



Fierce

Devotion

Intense

Passion

Competition Handbook 2020-2021

Our competition handbook was put together to help inform parents and students. The following material will explain our goals and expectations for our competition team and answer commonly asked questions. We understand that being a part of competition is a big time and financial commitment. The success of our competition team is rewarding on and off the dance floor. We appreciate your loyalty to your teachers and fellow dancers. Thank you for taking the time to read through the following information.

Our main goal is to create a safe environment for your dancer to thrive doing what they love. Every year we have a “team focus” to help better ourselves off the floor. We always emphasize the importance of being a role model. This year will be “media presence” and the importance of knowing what we put out there. Having accountability to a team and to “brand” yourself with respect and pride



Time Commitment

By trying out for the competition team you have taken the first step towards committing to your team. As part of our team you are expected to be respectful to your fellow dancers and teachers. It is very important to be at all of your practices. Dancers should come to practice with a positive attitude, ready to learn and work hard. Bring your heart and passion for dance to every practice, this will allow us to improve every time we enter the room. Each dancer brings something to our team that is treasured. By bringing all these things together we will be able to grow as a team, creating amazing dances and memories that will last a lifetime.

Why is it important to be at every practice?

If you look at the big picture there are not that many practices before competitions start. Every time a dancer misses a practice that group is set back. It takes the entire group in attendance for a dance to excel. If we learn new choreography, it has to be taught at the next practice, taking away from new material time. Then the girls that were at practice have to learn the same thing they learned the week before. Even if a dancer is responsible and learns their choreography from another dancer, it still takes away from class time to work on staging and timing. **“What if the choreography is finished?”** The purpose of group competition is to execute the dance in sync with the other dancers. If there is always someone gone, then that dance is not being properly rehearsed. Therefore, it is not competition ready. **“What if I practice on my own?”** It is great to practice on your own, but when it comes to a GROUP piece, it has to be practiced together. Group pieces have to be executed together and have the same style. **I only have to miss twice!** If every dancer in a group dance with 10 dancers misses twice, there is a good chance that group will never practice with everyone there.

Attendance is taken weekly. **Practice is mandatory.** Competition dancers are allowed two unexcused absences before they are removed from a group. If a group does not practice, as a whole, between competitions, due to absences, that group will not perform at the next competition. **All competitions are mandatory. It is too hard on the dancers and instructors to change formations between competitions. If you are unable to attend a competition you will be removed from the dance/s you miss permanently.**

Financial Commitment

Tuition – see below

Costume fees

Costume deposits are paid with your competition tuition September-November. Your \$ 100.00 deposit is deducted from your total. We order from a variety of companies and some costumes are custom made. Upon the studio receiving all costume fees your account is reconciled, your remaining balance is due 10 days after receiving the bill, we typically get these billed in March-April.

Entry fee

If you carried a credit from the 2019/20 season it will be deducted from you total entry fees due for this season. Entry fees must be turned in by the deadline or your dancer will not be able to compete. Our studio entry fees exceed \$ 20,000/competition. These entry fees go through the studio to the attending competition. If the studio does not pay the entry fees by the deadline they will not allow us to compete. Please understand that the studio is the middle man in this process. Your entry fee deposit of \$ 100.00 is deducted from your total and entry fees are paid with tuition December-April. All entry fees and deposits are non-refundable. Part of being on the competition team is attending every competition. Non payment of entry fees can result in your dancer being removed from their dance/s. Dancers with a past due balances, outside a reasonable grace period, will not have their solos entered in the attending competition and you will be charged a \$10.00/dance late entry fee for groups. You will be notified before this action is taken. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Tuition

Competition Tuition is due August '20-May '21. Your August payment is your June '21 payment in advance. Tuition covers a lot more than your time in the studio. See a brief description below:

Placement

- ★ It takes hours upon hours to put together competition groups
- ★ Time it takes to put together personalized emails

Music

- ★ Finding music for the dances
- ★ Cost of music and music licensing
- ★ Cutting Music (time limits are given for groups and solos. We have to make those 5 minute songs 2-2 ½ minutes long and it has to sound good! This is a very lengthy process.)
- ★ Preparing competition music

Costuming/Uniforms

- ★ Finding costumes for every group
- ★ Sizing Costumes (each costume book as a different size chart). Your dancer is measured and we use each size book to order them the appropriate size.
- ★ Ordering costumes
- ★ Sorting of costumes
- ★ Embellishing costumes (additional fees depending on details)
- ★ Ordering Uniforms

Choreography

- ★ The time spent teaching your dancer the choreography is only a fraction of the time spent on that dance. The majority of the choreography is worked on outside of class. Your tuition reflects a choreography fee not an exact number of classes. Any dancer that withdraws or is removed from a dance will be required to pay the tuition amount for the year. Which is the choreography fee divided over 10 months.

Communicating with the team

- ★ Time spent putting together newsletters
- ★ Cost of copies (newsletters, tentative schedules, updates, requirements, competition schedules, etc...)
- ★ Emails
- ★ Updating website

Practice Time

- ★ Time spent in the studio working on our routines (Sunday's)!

Attending Competitions

- ★ Filling out entry forms for every group. Each competition has an entry process.
- ★ Bookkeeping (all competition entry fees come through the studio, so that one studio check can be written to the attending competition. All of these checks travel through our books.)
- ★ Preparing and organizing the music.
- ★ Organizing
- ★ Teachers are there from the beginning to the end of all those long days

We often get asked, "Why is tuition due when there is no class?" Above is what your tuition covers. The time spent in class is just a small portion of what goes into dance. We put together a monthly tuition that can be made in equal payments. That tuition covers what is listed above, not just the time spent in the studio. **If a dancer withdraws from competition at anytime after auditions, the remainder of tuition will be billed in full.**

Below is your tuition schedule for 2020-2021 competition season:

Sept 1 st	June '20 comp tuition, \$125.00 uniform jacket (new) & \$50.00 balance of CLI (no CLI fee for Mini's)
September 1 st	Regular Tuition + 1/3 recital costumes
September 15 th	Competition Tuition + 1/3 competition costumes
October 1 st	Regular Tuition + 1/3 recital costumes
October 15 th	Competition Tuition + 1/3 competition costumes
November 1 st	Regular Tuition + 1/3 recital costumes
November 15 th	Competition Tuition + 1/3 competition costumes
December 1 st – April 1 st	Regular Tuition
December 15 th – April 15 th	Competition Tuition + Entry Fee payment
May 15 th	Competition Tuition

These amounts are broken out on your confirmation.

Choreography Fees

Production Choreography Fee \$ 35.00 due with August Tuition

There are additional choreography fees charged for solos, duets, trios and outside choreographers. These fees cover your music preparation, choreography and instructional time. Once the dancer or group has been taught their piece the choreography becomes their responsibility. We will run the dances during practice on Sunday's in group lessons. Additional private lessons are \$ 15.00/30 minute with a junior instructor and \$ 30.00/30 minute with a senior instructor. These lessons will be available beginning in December.

Competition Day

The studio typically receives the competition schedule 7-10 days prior to the attending competition. You will be notified by e-mail the schedule as soon as it is available. The time given for your dance is tentative. All dancers should arrive at the venue at least 1 hour 30 minutes prior to their performance time, no early than doors open. You must be in full costume and make-up at that time. We always do our best to run through our group dances before performing. It is very important to be prompt. Always go by the schedule you are given by the studio, do not go by the program.

Soloists

Soloists are expected to run their dances on their own and have their music with them to rehearse. One expectation of a soloist is to be self driven. We are always happy to help with the unforeseen circumstances, but strongly feel a successful soloist will be prepared from studio rehearsal to go "SOLO" on competition day. We strongly encourage parents to do the same. Typically, a dancer that chooses to be a soloist has that inner drive and wants to be their best. We are ALWAYS in the audience to see our dancers perform, noting what each dancer needs to improve for their next performance. Please do not interrupt a teacher watching a Nicole's dancer perform to watch you practice. Your rehearsal time is at the studio. Your solo should be stage ready by competition day!

Most venues do not allow outside food to be brought in, please respect their policies. **Videotaping is strictly prohibited at competitions due to choreography rights.** Videotaping can result in our team being disqualified. Videos can usually be purchased at the attending competition. *NEW We will buy one team video per year. This cost IS NOT INCLUDED in your entry fees. This will be decided by the instructors and all team members will be required to buy one group DVD.

All dancers are required to be at the competition for their dances and award ceremony. Exceptions are sometimes made because of late awards and early competition. Please do not ask to miss your awards. This is your team!

Level Placement

We will be taking advantage of the different levels at attending competitions. Almost all competitions have moved to 3 levels of competition. They may be called different names at each competition, but they break down the competition by experience and hours in the studio. There are usually Advanced, Intermediate and Novice competition. The information provided on the attached form will be used to place each soloist, duet and group in the appropriate level of competition.



Important Dates

Talent On Parade Dance Directive

Sunday, October 4th – ENTRY IS NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR FEES PLEASE SUBMIT BY SEPT 15th

Mandatory Production choreography practice:

Monday, November 23rd & 24th Times TBA

Spring Break

OFF - Sunday, March 14th

REQUIRED PRACTICE - Sunday, March 21st

2021 Competition Dates

Dates/Venues to be announced SOON!

Elite Classes

If you have been invited to participate in an Elite class. Another convention is your required in your schedule. This date will be given asap.

Competition Fitting

Tuesday, September 8th **NEW DATE

Team Passion 6:30-7:00

Team Fierce 7:00-7:30

Team Extreme 7:30-8:00

Team Intense 8:00-8:30

Team Devotion 8:30-9:00



Ignite Your Passion



2020-2021 Competition Team

Thank you for taking the time to read your competition handbook.

Please return this sheet below by

September 20th

Waiver

I give my dancer, _____, permission to participate on the Nicole's School of Dance competition team. In result of injury, I will not hold 'Reed Companies, LLC' DBA Nicole's School of Dance, teachers associated with, or attending competitions responsible for injuries arising as a result of participation. I give permission to Nicole's School of Dance to be an authorized legal agent for my dancer. I understand that a liability release signature will be signed by a representative of Nicole's School of Dance for attending competitions/conventions.

I understand that if I withdrawal from the competition team prior to 2019 Nationals I am still responsible for all tuition, costumes and entry fees that are associated with the 2018-2019 competition season. All tuition, entry fees and competition costume fees are non-refundable, with the exception of injury. Costumes will be forfeited upon leaving the team early, no exceptions.

I have read and understand the 2020-2021 Competition Handbook.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Signature of Dancer _____

Contact Information

This information will be shared with the competition team.

Check here if you do not want your information shared.

Dancer's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Dancer's Cell # _____

Parent's Information

Mother's Name:

Cell Phone# _____

E-mail: _____

Father's Name:

Cell Phone# _____

E-mail: _____