

COMPETITION TEAM CONTRACT 2023-2024

Congratulations on being selected to join our competitive team for the 2023-2024 dance season! We are excited to see all our team accomplish together this season!



Our Philosophy

Dance competitions can be a wonderful experience for those who strive to do their best and grow as a dancer. Dance is an art form and the evaluation of dance can be very subjective. While a High Score is nice to receive, it is not our main goal. We are striving to grow as dancers, to improve our technique, to experience performing for/being evaluated by/learning to take criticism from a panel of judges, and of course to enjoy dancing for the sake of dance. We strive not to “pin” our students against one-another, but rather to build a community where we support and lift each other up. We expect all members of our competitive teams, **including our dance parents**, to uphold this philosophy as well. It is important to us that we keep all of our members on the same page, bring our teams closer together as we strive for the same goals, and keep everyone involved accountable to ensure we have a wonderful year together.

Placement

Placement on one of our competitive teams is based on the following criteria: technique, potential, commitment level, enthusiasm, attitude and behavior in class, attendance and stage presence. It is not decided by any one instructor, but is discussed and decided by our team of competitive teachers. The instructors place students together in groups that they feel will work best together in class, rehearsals, and performances, but also where each individual student can progress the best at this time. The teachers reserve the right to put any student into a group on a trial basis with final decisions being made by the end of October (before we start choreography for group routines). Instructors have the authority to merge groups for certain dances, as well as add students to certain routines/groups if they are excelling in an area, or remove them from certain routines/groups if they/their parents do not follow our philosophy/guidelines listed below.

Courtesy & Respect

All team members and parents will be held to the highest standards of conduct. Communicating negatively about anyone in or outside our studio will not be tolerated. Team members and their parents are expected to show courtesy and respect to all instructors, other students, and other parents. Any student or parent who exhibits repeated negative or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave the team. Parents, we ask that you lead by example, and teach your student(s) how to respect and support their classmates and teachers. It is extremely important that we at LDI DanceWorks remain a strong dance family where all teacher, students, and parents are excited to be part of this team. We expect all involved with LDI DanceWorks to always be respectful, supportive, encouraging and are positive in spirit, attitude and behavior both inside and outside of the studio.

Dress Code

All dancers must wear appropriate dancewear to every class. Forgetting dancewear, shoes, proper hair and/or wearing inappropriate clothing is not acceptable. **ONLY** tight fitting dance clothes are acceptable. **No baggy t-shirts/clothing is allowed except for in hip-hop classes.** Hair must be securely pulled up for every class - **parents please help younger dancers to be prepared especially for their first class of the day.**

Attendance & Time Commitment for Classes

Dance teams are like any team. Just as sports teams require all players to attend practices, being part of a dance team requires their dancers to attend all classes and rehearsals. Absences affect the individual dancer, the group as a whole, and their teachers ability to continue/clean choreography.

All team members are required to take all weekly core classes as directed by LDI DanceWorks. Dance requires consistent ongoing training, and dancers who excessively miss classes will not be able to perform at the same level as those who have attended all classes regularly.

- **Dancers are expected to watch class/rehearsal in the case of injury/mild illnesses such as headaches, cramps, etc.**

Punctuality is just as important as attendance, please be on time and prepared for class. **Two (2) occurrences of unexcused tardiness will count as an unexcused absence.**

Students should not miss more than 5 of any one class per dance season; after which, the dancer may be asked to step into our recreation program due to lack of commitment.

Students may add on extra classes. Missing these classes will not affect their overall missed classes as they are optional. Additional technique classes are strongly encouraged.

Being a member of a dance team is a privilege and comes with responsibility. Personal accountability is essential for a successful season, and commitment to your other team members is a vital component of this success. When a member of the team is not present, it negatively impacts the entire group.

Unexcused absences during the 2 weeks prior to any competition will result in removal from routines of the missed classes for that specific competition unless we have a known, confirmed plan ahead of time due to a unchangeable circumstance. This includes all core classes/Ballet classes.

Competition Team Members are also required to attend class THE WEEK FOLLOWING A COMPETITION. One of the biggest reasons we have a competitive team is for the dancers to grow and learn from other professionals. We are very grateful that most competitions today give feedback along with videos where the dancers can learn from their mistakes and also see where they have succeeded and where their hard work has paid off. Teachers will review judges comments the week following a competition weekend and all students are expected to be in attendance in order to receive valuable feedback to aid their growth as a dancer. If a dancer absolutely must miss a review week at the studio, they can either join us on zoom to review feedback during class or are responsible for setting up a private lesson to go over judges feedback for all competitive routines.

Dancer's Health

We ask that parents/guardians please help ensure your dancers can perform at their best during classes, rehearsals, conventions and competitions. **Please be sure that your dancer has appropriate snacks/food/beverages to fuel them and help them achieve their goals.**

Dance Competitions/Preparedness for Performances

LDI DanceWorks will attend 3 competitions throughout the spring dance season. Please be aware that becoming a team member will obligate you to these competitions and conventions. All competitions are held on weekends and are a full day and possibly full weekend commitment. Competition management does not send the performance day and times to the studio until 5-7 days prior to the event. **Dancers and parents will need to be available for the entire weekend until we know whether you are performing Friday, Saturday, Sunday or all 3 days.**

Dancers are required to arrive **at least 2 hours before the start of their first scheduled competition routine** with hair and make-up complete. This is very important as the competition may run ahead of schedule and we still need enough time for the dancers to properly warm-up and run through their dances so they are ready to perform. The teachers will try their best to spend time with each group, but at times they may need to be with other dancers. **The dancers, especially our older groups, are expected to be able to warm-up/run dances on their own whether or not a teacher is present.**

Again, we ask every single one of our team members, including our parents, to support each other in any way possible, which includes coming early/staying late to watch your fellow teammates. We ask this as we only do 3 competitions per year want all of our groups to feel supported no matter when they are asked to perform.

LDI DanceWorks will have **2-3 mandatory weekend rehearsals** prior to our first competition. Extra rehearsals will be held on Saturdays and/or Sundays. Students and parents will be notified of rehearsal dates by the end of September, however as we approach competitions in the Spring, extra rehearsals may be added if the teacher feels the team needs more rehearsal time. We will make our best efforts to schedule additional rehearsals based off of the feedback we receive from all of our parents.

Conventions/Etiquette

Competitive dancers are required to attend **at least 1 convention** throughout the dance season to add to their training. Conventions are extremely valuable experiences for competitive dancers as they help them get inspired in new ways and excited for the competitive season! It helps them grow and push themselves dancing alongside others from different studios.

Please refer to your competitive welcome newsletter for this season's convention options.

***REMINDER:** Dance etiquette and timeliness are so important when attending any convention or event outside our studio. Dancers are expected to be EARLY, prepared with proper dance attire/hair back, AND ready to learn, IN RESPECT TO THE TEACHERS GIVING THEIR TIME AND PASSION. Attending an event is a representation of not only our students individually but also of LDI DanceWorks as a studio.

Financial Commitments

- Tuition for team members varies depending on the number of classes assigned. All classes (team required and additional) and family tuition total rates will be calculated at the front desk once registration of classes are complete.
- LDI DanceWorks will attend (3) competitions and (1) convention this year. (This may be 4 separate events, or we may choose to attend a competition which holds a convention the same weekend). All team members that accept to be part of the LDI competition team are required to join our booster program which gives our families the opportunity to fundraise for their student's competition fees. Boosters does NOT cover teacher fees to attend competitions, conventions, specialty numbers, or extra LDI rehearsal costs. In order to cover our teacher fees, LDI DanceWorks has a one time yearly fee due at the acceptance of joining our competitive team.

2023-2024 Yearly Competition Fee: \$75 per Student - Due by October 15th

- A \$250 DROP OUT FEE will apply to any student who drops out of the competition team once teachers have started routines (beginning in November). This fee will be used to pay instructors to re-choreograph and rearrange the competition routines.
- Families interested in attending additional competitions or nationals may need to pay a small studio fee in order to cover LDI DanceWorks administrative and teacher(s) expense(s) if applicable as this is not calculated as part of our annual fee.
- Team dancers may also have the opportunity to travel to locations overnight or even over a weekend. Please be aware of any extra expenses that may occur, and typically we attend one event out of town. Boosters/LDI DanceWorks are not responsible for these costs.
- Competition Teachers/Choreographers will choose the costume that best fits the style of their routine/vision. It may be purchased from a costume company or special made. Our teachers work long and very hard to find not only age appropriate costuming, but also work together looking at the overall cost for our families. We do not believe in charging a flat rate for costumes like many of our neighboring studios as we feel it is not fair to our families and you will most likely end up paying much more for your costumes. It is understood that individual costumes will cost anywhere from around \$60-\$110+, however, as stated, LDI works hard to find a balance so the average costume comes out to \$65-\$85/costume depending on the age of the dancer. (Costumes can become more expensive as dancers grow into adult sizing or receive special parts within a dance that requires different costuming.
- We will have 2-3 **mandatory** weekend rehearsals prior to our first competition as noted above. Rehearsal fees will apply and will be determined for each team member as it is dependent on the length of each rehearsal/number of routines.
- LDI will provide local Pittsburgh performance opportunities. These are fun, educational, optional, and great team building experiences. There will be a small rehearsal fee for these events so we can cover the cost of the time our teachers are putting in to get the students ready to perform, even if it not the original choreographer. **We hope to get full participation for these events as members of the competitive team.**

Specialty Routines

- Please be sure to let us know of your specialty routine requests by filling out the electronic request form found at : ldidanceworks.com/specialtyroutines by **August 28th**.
- Specialty routines, including solos, duets, and trios will be an extra optional expense and determined by each competition. LDI DanceWorks adds a \$5 fee to all specialty routines per dancer per competition to cover administrative costs. Rehearsal times for these routines will be scheduled with the individual choreographer.
- For more information and pricing on specialty routines, please see the link above.
- Approved specialty **recital** routines must be set by **January 31st**.
- There will be a **late fee of \$100 per dancer** for any routines scheduled after the deadlines.
- We allow payment plans, but again, all specialty routines and any extra competition/convention fees owed to LDI DanceWorks are due to the studio by cash/check before each event.



Our Main Goal

LDI DanceWorks strives to make this the most positive and rewarding experience for our dancers, but we need your support and help to be successful. Don't forget to have fun! You and your dancer will gain a lifetime of great memories and friendships during this time together so enjoy every second! It will be stressful at times, but remember, we are all in this together and the hard work will and long rehearsals will pay off! We look forward to having an incredible and exciting dance season with you and thank you for choosing LDI DanceWorks

By signing below, I acknowledge that both I and my dancer have read and understood all that is expected as a member of the competitive team at LDI DanceWorks for the 2023-2024 dance season. We understand that these policies are created to ensure a well-rounded program and most positive and rewarding experience for everyone. I agree to all standards of conduct, and financial and attendance/time commitments as a member of LDI DanceWorks. We understand that failure to meet the conditions set forth in this contract by the parent/guardian or student could result in the dancer's dismissal from the LDI DanceWorks competition team.

Parent's Printed Name:

Parent's Signature:

_____ **Date:** _____

Dancer's Printed Name:

Dancer's Signature:

_____ **Date:** _____

Dancer: On the back, please explain (1) why you want to be a member of the LDI DanceWork's Competitive Team (2) what you hope to gain this season as a team member, and (3) your favorite thing about the LDI DanceWork's competitive team or thing you are most looking forward to this season.