will not perform at 100% thus letting the team down. Think of it this way... a football player has to attend practice to play in the game. If a player is injured and has to miss practice for a week or two he will spend the game on the bench, for his own safety and for the good of the team. Please be honest with your teachers about how you are feeling with your body. Your health is more important than anything else.

## **Recital**

Participation in the recital and the spring show is not optional. Please expect to perform in all the shows. If you are 11 or older you are expected to help during our shows for the younger dancers.

## **Academics**

Dancers, you are expected to maintain grades that are acceptable to your parents. School is your first priority. Once again, you need to plan for your school studies. Reports and tests should not be a reason to miss class. Plan your time wisely and do projects and studying in advance... not at the last minute.

Competitions may schedule for you to dance on Fridays, please be prepared with homework and projects so that this will not have a negative effect on you.

## **Dancer Conduct**

*In class:* You are not to question, talk back to, or disrespect your teachers in any way. You will not tease, pick on, be mean to or disrespect your classmates. You will not gossip. In fact, you shouldn't be talking while in class. If we find that you are an energy vampire, this could be cause for dismissal.

*At outside events:* You will congratulate all the dancers you see. You will give good-luck wishes to dancers from other studios. You will never talk negatively about other dancers, teachers or studios. During award ceremonies, you will cheer and clap for all teams and all schools. You will show enthusiasm for every award you get even if it was not what you hoped for.

**Please note...** please do not bring your significant others to competitions or rehearsals. We are there to compete and focus on what we have worked so hard on all season. We love our “fans” but they are a distraction and not fair to the team.

### **Social Media**

Please be smart, kind and show self-respect and class while online. What you put out on ANY social media will be out there forever. What you say and how you conduct yourself is a direct reflection on the ECPAC team. Any negative or inappropriate posting will not be tolerated. If any negative social media behavior is discovered by the ECPAC team, it could be grounds for dismissal.

If you are choosing to make videos for social media set to music or doing movements that are not aligned with the studio values please do not wear your studio gear or make these videos while in the studio.

Being a strong, positive, growth-minded team means that there must be rules to follow and consequences to our actions. We, as the ECPAC team, want to give you everything we can to fuel your passion and in turn, we want you to work with us to create the best dance culture we can. We are a team. We are ECPAC.