

THE DANCE CENTRE COMPETITION CONTRACT 2025-2026

Congratulations and welcome to the The Dance Centre, TDC, competition team for the 2025-2026 season. Being a part of the TDC team is a privilege that comes with both financial and time commitment responsibilities for both the competitive student and their parents.

Mandatory Important Season Dates:

Regional Competitions 2025-2026:

March 20-22, 2026- The Beast- Toms River NJ

April 17-19, 2026- True Talent- Lawrenceville, NJ

May 1-3, 2026 - Royal Dance Competition, Toms River, NJ

National Competition 2026

June 26-30, 2026- The Beast

Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center

(optional bus trip Hershey Park on June 26- hotel is 24 miles from Hershey)

Team Camp 2025

August 4,5,6,7, 2025

Team Choreography Weekends

August 25-26-27-28- 2025 (all routines- schedule to follow)

October 17-18-19- 2025

Nov 14-15-16, 2025

Jan 23-24-25, 2026 (only if necessary back up)

Team Photo Shoot

Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at TDC 2-7pm after production rehearsal

Team Parent Meeting-

Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 545-645pm -TDC studio 3 or via zoom

Team Dress Rehearsal, Pictures, and Showcase

February 27- 2025 solo, duet, trio dress rehearsal at TDC

**February 28 & March 1, 2025 group routine dress rehearsal &
pictures at TDC**

March 6, 2026 Team Showcase (Friday evening)- pending approval

Recital

June 6 & 7, 2026- Lacey High School- pending approval in October

Director's cell is 732-673-0133 for emergencies only otherwise if you need to reach me or the staff to report any absences or concerns, you can email me at thedancecentre11@gmail.com or if after 230pm day of or during regular business hours, please call the studio 732-349-1140.

This contract is required be read and signed by ALL parents and or legal guardians who will be financially responsible for dance expenses and transport of your dancer in regards to attending dance and making payments.

Listed below are expectations which must be upheld in order to remain part of our TDC competitive team. Please note that a student may be removed at any time during the season from the entire team or from any one or more classes with potential financial losses listed below due to breach of this contract as per the director's discretion.

Competition Team Regulations 2025-2026 Season

1- Attendance Policy

All regional and national group competitions are mandatory for the 2025-2026 season. Student's who do not show up at a mandatory competition is an automatic dismissal from the team- no warning required barring any unforeseen acute illness, injury or family tragedy, or pre-arranged substitution which is made know to the director immediately and properly addressed within 24 hours and scheduled replacements.

Unexcused absences are defined as absences that are NOT related to medically documented and excused illness or injury or director approved mandatory school or religious events that is made known prior to your absence. **No more than 2 unexcused classes may be missed per season in each competitive choreo class and all team required classes. All absences are required to be called into the front desk or emailed to the director before classes take place.** In the case of prolonged illness or injury with medical clearance, it is the director's decision, if you are still able to compete with your class or remain in a particular routine. Students who are actively ill or contagious and have not been seen a doctor for clearance are not permitted to come to in person classes or competitions. **Failure to seek prompt medical attention** for a know illness or injury which results in excessive absences or inability to participate in class or at a competition can result in dismissal from the team. **All students out for a period longer than 2 days due to illness require a doctor's note before returning** and all student's returning from an injury or surgery require a **medical clearance** to the front desk before they can return to actively participating in class.

Observing class due to a non-contagious illness, injury, or inappropriate dress code does not count as actively participating. Students will still be expected to make up that class when you are well- students with a doctors note will not be penalized for being ill or injured but will be required to make up the lessons. Injured dancers who plan to still be competing and will be cleared by their doctor with enough time to practice with their team are required to observe all classes in person, watch and learn from all provided choreography videos, and take notes during classes so they do not fall behind.

2- **Student Wellness Policy**

Both **physical and mental health** are important factors that can affect a dancers ability to train and perform with consistency. It is required to seek timely and appropriate medical treatment when necessary to maintain a dancer's physical and mental health.

Physical Health- All injuries and illness that take place before, during or after classes are required to be reported to the teacher and the director as soon as they are know. If a student becomes ill at dance or makes their teacher aware of a pre-existing minor or chronic illness or injury before, during, or after a class and there is no documented medical excuse or clearance, the student will be asked to observe class for the day or sent home at the discretion of the Director until medical or parental clearance in writing is received. Any student who does not receive medical attention for a reported injury or illness (mental or physical) cannot participate in class or any TDC events or competitions until they are cleared by a medical doctor. If a student is not well enough or recovered with adequate practice time with their teammates so as not to negatively impact their team's performance in an upcoming event, they will be benched from that event as per the Director's discretion. If a student does not seek medical attention for an acute or chronic injury, they will be suspended from participating in dance for their own safety until medical clearance is received.

Infectious diseases- Any contagious infectious diseases that can jeopardize the health of TDC staff and teammates and their families must be reported immediately to the Director as soon as you are made aware via email and director cell phone call if response is not received from the Director before classes begin that day. For mandatory practices, zoom options will be set up whenever possible if exposure or illness prevents in person attendance for a mandatory practice. Students and parents are expected to comply with all safety standards set forth by TDC or by any of the events that team students attend outside of TDC such as conventions or competitions- rules vary so be prepared to be flexible regarding the rules of each entity.

Proper nutrition is required to fuel dancer's bodies to maintain stamina in daily training, peak performance, and general health and wellness throughout the season. Students who exhibit extreme weight changes (loss or gains) will be required to be monitored by a nutritionist and or evaluated by medical provider to ensure that there are no underlying health issues that may affect their ability to participate in competitive dance safely.

Mental Health and substance use- Students who exhibit behavior that is deemed unsafe by your teacher during any class, will be asked to observe class for that day or be sent home at the discretion of the studio director. If a student presents to class in a suspected altered mental state (induced by substances use or a mental health or situational emotional crisis), it is the teacher and the director's combined discretion whether dancing that day may jeopardize the student's health or the safety of their classmates- if the teacher suspects any of the above situations are actively taking place in their classroom or at a competition or other performance event, they will report this to the director immediately, who may deem that a student is unsafe to participate in dance that day and the parent will be contacted to pick the student up- the student must remain with a TDC staff member or responsible adult until time of pick up for safety.

Students who exhibit a consistent pattern of mental blocks with skills, extreme performance anxiety, or unhealthy levels frustration or shutdown with correction in the classroom setting or on stage that can lead to safety issues may be requested to see a **sports psychologist** to work through these issues.

TDC has a **zero tolerance policy for participating in class or performing under the influence of any substances that can alter a student's ability to participate safely or may cause harm to their teammates by participating** - any students found under the influence of substances at any TDC events, in class, or at a competition will be immediately dismissed from the team and from the studio without refund.

Tuition will not be prorated or reimbursed for missed classes due to illness, injury, behavioral or mental health issues, however students will be provided ample time to make up these classes.

3 - Accident/ Acute Injury Policy -

All Parents are required to carry your own health care insurance for your child. TDC Liability waivers/risk assumption forms and media release forms are required to be signed every year for all TDC students participating in the new season before they start classes. All competitions also require additional liability and media release signatures for each competition in order to participate in their event. TDC is not responsible for injuries or accidents outside of the studio's primary location of 99 Flint Road South Toms River, NJ, 08757 - please see your yearly required signed assumption of risk/liability agreement for more information.

All outside of studio accidents, illness, or injuries must be reported within 24 hours to the director via email and or before your dancer attends classes as it may affect their ability to participate in class or a required TDC event. Please call the studio during the start of regular business hours if reporting the day of after 230 pm so no time sensitive information is missed.

All in class injuries must be reported immediately to your teacher at the time they occurred and before leaving the building that same day, an incident report

must be filled out and parent or guardian notified by TDC staff, the director or assistant director. If a student fails to report an in class injury, TDC staff and director cannot report these claims and are not responsible for any claims related to that unreported injury once the student has left the building- see assumption of risk document. Students are not permitted to text or call their parents regarding illness or injury without staff knowledge or before making a responsible TDC staff member aware that they are injured or ill- bypassing the TDC staff who are immediately present with them puts a student at risk of not receiving timely assistance if staff is unaware of their situation.

If a student becomes acutely or chronically injured during the season and the staff or director is made aware of this in class or at a competition or event and the parent insists on allowing them to continue, with or without modifications and against the Director's advise, the parent assumes all responsibility for their dancers health at that point. The parent must then email the director that they are aware of a potential injury and still give their dancer permission to continue participating fully. If the staff and director are made aware of a suspected or possible injury in class or at a competition, the parent who is contacted needs to make the director or secretary immediately aware in writing that they do or do not wish to allow their dancer to continue to participate and your child will be prohibited from participating in the class or an event immediately until a response is received or the dancer is picked up by a parent or guardian to be evaluated and cleared by a physician.

For prolonged or chronic illness or injury with medical clearance and parental permission to dance, it is for the director to decide if the dancer has missed too many requirements to finish out the season or to continue dancing at an event without negatively impacting their routine/s or possibly re-injuring themselves. **If the injury causes a student to need to be replaced in any particular routine/s for any period of time where as the student plans on and is approved by the director to return later in the season but needs a temporary replacement for one or more competitions, the injured student is still responsible for all competition fees and costume costs and must lend their costumes to the covering student only if the director approves that they can return without causing significant amounts of re-choreographing to their routines.** The parent will be financially responsible for the missed competition fees if the student wishes to come back into the routine at any point that season and needs a replacement dancer to hold their spot fully or partially if one full routine replacement dancer is not an option. There is no guarantee that a student may be given their full or exact spot back upon return if health recovery or other circumstances prevent a timely full return or if the full return impedes the integrity of a routine's choreography. If competition or convention fees are already paid to the event company, no refunds will be issued by TDC or the competition or convention whether we are using a replacement dancer or not. Tuition will not be reimbursed or prorated for injuries or chronic illness any time during the season, however students will be given ample time to make up these classes.

4- Absences, Tardiness, and Vacations -

Absences must all be made up in an appropriate class **within one month's time** from the students return to dance- students with acute or chronic injuries or illness requiring rehabilitation will have an extended make up time period to gradually return.

Students who are chronically tardy or excessively absent to class will receive one email warning. If you have a valid reason to be tardy or absent such as doctor's appointment, car trouble, mandatory school event, excessive homework- call front desk if it's the day of or email the director if it's 24 hours or more before to make them aware ahead of time.

Students are not permitted to miss any competition classes the week of/ preceding any competition, recital, or showcase event without a valid medical doctor's note. Students who do not comply, will be benched from those routines in which practices were missed for the upcoming event and also from any solos, duets, or trios for that weekend without refund and parents will be responsible for the cost of paying TDC instructors to make any last minute choreo changes needed for every routine affected by this at the re-choreography rates set forth in this contract.

Vacations during the competitive season should be planned only during our scheduled times off and for summer between our mandatory auditions, camps or practices for nationals and nationals week. Vacations cannot be taken the week of or prior to any competitions, dress rehearsals, showcase, or recitals as those weeks are reserved for mandatory practices and classes. Vacations cannot be taken during our mandatory August team camp, assigned choreo weeks or weekends, or during any scheduled competitions. Students may not take more than one full week off of dance during our regularly scheduled classes of the ten month training season with the exception of scheduled studio closure dates on our season calendar.

Absences due to mandatory school activities, planned vacation, or religious events outside of our scheduled time off must be submitted for approval before you book them via email to the director at least **8 weeks prior to the event** at thedancecentre11@gmail.com- this does not mean they will be approved if they conflict with mandatory practices, camp, or competitions. **All vacations outside of the scheduled time off at TDC must be pre-approved by the Director during our competitive season and cannot be no longer than one week off of dance.**

If you participate in a sport or have CCD or other religious conflicts that prevents you from attending your competitive class requirements regularly, you must speak to the director to decide if there is an appropriate alternate class available prior to registering or if you need to drop that class. Re-choreography fees will apply to all

classes dropped after your contract is signed and costumes paid in full if already ordered.

If a student must be absent due to excessive homework during required competitive classes, the director must be notified via email before classes begin that day and the class/es must be made up within one month's time.

If choreography begins while you are absent for any of the above listed conflicts, you will be required to take **private lessons at your own additional expense** and or to learn choreography from videos provided to catch up on missed choreography before your next scheduled class time or rehearsal.

5- Competition Class Requirements 2025-2026 Season Dance & Acro team

- 1-recital ballet
- 2-ballet technique (exception of mini team)
- 3-Team Tech & Combo (exception of mini team)
- 4-team production
- 5- assigned choreo classes for all routines competing in
- 6- Jumps leaps and Turns (exception Mini Team)

Ballet Company students must be enrolled in pre-pointe or pointe, recital or company ballet class, ballet tech and ballet company choreo

ACRO TEAM must be in both acro choreo class and 1.5 hour tumbling class

NEW 2025-2026 MINI TEAM is **required 4 classes per week**- recital ballet, jazz choreo, team production class (includes 30 min production choreo and 30 minutes of technique/jumps/turns) and 1 other dance style of their choice

6- Optional Regional Competition for Solos, Duets, & Trios & Optional Convention Dates 2025-2026

Tentative Solo, Duet, Trio only options:
(all fees due 90 days prior to the event)
February 2-6- KUDO- Sewell NJ- Pinehill HS
May 15-17- Journey- Pinehill, NJ

Tentative Optional Conventions:
(All fees due 60 days prior to the event)
November 9, 2025- Royal Dance Convention- Mount Laurel, NJ
January 4, 2026- Titans- New Brunswick, NJ

Students will need to **pre register via the optional competition and convention survey link** for all optional competition and convention events which will be sent out later in August. **Optional Conventions** are open to all team members.

7- Costumes

Deposits are **\$80 per child per routine**. Students with 6 or more costumes or with siblings that total 10 or more costumes collectively may pay costume deposits in 2 installments) otherwise the full deposit is due on first due date. **Costumes cannot be ordered without deposits. All costume fees are nonrefundable. If a student drops or switches a class and a costume has already been ordered, you are responsible to pay for that costume in full. Costume alteration and prop fees may be added to the total price of costumes.**

Costume Deposit Due Dates:

September 12, 2025- 1st half deposits due

October 17, 2025- 2nd half deposits due

November 21, 2025 Final costume **Balance** costume balances due

8-Competition and Convention Fees

All competition fees will be added to accounts by December of 2025 and are required to be paid on time by their due date or your dancer will be benched from that competition. Competitions have strict due dates for payment in full or the studio's spot will be lost. **All competition fees and convention fees should always be paid in cash or with a separate check for each competition or convention made out to The Dance Centre with the competition or convention noted in the memo on each check- please do not put any other payments on the competition fee checks as they are held separately to be deposited right before they are sent out to each competition.** All Competition fees that are not paid on time will be charged to your credit card on file the day after the due date. **If you have no choice but to pay your competition fees by credit card, the fees must be paid one week prior to their due date** in order for the funds to be available on time.

Regional Competition Fees Due dates:

January 9, 2026 - Beast

February 6, 2026 - True Talent

March 13, 2026- Royal Dance Competition

National Fees Due Date:

April 24, 2026- Beast Nationals

9- Solo, Duet and Trios are required to sign a separate contract.

ALL Solos, duets and trios may compete at any of our full studio regional and national competitions- **Optional solo, duet, and trio competitions and conventions** are subject to choreographer and director approval based on a students level of performance quality and readiness to compete on a particular date.

***Please note that all instructors will not be available for all competitions but students are welcome to attend with a different instructor assigned to these events. **Payment is generally due 90 days prior to each of these events but may be required sooner if an event is in danger of filling up and requires payment in full to reserve your space. Students who do not pay fees on time will be removed from the event with payment still required if their spot can't be canceled. Separate interest form to follow to choose solo optional competitions and convention options. Once you fill out your form and are registered already, these events are not refundable and you will be responsible for payment in full whether you can make it or not.** Any event that says competition and convention requires you to register for the convention in order to compete your solo, duet and trio.

Students who wish to enter **additional competitions as independents** are required to receive permission from their choreographer and the studio director to be sure the event does not interfere with our team schedule before signing up for an outside studio event. In the event where we have to call an unplanned emergent practice, despite being entered in a non studio event, the student must come to the TDC practice instead of attending the non studio event- team first above all else. Students must also give The Dance Centre and their choreographer credit for their work at the competition and on all social media posts.

10 -**RECITAL PERFORMANCES**

All recital performances are mandatory- **Tentative Recital dates are June 6 & 7 2026** at Lacey high school- still waiting school approval. Competition dances are spread out between all 3 shows- your competition dances may not all be in one show.

Dress rehearsals dates for recital still pending approval and are generally 1-2 weeks prior to the recital and combined with recreational picture day.

11- **Fundraising opportunities-**

Membership in The Talent Support Alliance (TSA) is required if you wish to participate in any fundraising opportunities. More info at the parents meeting.

12- **Uniforms and Dress Code:**

All team students are required to have our **team warm up jacket** - **new student orders must be received and sized at the front desk with payment in full by**

September 12, 2025. Warm up jackets are required to be worn at all awards ceremonies at competitions.

Female students must have the following team attire purchased through TDC- **studio team jacket, royal blue TDC team sports bra, black TDC team dance shorts, and black TDC team joggers.**

Male students must have the **studio jacket, TDC t-shirt, black TDC shorts and black TDC joggers.**

All students must be in proper ballet uniform for ballet, pointe, PBT, and pre-pointe class at all times or they will not be permitted to participate in class. This includes proper buns- no claw clips. No hoop earring or excessive jewelry.

Girls ballet- hair in a ballet proper ballet bun, pink tights, pink canvas ballet slippers. and solid royal blue leotard for recital class and solid Black leotard for ballet technique classes. PBT , pointe and pre-pointe please wear either black or blue ballet leotard. Unless waiting for purchased equipment to arrive, **students not in proper uniform including hair in a neat bun will be given one warning** and then sent to the front desk to call their parent to bring the proper uniform or make up the class- if a laundry emergency arises please notify the front desk so the teacher can be made aware ahead of time. **NO SHORTS or extra shirts in BALLET** - please **purchase a ballet skirt** that matches your uniform in black or royal or a warm up ballet sweater if needed- it is preferred that you wear a plain leotard and dance belt to class for ease of body alignment corrections.

Boys ballet - black dance tights/leggings with male dance belt and white or black form fitting t-shirt.

For all other classes please make sure you have the appropriate foot wear in good condition each week and hair pulled back neatly. Deodorant is a MUST for all dancers- please pack extra in their dance bags. If barefoot in any class, please be sure to wash your feet before arriving to class. **Specialized dance socks** (sugar and bruno brand preferred) in place of footwear are permitted in contemporary classes as per your teacher's discretion.

If your class schedule does not allow time for changing into or out of your ballet uniform for your other classes, students must wear their ballet uniform for the full dance day or until they have a break with adequate time to change clothes and hair into or out of a bun. Students may not be late for other classes to change clothes or hair. Please keep extra bun supplies in your dance bags in case needed.

13- Dropping out before the end of the season or Dismissal from the Team

Students and parents who fail to honor the full commitment disclosed in this contract will still be financially responsible for all competition costs including competition fees,

mandatory practice fees, extra practice fees incurred for re-choreographing routines and the full cost of the costumes- even if they do not perform at a particular practice or competition. The costumes will be kept by the director and returned at the end of the season as they may be needed by another student to replace them in a routine. Competition fees for all competitions noted in this contract are non refundable and are due in full even if you do not complete the season. Year in full tuitions and monthly tuition payments, as per our existing website policies that are required to be agreed to upon when registering for the 2025-2026 season, will not be reimbursed or prorated if you are unable to complete the season or are dismissed from the team.

Re-choreography fees

(Apply if dropping out early or removed from a routine or team after contract is signed)

- \$150 per routine** if reset is done in one 1 hr or shorter practice
- \$75 each additional 30 minutes** of time to reblock or reset the choreography

Student who are in danger of being dismissed from the team due to breach of contract terms for inappropriate behavior, attendance issues, not meeting team requirement, or lack of payment for services including costumes, tuition, or other required fees **will receive an email warning which they have 48 hours to respond to the director to determine if they will be dismissed from the team.**

In the event there is a need for a temporary full routine replacement dancer that is pre-approved by the director ahead of time for a competition team event due to accident, injury or other unsurmountable circumstances, **the student being replaced will be responsible to lend their costumes** to the covering student and the student who is missing the event will still be responsible for **payment of all associated fees for that event even if they are not dancing if they wish to compete at any other events that season.**

14- Possible Additional Practices

There may be some **additional mandatory practices** besides the regularly scheduled classes. Sometimes last minute unexpected injuries or illnesses can occur or dances may not be as clean as they should be in time for competition due to unforeseen circumstances, in these instances, students must make themselves available for these extra practices should unexpected changes need to happen in their routines. These extra practices may also be at an additional cost for parents. **Line/Production routines** may also require additional practices beyond regular class time or extra choreo weekend time that will incur additional practice or choreography fees.

If a **guest choreographer is used to set or clean any routines**, this will also incur additional choreography fees.

15- Mandatory Choreo weekends and dress rehearsals fees-

There will be mandatory choreography weekends as noted on page one of this contract and 1 back up choreo weekend for any routines that need the extra practice time.

Choreo week & weekend fees prices per student per competition class

- \$15 per 45 min to 1 hr practices**
- \$20 per 1.5 hours**
- \$25 per 2-3 hour practice**

Choreo weekend fee due dates:

- Monday, August 25, 2025 for week #1**
- Friday October 17 , 2025 for weekend #2**
- Friday, November 14, 2025 for weekend #3**
- Friday January 23, 2026 for choreo weekend #4.**
- Friday February 20, 2026- showcase and dress rehearsal fees**

16- Guest Artist Workshops (FOR ALL DANCE TEAM STUDENTS except minis)

Two guest classes are required from September 2025 to June 2026 all levels except minis. Guest teacher workshops will be offered on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the season- schedule to be released in September. In order to grow as dancers, students should learn from a variety of teachers. There are separate fees for each master class, depending on each teacher's required rate.

17- Summer Dance Class Requirements- FOR ALL DANCE TEAM STUDENTS

Summer evening classes: Student are required to complete a minimum of 2 weeks of summer evening classes in all styles of dance that you plan on competing in and must include ballet and jumps leaps and turns. Ballet CO must also take pointe class .

Team Summer Intensive: All team members are required to attend the full 4 days of team summer intensive camp.

NEXT Year's Summer Intensive for all levels is August 3-6, 2026.

Summer requirements are mandatory to qualify for the team the following season in addition to your summer evening dance class requirements and your audition.

18- Summer Requirements - For ALL ACRO TEAM STUDENTS & Ballet Company

Acro team students are required to attend **a minimum of 8 hours of acro classes and 2 weeks of ballet and jumps, leaps and turns** in the summer either in the form of evening classes or acrobatics intensives in order to qualify for the team the next season. Contortion and cheer tumbling are considered acro classes.

Ballet company students are required 2 weeks of ballet, pointe or pre-pointe, and jumps leaps and turns class.

19- Auditions for next season

All current and new team students will be required to audition for level placement for the next season every year. This will serve as a report card to track their progress from the previous season and establish goals for the new season. The audition will ensure each child has a fair chance at specialty parts and proper level placement as these spots will need to be earned and will also be based upon the student's consistently strong in class performance, positive classroom attitude, and attendance record.

20- Unsportsmanlike conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated by any TDC team member, parent, family member or associated friends at any time. This includes but is not limited to

- Bullying** or harassing of any kind in person or on social media
- **Public outburst** at TDC, TDC events, or competitions that drawing negative attention
- Fowl or inappropriate language or subject content** towards the director, staff, or other students in studio or at an event
- Threatening** the director, any TDC staff or another student
- Spreading or contributing to the spread of false information** or personal opinions that could cause harm to the reputation of TDC, TDC staff, the director, or another student
- Blatant disregard for the studio rules or the rules of an event such as a** competition or convention
- Inability to be a team player-** is defined as placing one's own desires before your team's needs. Examples include but are not limited to: not staying for required team awards ceremony, being a sore loser, purposely performing poorly in a group routine or asking another student to do so in order to win yourself, dancing under the influence of any mind alternating substance, blaming others for your own poor performance, and skipping group routine classes in order to prepare for or to rest for an optional solo competition or convention

-Physical or verbal assaults- physical fights in studio or at an event, derogatory social media posting, word of mouth bashing of team members, TDC staff or the Director, or other passive aggressive behavior that the director of TDC deems inappropriate, harmful or unsafe or that places the reputation of TDC, TDC staff, other team members at risk.

Parents and students are to conduct themselves as positive role model to all dancers, other TDC students and non TDC students at all times. **Unsportsmanlike behavior as listed above is grounds for team dismissal at any point in time during the season per TDC studio director's discretion without refund whether the behavior is coming from the parent or the team member.**

21- Expected Classroom Behavior

All team students are expected to arrive to class **on time and in proper uniform** and ready to dance. Students who arrive habitually late or unprepared for class may be asked to make up that class rather than disrupt the class. **Ballet students will receive one warning for improper uniform and or hair which the director will be made aware of. After one warning, the student will be sent to the front desk to call their parent for their proper uniform and cannot attend class until they are in uniform.**

Students are expected to perform with **100% effort each class** and **come to class prepared with a positive attitude.**

Cell phones or i-watches may not be used during class time unless a teacher specifically asks you to video something for learning purposes or gives you permission to do so- **all phones will be placed in dance bags or holders at the classroom door before each class and turned to silent mode and may not be used during class.** Cell use is limited to between class times during breaks between classes. If parents need to contact your dancer immediately, please call the front desk and not their cell phone.

Generalized poor attitudes and behaviors will not be tolerated in the classroom or at TDC events. These are including but not limited to bullying of other students or staff in person or on social media by any means (verbally, gestures, intimidation, inside jokes, purposely excluding specific students to make them feel bad, eye rolling, hanging or leaning on the ballet barres, jumping on the tumble track at inappropriate times, purposely not following directions, resting sour puss face/pouting in class, inability to handle teacher corrections constructively, pushing or shoving other students in class or during a routine, excessive tardiness or absences, talking back to your teacher or talking while they are teaching, and correcting your teachers during class are all example of disrespectful behaviors toward your teachers and teammates that will not be tolerated.

Talking of any kind will not be allowed during any classes unless you are spoken to or you are called on by raising your hand in class.

The above listed behaviors and any of behaviors that the director deems inappropriate are all grounds to be sent home from dance class without a refund or a make up option. Teachers will have the offending student or students brought to the front desk to call their parent to pick them up- students must remain in the lobby with the secretary until they are picked up and parents may set up a phone or in person conference with the director on a different day with at least a 24 hour cool down period to review the incident. **The teachers, secretaries and the director will not be interrupted during their normal work schedule to have a conversation with parents or students regarding any concerns that may arise- this can be done by setting up a private in person or phone conference with the director within one weeks time from any incidences- please email thedancecentre11@gmail.com to schedule meetings.** Parents may not use the front desk staff, the director's cell or any staff members cell or social media to communicate concerns or request meetings to discuss concerns.

Videoing in classes and during practices is by teacher permission only.

There is a zero tolerance policy for the spreading of or contributing to the spread of derogatory statements, false information, or any other accusations that discredit or tarnish the reputation of The Dance Centre, TDC staff, the director or any TDC dancers by word of mouth, on social media, or on any kind of platform reviews once you have contracted with team TDC. Parents or students who are active team members who participate in this behavior will be dismissed from the studio without warning or refund with the potential of legal action if damages are incurred by your behavior as a current team member and after you leave team TDC or are dismissed from TDC if the malicious behavior continues.

22- School Grades and Academic Integrity

All team students are required to maintain a C average or better in all classes in school. Parents it is your responsibility to make me aware of students who are failing classes in school so I can issue an email warning to those students. Students must uphold a high standard of academic integrity at all times- students are welcome to and encouraged to assist each other with homework in studio during breaks but may not complete other student's school work for them as this is considered academic dishonesty and not appropriate behavior.

23- Student hallway/lounge/parking area and breaks

The use of the upstairs lounge area is for students who have class that day only, no parents or siblings are allowed. The use of this area is a privilege that can be revoked at any time due to inappropriate behaviors or due to lack of respect for the TDC furnishings, bathroom facilities or other students belongings.

Please try to limit eating meals and snacks to sitting at the table in the kitchen or the table or counter in our student lounge and clean up after yourselves.

Students who can not conduct themselves appropriately will be asked to remain in the main lobby under the supervision of the secretary or sent home for breaks rather than be allowed to sit in the upstairs lounge or kitchen with the other students.

Students under the age of 18 are not permitted to leave the studio, sit in other students cars in our parking lot or leave the studio with another student driver without written permission from their parents on file.

Bathrooms are for proper use of facilities and changing clothes only- students are not permitted to use them as an additional lounge area.

Students may not congregate or hangout in the stairwell.

Smoking and vaping is strictly prohibited anywhere on TDC property for parents, students, and staff.

If a parent or student witnesses behavioral issues while a TDC staff member is not directly present ie student lounge or hallway or while a teacher's back is turned, please immediately make the secretary or another TDC staff member aware only if it's an immediate safety concern and they will handle the situation- parents or other students should not take matters into their own hands. Non urgent matters can be emailed to the director at thedancecentre11@gmail.com.

24- Out of studio training policy, outside sports teams, and professional auditions & contracts-

Acro and dance team students are NOT permitted to train outside of TDC without the knowledge and written approval of the Studio Director. This includes but is not limited to regular classes and guest artist/master classes at other studios, intensives, conventions, summer programs, and private lessons in person at any location or via remote training options.

If a student is auditioning for a professional job, school activity, show/play, or out of studio sports team of any kind, which has the possibility of interfering with their TDC team requirements during the 2025-2026 competition season, a conference must be called with the director to determine if remaining on team is an option PRIOR to accepting the out of studio commitment. If a student has to been removed from team TDC due to conflicts with outside commitments, parents are obligated to pay all re-choreography/reblocking fees, costumes fees (their own and the new costumes for replacement dancers if needed), and all competition fees for the balance of the 2025-2026 - tuition will not be reimbursed if they do not complete the season due to breach in contract.

25- Competition Contract

Competition contracts must be signed accepting your financial and team requirement responsibilities and may not be altered in any way. Failure to return this signed contract on time will result in suspension from team until contract is received. Students must sign off on all competitive choreo class that they wish to commit to this season. Students may not participate on the TDC team without a signed contract. Please be sure your child has read this contract and understands the code of conduct and expectations in it associated with being a TDC team member.

26- Communicating with instructors or the Director

Please email thedancecentre11@gmail.com with any questions or concerns and not TDC staff directly unless specifically contacted first by a TDC staff member with a question. **Absences or emergencies after 230pm should be called into the front desk at 732-349-1140 during our regular business hours- please speak to the secretary not just leave a voice message.** For all concerns and non emergent questions, the Director or assistant director will **respond to emails within 48-72 hours** and pass your message on to the instructor for a response which will be arranged by the director or assistant director. **Students and parents should not contact the director or TDC staff via text message, social media, or email directly on their personal accounts except in case of an emergent issue or responding to a message initiated by a staff member regarding scheduling or emergent absences. Abuse of the director or other staff member's personal cell phone or social media accounts will result in one warning then it will become grounds for dismissal if the behavior continues by parents, students, or guardians.** If you send a text message or social media message that is non emergent or during an inappropriate time frame and it does not get a respond in 48-72 hours, it is most likely because you are communicating via inappropriate channels or at inappropriate times and should **email thedancecentre11@gmail.com instead** to keep healthy boundaries in place for all parties involved.

27- Social media posting policies- NEW POLICY- when professional competition media is **received** after the first studio competition of the season is attended (solo only or full studio), students and families may post **no more than a 30 second clip of their routines**. Students may NOT post videos on social media of group, solo, duet, or trio routines taken at home, during classroom practice videos, at showcase or at recital until after nationals. **Full routine videos** of group routines, solo, duet and trio choreography **may NOT be posted on social media until after nationals each season. Full credit is required to be given to both the routine choreographer and The Dance Centre in all social media posts of any TDC routines (groups, solos, duets or trios) as well tagging TDC studio accounts, choreographers, and competitions in the post.**

By signing below, the student and both of their parents or legal guardians agree to all of TDC competition team terms for the 2025- 2026 competition season including the financial and time commitments set forth in the above contract and the code of conduct expected from both students and parents.

Signed contracts are required to be on the TDC Dance and Acrobatics teams and must be signed by both parents and students and original copy of this signed and initialed page returned to the TDC front desk by **August 7, 2025.**

Please initial next to all the *competitive dance routines that you have been accepted in to and are committing to for the 2024-2025 season and sign below.*

_____ **Ballet Company**

_____ **Musical Theater**

_____ **Tap**

_____ **Team Production**

_____ **Jazz**

_____ **Acro Production**

_____ **Hip Hop**

_____ **Contemporary**

_____ **Lyrical**

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature #1: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature #2: _____ Date: _____

Best Emergency Parent contact for competition days:

Parent/Caregiver 1:

Parent/Caregiver 2:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Cell # _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____