

Pensacola Youth Ballet Rules and Regulations Updated 2023

Company Expectation: Company members are chosen based on their potential ability for ballet (at their current level), work ethic in class, attitude towards their teachers and fellow students, technical and artistic abilities, aptitude for learning and retaining choreography, history of class attendance, and overall aptitude for ballet. We seek to cultivate and maintain an atmosphere that is conducive to learning all aspects of ballet. In that spirit, there will be a policy of limited tolerance for disciplinary issues. We will try to be understanding in each situation, but will expect professionalism and excellence in adhering to these policies and rules from all company members. Each member is expected to know and abide by the “Ballet Code Of Conduct.”

Classroom Conduct: While in class, students are expected to remain quiet and focused. We believe there are three basic ways students learn while in the class; visually, auditorally, and physically. These learning styles coupled with each student's energy, constitute a 100% effort and will yield the greatest results. This is what each student should strive for, and the standard each student will be expected to perform. “Watch”: As your teacher demonstrates a combination (mimic his/her movements) “Listen”: As your teacher explains the combination being given. Repeat the terms and ask questions at the end of the demonstration. “Do”: Physically perform each combination to the best of your ability. Pay attention to detail. Look in the mirror often and be aware of how you are using the barre.

“Bad Days”: Everyone has them! We will be understanding of an occasional “Bad Day,” however, please let your teacher know you are having “one of those days” prior to the start of class. This will help students develop communication skills and guard against any misunderstanding on the part of the teacher.

Dance Bags: These items should remain in your dance bag at all times. All required dance shoes, hair supplies (bun maker, bobby pins, hair spray, hair net), at least one leotard, at least one pair of tights, sports bra or support. It's understandable if your leotard or tights are in the wash, however, you should always have a backup on hand.

Attire: Appropriate dress code will be required for each level. Students must arrive to class fully prepared and on time. In the event you are missing part of your required apparel, please do not enter the room until you have checked the lost and found, or asked to borrow the missing item. It will be at the teacher's discretion to allow students who still do not have the appropriate attire to attend class. This includes hair being in a correct bun with a hairnet. All levels: Black leotard, pink tights, pink technique shoes, nude or strapless bra, hair in a bun with a hairnet.

Bathroom/Water Breaks: If you must use the bathroom during class, please ask the teacher to be excused between barre work and center. If it is an emergency, wait till the combination or music has stopped playing to ask permission to leave.

Cell Phones: Any use of cell phones during a class or rehearsal period is strictly prohibited. This student will be asked to relinquish his/her cell phone until class/rehearsal is finished. If the student refuses to do so, they will be asked to leave.

The Use of Touch in Class: It is extremely important in all aspects of dance training to incorporate the use of touch in order to facilitate kinesthetic awareness. Students will be made aware from the beginning of their training that, if they feel uncomfortable with any aspect of physical contact or touch by a teacher, they will be supported, if they tell the staff member involved, "I'm not comfortable with that." If they feel their needs or concerns have not been met through this exchange, they are encouraged to talk to the Artistic Director.

Inappropriate Touching: Please be respectful of each other and of the environment we are trying to uphold. Anything beyond a cordial hug and hello between those of the opposite gender will be considered inappropriate and strictly prohibited. This includes teachers outside of "The Use Of Touch" in class, which we already discussed.

Talking: Talking during class is distracting to those around you and will not be allowed. If you have a question, please wait until the music has stopped to ask your teacher. Students who are disturbing the class with conversation will be asked to sit. If the behavior continues, they will be asked to leave the room.

Tuition: Tuition is paid monthly at a predetermined rate. Unlike our preparatory program, the academy tuition does not just cover individual classes, but is used towards the overall academy program experience. Additional fees may be charged for costumes, trips, outings, master classes, summer programs, auditions, and other such extra activities.

Master Classes: Company members will be expected to participate in offered master classes. There will be fees associated with these classes, therefore parents will be notified in advance as these opportunities present themselves.

Rehearsal Attendance: Company members must attend all scheduled rehearsals. If you are to miss rehearsal for any reason please write down your anticipated absence on your contract and advise the Ballet Director at least one week in advance. It is expected you will know and maintain choreography even if you miss rehearsal. If you miss rehearsal, it is your responsibility to get with those you dance with, to learn what you missed. Absences will be excused on a case-by-case basis and will be granted if the absence does not interfere with the rehearsal process.

Performance Opportunities: Performance opportunities are a privilege, and you have been chosen to perform with the ballet company so you may grow in your artistry through performance. All company members will be expected to participate in performance opportunities that are made available and scheduled with due notice. If you are unable to perform due to family vacations, school or church activities, or the like, you must notify the ballet director at the beginning of the year.

Ticket Sales: Each family participating in the ballet company will help sell tickets to our events, and the dancer understands they are responsible for selling ten Nutcracker tickets (per family), and that these ticket sales will be a determining factor in their eligibility to be on the company next year. Please understand, our best efforts are needed to fill the auditorium and we need your help to do that. Ticket prices to be determined.

Casting Guidelines: What happens in regular classes does matter. This is the opportunity for the directors to get to know the dancer's skills and talents. Thus, it's imperative for the dancer to attend class. It is a good idea to stay open-minded about assignment of the roles. Typically, dancers and parents are not the best judge of which role the dancer is suited for...let's leave this decision to the directors. On occasion, roles will be auditioned. Auditions and casting are an intense, stressful and

often emotion-filled process. After the casting is posted, we often see very excited and also very disappointed dancers. PYB expects dancers (and parents) who are cast in roles to be gracious to those who may be disappointed. It is perfectly normal and expected that those who are not cast may feel disappointment, frustration, and sadness. However, it is important these students and their parents work through these emotions in a manner that is both respectful and supportive of the students who were cast. Company casting is based on many factors: available parts, availability for rehearsals, appropriateness for role, technical ability, artistic expression, stamina, etc. The director may also need to make a judgment about which students will work well together in specific roles and how the overall show will look. Students who have been previously cast in leading roles should not assume that they will be cast in a leading role again. Similarly, parent volunteerism, student seniority, and donations are not factors when casting is done. The Ballet Director reserves the right to change casting at any time. Casting should never be a reason for opting out of a performance.

Ballet Summer Study Scholarship: One or more students may be chosen at the end of the school year to receive a full or partial scholarship for summer study. So far, PYB's ballet department has awarded \$6,000.00 in summer study scholarships. Scholarship recipients are chosen based on their performance throughout the school year. This scholarship is only available to ballet company members. Past scholarship recipients are Bailey Blankenship, Carly Brink, Cydney Covert, Taylor Respress, Lexi Sulzbach, Kyli Demeyere, Corrin Beasley, Karys Snyder, Emma Vislay.

Social Media: Please refrain from any and all negative and or inappropriate posts on social media. Pensacola Youth Ballet and all of its associations strive to build, and maintain a positive reputation. We ask that as representatives of Pensacola Youth Ballet, you uphold a high standard and self-value. We have had issues in past years and this conduct will be considered unacceptable. If you are caught posting negative comments you will be released from our programs and asked to leave without discussion. Please bring any concern or complaint you have about the ballet program directly to the Ballet Director.

Ballet Code of Conduct

We will respect our teachers, peers, and all people in life.

We will maintain our studios and theatres, as they are the places we practice and honor our art form.

We will commit to reaching our full potential, while helping those around us reach theirs.

We will develop both our mind and body equally, as they are interconnected.

We will seek inspiration not only from dance and the arts but also from all things in life.

We will grow with pride and confidence, yet never forget the value of humility.

We will embrace any challenge put before us because we see it not as an obstacle but as an opportunity to progress.

We will work toward becoming great dancers, while understanding that being a good person is the true goal.

A good student understands the balance of self-evaluation and self-confidence. If you are truly giving 100%, then be satisfied that you are doing your best, and improvement takes time.