

## Competitive Agreement

What it means to be a competitive dancer

Competitive dance is not a right but a privilege earned by hard work, dedication, attention to detail, having great manners and a passion for learning this beautiful art form.

### Attendance

There is considerable time, energy and money that goes into preparing an entire team for a competitive season. For the success of the team and the safety of our dancers, all students are expected to attend all classes and competitions.

1. Dancers should ready at least 5- 10 minutes before classes start, meaning hair done, shoes on and ready to dance.
2. If your dancer is ill please do not bring them to class with a fever or anything that may be contagious.
3. If they have a pulled muscle, common cramps etc. They should still attend class and participate to the best of their ability, observe class and technical instruction.
4. Three grace days are provided throughout the year for dancers to miss classes. Think of them as a “get out of jail free cards”.
5. The teachers do require advance notice and once more than 3 grace days have been used, a meeting with the Competitive Director will be required to continue in the program.
6. Children are to move promptly from one class to another as every minute counts in their training. Should your child be excused from the program due to poor attendance, no refunds will be made for class fees, costumes, competition fees and choreography fees.
7. Dancers are not required at the studio on Thanksgiving Sunday and Holiday Monday, Halloween, throughout Christmas Holidays, on Sunday and Monday of Family Day Weekend, March Break, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Monday, Victoria Day Sunday and Monday.
8. Please plan family vacations to avoid missed classes. Should you require to be excluded from a competition due to special circumstances, a letter via email must be provided to Miss Brittany by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. After this date, Competitions will be selected and no other accommodations will be made. Competitions are not optional.
9. Dancers unable to perform their group dances will not be permitted to perform extra choreography. Private lessons require 24 hours notice for cancellation; otherwise parents will be charged for the lesson.

### Attire

Proper dance etiquette requires specific grooming for technical training at its finest. Dancers should be in clean, non-revealing, dance attire for all classes with no visible bra straps, excessive cleavage etc. Please be mindful that we have male instructors in class and in the studio.

1. Hair must be in a bun for Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary and Stretch classes.

2. Ponytails are acceptable for all other classes but must be out of dancers eyes.
3. Black booty shorts are permitted for all dancers.
4. Appropriate dance footwear must be worn in all classes. See dance attire list.
5. No jewelry is permitted in the dance class.
6. Proper hygiene is encouraged for all of our dancers. Deodorant is mandatory.
7. Appropriate undergarments must be worn to class; a shirt must cover crop tops and sports bras. The Oakville Academy for the Arts believes in keeping all of our attire, costuming and choreography age appropriate to promote self – respect and healthy body image.

## **Student Behaviour**

In the vein of “it takes a village to raise a child”, etiquette and decorum are expected and required of all team members at all times.

1. Everyone should be treated in a courteous manner from teammates, to faculty, to other students in the school.
2. There will be no horseplay permitted anywhere within the school or in its immediate vicinity. This includes team trips, Conventions, Competitions etc.
3. Equipment in the studios including mirrors, ballet barres and stereos may not be touched unless directed to do so by an Instructor.
4. Dancers must ask permission to leave class at all times.
5. Poor behaviour may be the reason for a child to be excused from class.
6. Disrupting or interrupting the class flow of instruction is a serious breach of the Dancer – Instructor relationship. In the professional world, Dancers need to focus explicitly on the words of the Choreographer, interpret the direction and execute. Those not listening or distracting others defeat the purpose of the program.
7. You are expected to use your cellphone appropriated within the change room and kept in dance bags when not in use. Cellphones are not allowed in the studio.
8. Inappropriate social media behaviour will lead to immediate dismissal from the program.
9. Children are students and are in no way qualified to give corrections to other children within the programme. It is best for dancers to focus on their own progress and leave the instructing to the professionals. We ask that parents lead by example in this process.

## **Parent Behaviour**

As parents, we wish to have you involved in your child’s dance training. Your feedback is important to us. Please try to make any feedback constructive to set an example to our students.

1. The blinds will be left closed during classes unless the Instructor chooses to open them. No parent is allowed to open the door or blinds while a class is taking place unless approved by the Instructor. This is very disruptive to the progress of the lesson.
2. Please leave the teaching and corrections up to the Instructors during classes and at competitions.
3. Any form of negativity in regards to Instructors, Choreography or Costuming will not be tolerated.
4. Please keep the hallways clear, as it is a fire hazard to have the hallways blocked.
5. All choreography and costuming is at the discretion of the Choreographer.

## **Competitions**

1. All dancers must be dressed and ready to compete **90 minutes** before their scheduled time to dance. This ensures enough time to properly warm up and run through their dances.
2. No nail polish of any kind is to be worn by any student on competition days. This includes your toes. All personal jewelry must be removed and left at home.
3. Always check, double check and triple check your dance bag before leaving for competition. Ensure you have all hairpieces, costumes, shoes, tights, make-up, jewelry, etc. Bring extra hairspray, bobby pins, safety pins, double stick tape (older dancers), make-up remover and extra tights. Tights are considered part of your costume. Tights must be clean and free from all rips, tears, runs and knots.
4. Bra straps must not show. It is your responsibility to purchase proper undergarments. Dancers with straps showing will not be permitted on stage.
5. Full costume must be worn, including accessories. Forgetting something at home results in the entire group missing out. (Example: one girl forgets a hairpiece and the whole group will not wear hairpieces.)
6. All dancers are encouraged to arrive at the venue with their hair and make-up completely done. There is no guarantee that we will be able to locate appropriate change room space, there may not be mirrors available and we are often pressed for time at competition. Makeup and hair should only have to be “touched up” at competition.
7. If you arrive late and unprepared to dance, you may have jeopardized the opportunity to compete. Routines cannot be put on hold for this.
8. Requests for competition conflicts can only be made if Miss Brittany has received written notice by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. After this date, no requests can be submitted to the competitions. Please remember that these are “requests” and there is no guarantee that the competitions can accommodate your personal situation.
9. In the event that a dancer is injured at a competition, they will not be allowed to return to dance without written consent from a physician.
10. Studio Jackets are mandatory to be worn while on stage for awards. If you are sitting in the audience, costumes must be covered and studio jackets must be worn.
11. OAA studio clothing is compulsory to have at competitions.
12. All Dancers competing are strongly encouraged attend their awards ceremony to receive their awards. It is not the responsibility of the Competitive Faculty to be collecting and distributing awards. If you are unable to attend the adjudication please arrange with a teammate to collect any ribbon, medal or plaque.
13. No eating, gum chewing, drinking (except water) is allowed while in costume.
14. It is important that as a Competitive Team you show studio spirit. Please stay and watch your fellow dancers and cheer them on while they are dancing.
15. All families will conduct themselves in a supportive manner both at Competition venues as well as at the studio on a daily basis. This includes supporting each dancer and each member of the faculty.
16. If you have any questions regarding competition, address them to Miss Brittany via email or telephone prior to competition dates.
17. We do try our best to choose Competitions that run Friday – Sunday. Your child might miss school in order to compete.
18. It is the responsibility of the parents to transport their child to and from all competitions. Some competitions charge a nominal fee for parking and to enter the theatre and watch.
19. No photography or videotaping is permitted at any time in the theatre (pictures can often be taken during adjudications). The studio can be disqualified if this occurs. You may often purchase pictures and video of your child at the event.

20. During adjudication and award ceremonies dancers are to behave themselves in a professional manner. Dancers must sit together on the stage and behave. Listen attentively to whoever is speaking and follow their direction.
21. All trophies, awards and plaques received at competition are property of The Oakville Academy for the Arts. In the event choreography is awarded a monetary award it will go to OAA. These funds are solely to support team parties and events and local charities when possible.
22. Please remember you are representing yourself and The Oakville Academy for the Arts when you are at competition. Be respectful towards everyone from every dance studio. Clap and applaud for every dancer to let them know they have done a good job.
23. If you experience any problems with the competition or an organizer, you must address the situation with Miss Brittany. Parents and / or guardians are NOT to talk to judges or organizers at any time. The studio can be disqualified from the entire competition if this occurs.

Remember that the rules that apply to our dancers also apply to our parents.

The Oakville Academy for the Arts is very pleased to have you as a member of our Competitive Dance Team. We are very excited about the upcoming Competitive Season and look forward to another successful year ahead. As a Competitive Team Member, it is very important that you understand what is expected of you throughout the year. We want to ensure that as a Competitive Team, we are working together to achieve the highest standards of success. We wish you the most wonderful Season full of achievements, inspiration and enjoyment!!!

## Competitive Agreement 2016 - 2017

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand that being part of the Oakville Academy for the Arts Competitive Dance Team will require Commitment, Dedication, Team Work and Leadership. I have read the Competitive Agreement for the 2016 - 2017 Competitive Dance Season and understand what is expected.

I agree to take part in the Competitive Program to the best of my ability and dedicate myself 100% to the studio and team. I will take pride in my training, respect my teachers, fellow dancers and represent The Oakville Academy for the Arts to the best of my ability. I understand that if I cannot adhere to the guidelines of The Oakville Academy for the Arts Dance Code, it may jeopardize my position on the Competitive Team.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brittany van den Heuvel  
Competitive Dance Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Schofield  
Owner/Director

**This form is due by Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

