



ELITE DANCE TEAM CONTRACT

FOCUS - The focus of Elite Dance Company's Elite Dance Team (EDT) is to provide dancers with the next level of training by:

- Developing and increasing their skills by taking their dance training more seriously.
- Building character by pushing forward through challenges.
- Achieving goals by taking responsibility for their overall progress as a dancer.

Acceptance and participation on the team will:

- Encourage confidence and self-discipline as an individual.
- Promote growth as both technicians and performers.
- Foster team building skills by commitment and dedication to a team of their peers and focus toward a common goal.
- Most importantly, dancers are building solid relationships with their peers and instructors that can last a lifetime!

Team members must show determination, dedication, and the desire to be a productive member of this team.

PURPOSE - The purpose of our EDT is to provide young dancers with an opportunity outside of the studio for dancers ages 9 and up to showcase their talents in a competitive atmosphere while also developing good sportsmanship as well as encourage high standards, responsibility, and leadership. Dancers will use these competitive opportunities as a learning experience and will benefit from the valuable critiques given by some of the dance industry's most knowledgeable competition judges.

MEMBERSHIP - To attain a spot on our EDT, members will need to:

- Successfully complete auditions.
- Have outstanding participation in both dance classes and all rehearsals.
- Maintain a highly cooperative attitude and follow the team Code of Conduct set forth by Elite Dance Company.
- Dancers on this team must only compete for Elite Dance Company. Belonging to two dance teams is a conflict of interest.

*Failure to follow the EDT Code of Conduct will result in consequences which will be outlined in this contract.

Membership expectations on this team also extends to our dancers' families. All team dancers and their parents/guardians will be asked to sign our Team Contract before starting each season. This contract is to confirm that everyone has read and understands EDC's Team Rules & Regulations. It is crucial that everyone understands all the requirements and expectations of being on our EDT which will cover the following:

- Attendance policy
- Class & rehearsal requirements/expectations
- Dress code, costume, and makeup requirements
- Elite's competition policies
- Financial and time commitments
- Placements for routines
- Appropriate behavior expected from everyone, both dancers and family members

ATTENDANCE

Time commitment is the number one ingredient in keeping a progressive and cohesive group! Attendance is crucial for the individual dancer as well as the team as a whole and all dancers are expected to maintain strong attendance in both their classes and team rehearsals. Absences can affect the whole group and is unfair to those who dedicate themselves daily/weekly.

- All team dancers are required to attend all mandatory scheduled classes/rehearsals in order to perform.
- If you are not feeling well but stay to watch class, it will not be considered an absence.
- Dancers with consistently poor attendance or tardiness may be pulled from their routine(s) or asked to resign from the team with no refunds and any future payments due will still be required.

Dancers are allowed up to 5 overall absences throughout the year. A 6th absence will disqualify them from being on the team. Below is a list of *legitimate* versus *unexcused* absences.

LEGITIMATE absences include:

- Physical injury
- School scheduled event
- Illness - please notify us immediately
- Death in the family or severe family circumstances

**Please note that even an excused absence could cost you a performance depending on the date and length of the absence. A team member who is excused from a rehearsal will not be permitted to perform with the team until he/she knows the routine to the choreographer's satisfaction.*

UNEXCUSED absences include:

- Work - our schedule remains the same each week therefore there is plenty of notice to rearrange work schedules.
- Doctor's appointments - unless it is an emergency. Our schedule remains the same each week.
- Homework - while we believe school is a priority and is extremely important, absences due to homework will not be excused.
- Late arrivals over ten minutes become unexcused absences.
- Anything else not listed under excused absences.

ILLNESS - We understand that illnesses arise and emergencies happen but absolutely no absences will be excused the two weeks leading up to a scheduled comp/performance.

- If a dancer must miss class due to being sick, please notify us as early as possible.
- Please email Elite with the reason for absence or call/text the instructor when it's short notice. A list of instructors' phone numbers will be available at the end of the packet.
- It is the dancer's responsibility to learn what they missed in class before coming to their next team rehearsal.

ADDITIONAL REHEARSAL FEES - Additional rehearsals with the choreographer for an additional fee will be required in the event of the following:

- Absences, whether excused or unexcused, that prevent a dancer from knowing the choreography to the choreographer's satisfaction.
- Absences, whether excused or unexcused, that prevent a dancer from attending the practice prior to a performance.

OUTSIDE SPORTS/ACTIVITIES - We support outside activities and ask that time shared between both commitments is even. However, if any of the activities conflict with team rehearsals for an extended period of time, EDC may be forced to remove dancers from sections of choreography, revise their spot in formations, or remove them from the dance entirely with no refunds given and any future payments due will still be required.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

All team dancers will continue to study in their weekly placement classes but will have an additional team class *per routine* for team training, choreography, and rehearsing.

Team dancers are required to be enrolled in the following 5 mandatory classes:

- Ballet - at placement level.
- 1 Technique class - because this is not a performing class levels may be mixed when necessary.
- Jazz - at placement level.
- Comp style - the style of the routine they are competing in.
- Style of their choice - other styles are strongly recommended and encouraged to continue training as well-rounded dancers. This also allows us the opportunity to enter more styles per group.

SUMMER CLASSES - All returning team dancers are expected to attend summer classes. This is mandatory.

DRESS CODE

As is the dress code for all Elite classes, team dancers must arrive prepared in black leotard, tights, hair up and off the face, and proper footwear. Unprepared dancers will be asked to sit during class.

Proper attire does not stop at the neck. You must have your hair up and off your neck *before* you come to class. A bun is preferred to keep hair from distracting you while dancing. Please come to the studio with everything you need. Part of being dedicated to dance is always dressing the part.

ELITE COMPETITION POLICIES

COMPETITIONS - There will be 3 - 5 scheduled, mandatory competitions which will be selected according to location and available dates. We typically choose locations that are close to home, such as Lowell, Andover, and Tewksbury, to avoid time spent on travel and additional finances spent on overnight stays. We *do* attend one overnight competition which also includes a weekend long dance convention (more details below).

Each competition's schedules are not released until the weekend before each event but please set aside the entire weekend. Once the schedules are received, they will be passed along to all families.

PLACEMENTS/ROUTINES - Routines will be cast according to the quality of each dancer's technique and execution, strength and abilities, skill level, and strongest suited style of dance.

- After auditions, each family will be notified which routine(s) & style their dancer has been cast in.
- Parents must then confirm with EDC how many dances their dancer is able to participate in and EDC will make the final decision on which routine(s) they will be cast in.
- Once castings are made, a 45 min weekly rehearsal will be scheduled for each routine.
- Additional routines such as solos, duos, or trios may be assigned at the discretion of the director and will not be assigned without also participating in a group number. These are not guaranteed to any dancers.

**Please note that performing team numbers in the recital is not always mandatory as obligations to these routines are fulfilled at the end of the comp season.*

COMPETITION WEEKENDS

- Dancers must arrive *2 hours before* their allotted stage time for warming up, run-throughs, etc. Competitions can run as early as 1 hour ahead of schedule.
- Teachers need to work with and warm up dancers prior to stage performance. Allowing plenty of time is a huge benefit to your dancer and their mental state going into the competition.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian (depending on the age of the dancer) to know how to do the proper hair, make-up, and costumes for each routine. If you are unsure, please ask for help *before* competitions begin.
- Each costume should be marked with the dancer's name or initials. It is the dancer's responsibility to mark their items.
- No jewelry of any kind may be worn during performances/competitions, including belly button, nose, eyebrow, ear, etc. Nail polish is also not acceptable for any competitions.
- Bad attitudes at competitions are unacceptable. If you are performing poorly or are unhappy with events throughout the competition, please keep an overall positive appearance until we can discuss it privately.
- An adult must be present with their dancer (excluding Elite faculty) during the length of the comp. If you are sharing supervision with another family, please let our faculty know.
- If there is a large gap of time between a routine and its awards, dancers are welcome to leave the venue with an adult to take a break and/or grab a bite to eat. Please notify our faculty before leaving the venue.
- Elite faculty are not required to be in the building while its routines are on break but contact info will be shared with parents in the event we need to be reached.
- Family and friends are all welcome to attend these free events but bring a supportive and positive attitude!

During down time between routines and awards, dancers are encouraged to watch other competing routines. Remember...we learn from each other!! While watching routines, we are expected to be respectful of all dancers on stage which means being quiet and nondisruptive. Also, negative talk about routines or a dancer's performance is absolutely unacceptable.

When possible, we encourage our dancers to be present in support of each other's routines that may be on a different day or time than our own. It's always nice to know that we have our peers in the audience cheering us on! If you'd like to stay to see our other numbers compete, you are not required to stay for their award ceremonies.

AWARDS - Each age division will have its own awards ceremony. All dancers must be present for their award ceremony and take the stage as a team.

- Dancers must appear presentable for awards and wear their Elite jackets with black leggings in great condition. Please, no slippers.
- Members must stay for the entire award ceremony to support other team members unless otherwise approved by their instructor.
- Whether win or lose, dancers are expected to have a winning attitude and show good sportsmanship toward winning teams. We clap for everyone, we cheer for everyone, and we keep smiling!
- *No cell phones are allowed on stage.* If this rule is broken, that routine will be excused from the next competition with no refunds given.
- All dancers are asked to regroup after awards with their instructors and will then be permitted to leave with an adult. **NO DANCER IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE VENUE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF AN EDC FACULTY MEMBER.** This is for the safety of all our dancers.

COSTUMES & MAKEUP

- Each team routine will require an additional costume. This costume fee is *not* rolled into team payments and will be added to the required weekly class costumes deposits and balances.
- A mandatory costumes deposit of \$65 each is required to purchase costumes in October. Once costumes are ordered, notice of the final balance will be sent to families. Balances must be paid in full in order for dancers to receive their costume.
- Required shoes per costume will also be mandatory. This is an additional charge and *is not* rolled into team payments.
- Elite will also select and purchase mandatory colors for comp makeup. This is a separate cost and *is not* rolled into team payments. This makeup will also be worn for the recital.
- Cash, check, or Zelle payments for makeup can be made to Elite Dance Company.

TEAM JACKETS

As dancers representing Elite Dance Company, all team dancers are required to wear their team jackets during comps. Jackets are an additional cost whether you are purchasing for the first time or require a new one each year. This is a separate cost and *is not* rolled into team payments as it is not always required for all dancers each year. Cash, check and Zelle payments for jackets can be made to Elite Dance Company.

WEST COAST DANCE EXPLOSION (WCDE)

As a team, EDC attends the West Coast Dance Explosion each year which is a weekend long dance convention in Boston which also includes its own competition. Each day has a back to back schedule of classes in different styles with different instructors. Classes are categorized by age. Dancers are permitted to go into classes of a lower age group but are not permitted to enter classes of a higher age group. Families are encouraged, but not required, to stay at the host hotel as these are long days & nights for the dancers. Hotels offer a block of rooms at a WCDE rate. *The convention and comp fees are rolled into your team payments but hotel rooms are to be booked and paid for by each family.*

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Being part of the team also requires a financial commitment which is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make sure that all payments are made on time. All balances from the previous year must be paid in full before dancers are allowed to participate on our EDT.

The following fees (also included but not listed below is WCDE) are bundled together and divided into 3 payments. Failure to pay these fees will result in removal from the team. Please note that all fees associated with being on the team are non refundable regardless of circumstances.

TEAM CLASSES - Each competing routine will have its own weekly scheduled **team class/rehearsal** to learn, clean, and rehearse choreography. These classes are vital to learning choreography and preparing routines before comps. This will be an additional cost and *is* rolled into your team payments but not included in tuition.

TEAM FEES - The following fees are mandatory:

- All routines will require a **choreography fee** that is divided between the amount of dancers per routine. This fee *is not* rolled into your team payments and must be paid separately to the choreographer. These payments must go through the office to be recorded and will then be distributed to the choreographer.

- Each routine also has its own **rehearsal fees** and is divided between the amount of dancers per routine. This is similar to class tuition as this covers the cost of their weekly team class. This fee *is* rolled into your team payments.
- In order to register for a competition, Elite must submit non-refundable **entry fees** at the time of registration. Each comp has its own entry fees required per routine and is dependent upon the category. For example, a small group fee can range from \$75 - \$90 per dancer where a solo can range from \$100 - \$150. This fee varies between comps.
- Entry fees are charged *per dancer, per routine*. This is not divided among the dancers in the routine.
- A registration fee also applies *in addition to* the comp fee and both *will be* rolled into team payments.

*Please note that *all fees are per routine* therefore if you have a dancer in multiple routines, these fees will apply for each routine.

Each family will receive an EDT Financial Obligations chart to track charges, due dates, and payments. Please use this as a reference to ensure that all payments are made promptly and to avoid late fees. We typically adhere to the following schedule for payments:

- First team installment due - Oct. 15th
- Costume deposits due (\$65 per costume) – Oct. 15th
- Costume balances due (this cost will vary per costume) – Dec. 15th
- Second team installment due - Jan. 15th
- Third team installment due - Feb. 15th

**Please note - Parents/guardians are responsible for the above fees even if your child does not dance for any reason.*

TEAM MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

Participation on our Elite Dance Team is an honor and a privilege, not a right. As a member of our EDT you are representing our dance team and our studio and are expected to behave accordingly or risk being dismissed from the team as a consequence for breaking the contract. In this event, no refunds will be given and any future payments due will still be required.

EDT dancers should consist of highly motivated, dedicated, and respectful dancers. As a team dancer, you are also a role model to your dance peers and must possess a positive attitude at all times, show support for your fellow dancers, and offer help to our younger dancers when/if the situation arises. Everyone is expected to work as a team player and help in the growth of their fellow students.

SPORTSMANSHIP & ETIQUETTE - ELITE DANCE COMPANY'S CODE OF CONDUCT

We expect all our team dancers *and* their families to bring forth support and positivity only and are all expected to act as ambassadors as you are representing Elite Dance Company at every competition and event we attend. Elite's Code of Conduct extends to all dancers' families and those present to support them at competitions. Any actions of a parent/guardian that cause negativity in the overall dance environment (studio or competition) is grounds to dismiss both the dancer and parent from the team. No negativity or drama will be tolerated.

Team dancers represent our studio and your conduct and actions in class, on the stage, and in the community should not deviate from the regulations and Code of Conduct set in our guidelines. All team members must agree to the following Code of Conduct and its consequences so that everyone is equally accountable to each other. **SHOW UP AND DO THE WORK** - All dancers must come to every team class prepared to work and put forth their best effort both mentally and physically.

- You must have a desired level of commitment not just for yourself, but for your entire team. Being on a team means you depend on all your teammates to be in class consistently and do their part in having the

knowledge of their routine. If at any time you are not doing your part as a productive member of the team you will be suspended. No refunds and any future payments due will still be required.

- No dancer should display a negative attitude such as eye rolling, talking during class/rehearsal, or complaining about material. Consequences for excessive talking, non-participation or any behavior disruptive to the team will result in being asked to leave class. Again, no refunds and any future payments due will still be required.

RESPECT - Our number one rule is to be respectful of your teachers and teammates and being disrespectful toward faculty or other dancers will not be tolerated.

- This means being accountable for your actions, what you say, and how you act. If there is a conflict with a team member please try to resolve it first with each other in a respectful and mature manner. If this is not successful, please bring the issue to your instructor's attention so that a resolution can be put in place. Friendships outside the studio are not required but we *must* learn how to work together in the studio.
- Likely, if the conflict is with a faculty member, please also bring this to our attention.

POSITIVE ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR - As an EDT dancer, you are held to a higher standard for being a representative of EDC and promoting school spirit, kind interactions, and a positive environment both inside and outside of the studio. Team members are expected to support all EDC dancers *and* their competitors. This means there will be no talking negatively about another group or routine. This includes body language and facial expressions. Hearing of any such negative behavior will result in routines being pulled from the next comp without refunds. If you don't have something positive to contribute, please keep it to yourself. Let's remember that everyone is also working hard to bring their best performance to the stage. Friendly and polite is always the best behavior! Check any attitudes and drama at the door.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Elite Dance Team members must remember they represent their team, the community, and the studio. Members must maintain a HIGH standard of performance, behavior, appearance and sportsmanship which will reflect favorably upon themselves, their team, and their studio. Some violations may result in removal from the dance team for the remainder of the year and could affect their participation the following year. There will be no refunds given and any future payments due will still be required.

Violations include but are not limited to:

EDC instructors will have the authority to place any member on probation, suspend or drop permanently, any team member for the following reasons:

- Undesirable conduct, language or behavior. (This includes ALL aspects of social media – i.e. foul language, disrespectful dialog or photos).
- Uncooperative attitude with faculty, other team members, or competing dance studios.
- Any violation of the Code of Conduct set forth by Elite Dance Company,

Additional items that will not be tolerated:

- Back talking, bad attitudes and fighting among team members.
- Talking about other teams or other team members.
- Swearing or inappropriate gestures are not permitted during dance activities/events or while wearing Elite clothing off Elite property.

As a member of the EDT you are expected to set good examples for other students at your own studio as well as others at competitions.

- We understand that this is junior high and high school and these situations will come up, however, if you are gossiping, instigating turmoil, or in any way causing conflict among any dancers within EDC your participation on the dance team will be suspended. No refunds and any future payments due will still be required.
- Attitude is a major factor in whether or not we will allow you to dance! Remember, being a member of our dance team is a privilege. We expect your attitude to be positive and kind. If a problem arises, please let us know so we can help resolve the situation.
- If there is any indication of the above items, a meeting will be called between the child, parent and teachers. At that meeting it will be decided whether the child will remain on the team or not.

SOCIAL MEDIA

While posting on social media is a priority for most young kids and teens, no inappropriate or rude posts by any team members will be tolerated and any posts deemed as such by EDC could be cause for immediate dismissal from the team.

- No dancer should ever be talking negatively about a teacher, the studio, or their peers on social media.
- Names do not have to be mentioned for us to know who you are talking about.
- All choreography is the property of Elite Dance Company and cannot be posted without our permission.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Failure to follow EDC's Code of Conduct may result in but is not limited to the following actions:

- Sitting out a rehearsal, performance, or competition - This consequence is for coming to class unprepared and/or not participating at max capacity.
- Parent Meetings - This consequence is for unresolved poor behavior/performance in classes/rehearsals.
- Temporary suspension/Short term probation - This consequence is for behaviors like tardiness, unexcused absences, or consistently exhibiting a poor attitude.
- Long term probation - This consequence means that you will not be performing until further notice. You are placed on this probation until you can prove a consistent change in your behavior.
- Removal from team - This consequence is for a consistent pattern of misbehavior or overly rude behavior that results in the direct negative impact on dancers or faculty.
- Dismissal/suspensions from the team will not be credited any financial amounts up to that point and any future payments will still be required.

After thoroughly reading through EDC's guidelines, policies, and code of conduct, both the dancer and parent/guardian are required to sign the contract below.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EDC'S ELITE DANCE TEAM CONTRACT

By signing this contract you are agreeing that you understand and will adhere to all of the terms as stated in the Guidelines and Code of Conduct set forth by Elite Dance Company. You understand the consequences of your actions and will take full responsibility for them.

DANCER:

As a member of the Elite Dance Team, I have fully read the guidelines and Code of Conduct and understand what is expected of me to remain a member in good standing. I will keep myself knowledgeable and informed of all rules, and realize the consequences of poor behavior and/ or inappropriate actions may be severe. I will do all I can to uphold the honor and traditions of Elite Dance Company and respect my team members, studio, and instructors at all times.

I understand that my character matters and it's an important part of being a good person.

Dancer's Name _____

Please initial the following items to confirm that you've read and understand the statements listed below.

___ All members are required to attend all scheduled practices and performances unless they have a legitimate excuse.

___ I understand that all fees and payment arrangements must be satisfied for my dancer to participate.

___ I understand that all competitions are mandatory.

___ I understand that all dancers and parents of EDC's Elite Dance Team are representing our dance team and our studio and will uphold the Team Contract and its Code of Conduct.

Dancer's Name _____

Date _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

I, the parent/guardian of the above-named dancer, have read Elite Dance Company's guidelines and Code of Conduct and understand all of the requirements in order for my dancer to continue team participation as well as the ramifications if this contract is broken. I fully comply with all rules and regulations within Elite Dance Team's Code of Conduct. I also realize this is a team effort and I may be called upon to help in some way throughout the year with things that are within my capacity to help. I understand I am required to be present for parent meetings or have someone present on my behalf.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please initial the following items to confirm that you've read and understand the statements listed below.

___ All members are required to attend all scheduled practices and performances unless they have a legitimate excuse.

___ I understand that all fees and payment arrangements must be satisfied for my dancer to participate.

___ I understand that all competitions are mandatory.

___ I understand that all dancers and parents of EDC's Elite Dance Team are representing our dance team and our studio and will uphold the Team Contract and its Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ Date _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Instructor Contact Info:

◆ Miss Silvia 978-273-8778 ◆ Miss Carolyn 978-596-7143 ◆ Miss Mikayla 603-318-5543