

SILHOUETTE DANCE COMPANY

2026-27 DANCE TEAM HANDBOOK

1. Mission, Vision & Core Values

Mission Statement

At Silhouette Dance, our mission is to create a welcoming and inspiring environment where every dancer has the opportunity to grow. Through a well-rounded curriculum and a positive, encouraging atmosphere, we support dancers of all ages and levels, from those dancing for enjoyment to those pursuing excellence at a competitive or pre-professional level.

What It Means to Be Part of Silhouette Dance Company

Being a member of Silhouette Dance Company means committing to growth, both as a dancer and as an individual. Dancers are expected to come prepared, work hard, stay dedicated, and contribute positively to the team environment. Each dancer plays an important role in shaping the culture, energy, and success of the company.

Core Values

Community: We foster a tight-knit and supportive community among our dancers, parents, instructors, and staff. We believe in creating connections that extend beyond the studio and last a lifetime.

Commitment: We value dedication, consistency, and accountability in every dancer. Through regular training, perseverance, and a strong work ethic, we encourage our students to show up fully and give their best effort in every class, rehearsal, and performance.

Respect: We uphold an atmosphere of mutual respect and kindness where everyone feels safe to express themselves and explore their potential as dancers and individuals.

Growth: We are dedicated to helping each student reach their full potential, not only as dancers but also as well-rounded individuals. We believe that dance can enhance self-discipline, confidence, and resilience.

Teamwork: We believe that success is built together. By supporting and uplifting one another, our dancers learn the value of collaboration, trust, and shared achievement both on and off the stage.

Drive: We inspire passion and determination in our dancers to continuously push beyond their limits. With a motivated mindset, we encourage them to set goals, embrace challenges, and strive for excellence in all they do.

Representation & Responsibility

Silhouette Dance Company dancers are ambassadors of our studio. They are expected to uphold the highest standards of behavior, attitude, and professionalism at all times—whether in the studio, at competitions, in public settings, or on social media.

All dancers should consistently represent Silhouette Dance by demonstrating our core values through their actions, words, and interactions with others.

2. Team Structure & Levels

At Silhouette Dance Company, we believe every dancer has a place on our team. Our goal is to place each dancer in the level where they will be challenged, supported, and set up for success both technically and personally.

Audition & Placement Process

All dancers are required to attend our annual audition to be considered for the Competition Team.

- **Audition Date:** May 29, 2026
- **Time:** 4:00–6:00 PM
- **Audition Fee:** \$30

This audition allows our staff to evaluate each dancer's current skill level, technique, performance quality, and overall readiness for team placement.

Summer Training Requirement

To be considered for and remain on the team, dancers are expected to continue training over the summer.

- A **Friday Evening Technique Class** will be offered throughout the summer
- Dancers are **not required to attend every week**, but must attend a **minimum of 3 weeks of classes**
- These classes are designed to **challenge dancers, build technique, and prepare for the upcoming season**

Team Invitations & Commitment

- Team placements, financial commitments, and competition details will be sent out in **July 2026**
- Acceptance into Silhouette Dance Company is a **full-season commitment**, beginning in **August 2026** and concluding with **Nationals in Summer 2027**

Choreography Week (Mandatory)

- **August 3–7, 2026:** This week is essential, as choreography for all **group routines and solos/duos/trios** will be taught. Attendance is required to ensure proper placement and participation in routines. *(Missed choreography must be learned independently, as rehearsals will not be slowed for absences.)*

NEW - Team Levels

SDC Select (Advanced Level)

SDC Select is our highest level of training and commitment. Dancers are expected to demonstrate strong technical ability, performance quality, and leadership within the studio. These dancers set the standard for work ethic, attitude, and teamwork.

Class Requirements:

- Ballet
- Jazz
- Turns & Leaps
- 1 Additional Technique Class

Competition Requirements:

- 3 Regional Competitions (Orlando or Daytona Beach)
- 1 National Competition
- Participation in **1 Small Group & 1 Large Group**

Rehearsal Schedule:

- Friday Evenings

SDC Rise (Intermediate Level)

SDC Rise is designed for dancers who are committed to growth and improving their technique. Dancers at this level show strong dedication and are actively working toward advancing their skills and performance quality.

Class Requirements:

- Ballet
- Jazz
- 1 Additional Technique Class

Competition Requirements:

- 3 Regional Competitions (Orlando or Daytona Beach)
- 1 National Competition
- Participation in **1 Small Group & 1 Large Group**

Rehearsal Schedule:

- Friday Evenings

SDC Ignite (Foundation Level)

SDC Ignite is designed for dancers who are newer to the competition experience and are looking to grow their foundational skills in a supportive, structured environment. This level emphasizes developing strong technique basics, building confidence in performance, and introducing dancers to the expectations and culture of a competition team.

Class Requirements:

- Ballet or Jazz
- 1 Additional Technique Class

Competition Requirements:

- 3 Regional Competitions (Orlando or Daytona Beach)
- Participation in **1 Small Group**

Rehearsal Schedule:

- Saturday Afternoons (*May shift to a weekday if needed based on schedule changes and class cancellations*)

SDC Spark (Age 5-8)

SDC Spark is our introductory competition team designed specifically for younger dancers who are ready to begin their journey into the Company environment. This level focuses on building strong foundational technique, confidence, and a love for performing in a supportive and encouraging setting.

Class Requirements:

- Ballet or Jazz
- 1 Additional Technique Class

Competition Requirements:

- 2 Regional Competitions (Orlando or Daytona Beach)
- Participation in **1 Small Group**

Rehearsal Schedule:

- Saturday Afternoons (*May shift to a weekday if needed based on schedule changes and class cancellations*)

Advancement & Placement

- Placement is determined by **audition results, technical ability, performance quality, attitude, and commitment level**
- Dancers are **evaluated throughout the season** and may be considered for advancement as they progress
- Movement between levels is not guaranteed and is based on **readiness and consistency**

Apprentice Pathway

SDC Ignite acts as the **developmental pathway** into higher levels of the company. Dancers who demonstrate growth, commitment, and strong work ethic may be invited to move into SDC Rise or Select in future seasons.

3. Season Commitment & Calendar

Participation in Silhouette Dance Company requires a **full-season commitment**. This section outlines the key dates, expectations, and required events for all team members. Consistency and attendance are essential to the success of both the individual dancer and the team as a whole.

Season Commitment

- The competition season runs from **August 2026 through Nationals in Summer 2027**
- All dancers are expected to prioritize dance commitments, including classes, rehearsals, competitions, and performances
- Competition schedules and event details are **subject to change**

Competition & Performance Expectations

- All dancers are expected to attend **3 Regional Competitions**
- Select teams (SDC Select & Rise) are required to attend **Nationals (Summer 2027)**
- **Group routines are prioritized over solos/duos/trios**
- Dancers must be in good standing (attendance, behavior, and financial) to participate in performances

Recital Requirement

- Participation in the **Annual Recital Showcase is mandatory**
- **Recital Date:** May 15, 2027
- Dress rehearsals will take place the week leading up to the recital

Required Events

All team members are required to attend the following:

- Weekly Classes & Rehearsals
- Choreography Intensive Week
- Dress Rehearsals & Picture Day
- Competitions & Performances
- Community Events (ex: Concert of Hope)

2026–2027 Season Calendar

2026

- **May 29** – SDC Audition (4:00–6:00 PM)
- **June 5** - Return Dancer Self-Evaluation
- **June 30** – Team Commitment Form Due
- **June 29 – July 4** – Studio Closed (No Classes)
- **July 6** – Parent Team Meeting (if needed)
- **July 5** – Team Invitations Sent
- **July 11** – Team Acceptance Due
- **August 3–7** – Team Choreography Intensive (**Mandatory**)
- **August 10** – 2026-27 Season Begins
- **October 11** - Platinum Dance Convention (Optional)
- **November 26–28** – Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
- **December 21 – January 3** – Winter Break (No Classes)

2027

- **January 9** – Company Dress Rehearsal & Picture Day (**Mandatory**)
- **February 5–7** – Tentative Competition #1
- **Early March or Early April** – Tentative Competition #2
- **March 20** – Community Event: *Concert of Hope* (**Required**)

- **May 7–9** – Tentative Competition #3
- **May 10–14** – Recital Dress Rehearsals (**Mandatory**)
- **May 15** – Silhouette Dance Recital Showcase (**Mandatory**)
- **June/July** – Nationals (**SDC Select & Rise Required / Solos, Duos, Trios Optional**)

Important Notes

- Attendance at all **mandatory events** is required unless approved by the studio director
- Missing key rehearsals or events may result in removal from routines or performances
- Additional rehearsals or schedule adjustments may be added throughout the season as needed

4. SDC Code of Conduct Policy

Silhouette Dance Company Expectations

Dancers are expected to demonstrate commitment, focus, and respect in all classes and rehearsals. This includes:

- Dancing full-out and giving their best effort
- Listening attentively to instructors
- Being prepared, on time, and ready to work

All dancers must show respect to **staff, parents, and ALL fellow students** at Silhouette Dance.

Creating a safe, inclusive, and positive environment is a top priority. Any behavior that makes another dancer feel uncomfortable, unwelcome, or unsafe will not be tolerated.

Bullying Policy:

Bullying, teasing, exclusion, or negative behavior of any kind is strictly prohibited. Any dancer found engaging in this behavior may face disciplinary action, including:

- Removal from classes
- Exclusion from performances or competitions
- Suspension from the program

Attitude in Class:

Negative or disruptive attitudes are not acceptable. Disrespect toward instructors or peers will result in:

- Immediate removal from class (if necessary)
- Parent notification
- Further disciplinary action if behavior continues

Social Media Expectations

All dancers represent Silhouette Dance Company both inside and outside the studio, including on social media.

We expect all posts, messages, and interactions to reflect positivity and respect.

The following will **not be tolerated**:

- Negative or inappropriate posts about SDC, dancers, staff, or other studios
- Bullying, gossip, or harassment through texts or social platforms
- Any content that reflects poorly on the dancer or the studio

Dancers should maintain clean, respectful online profiles. Parents are encouraged to actively monitor their child's social media activity.

Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Action

Failure to follow the SDC Code of Conduct may result in, but is not limited to:

- Sitting out of classes, rehearsals, or performances
- Parent meetings
- Probation
- Suspension from the team
- Removal from the team

Silhouette Dance reserves the right to determine appropriate consequences based on the situation.

Behavior at Competitions, Conventions & Performances

Silhouette Dance Company holds its dancers and families to a high standard of professionalism.

We will not be “that studio.”

All dancers and family members are expected to:

- Be respectful and courteous to all studios, dancers, and event staff
- Maintain a positive attitude at all times
- Refrain from negative comments about performances, judging, or event operations

Frustrations may arise—but all concerns should be addressed privately and respectfully, not at the event.

Dressing Room Etiquette

Dancers must maintain a respectful and clean environment in all dressing spaces.

- Leave the dressing room **cleaner than you found it**
- Pick up all personal belongings and trash
- Be respectful of shared spaces with other studios

Privacy Policy:

 **NO photos or videos are allowed in dressing rooms at any time**

This rule is strictly enforced to protect the privacy of all dancers.

Sportsmanship Expectations

Dancers are encouraged to support and uplift others.

- Congratulate fellow dancers and studios
- Offer encouragement and positive feedback
- Represent SDC with kindness and professionalism

Awards Etiquette

All dancers are required to participate in awards ceremonies unless otherwise approved.

Expectations:

- Wear SDC warm-ups
- Sit together as a team
- Remain attentive and respectful
- Applaud all dancers and studios

Important Safety Rule:

Dancers are **not permitted to open envelopes or pin bags on stage**.

All items must remain closed and be given to an SDC staff member for distribution after the ceremony.

Studio Representation

Dancers, parents, and family members represent Silhouette Dance Company at all events.

- Wear SDC warm-ups or studio-branded apparel when possible
- Demonstrate respectful and positive behavior at all times

Competition Session Expectations

Dancers are expected to:

- Attend the full duration of their assigned competition session
- Be present for all performances and awards ceremonies

Exceptions may be made in rare circumstances (e.g., scheduling conflicts), but requests to leave early should be limited.

Team participation is essential—this is your team.

5. Attendance & Class Attire Policy

Technique Class Attendance Policy

Consistent attendance in technique classes is essential for each dancer's growth, strength, and overall performance ability.

Dancers are permitted up to:

- **3 absences per style** from August–December
- **3 absences per style** from January–May

If a dancer must miss a technique class, **all additional rehearsals for that week (including solos, duets, or trios)** will be canceled. These rehearsals will resume once the dancer returns to their regular technique classes.

Regular attendance ensures dancers continue to build proper technique, which directly impacts their success in rehearsals and performances. As emphasized across competitive programs, missing training time can slow both individual and group progress .

Competition Rehearsal Attendance Policy

All competition rehearsals are **mandatory**. Attendance is critical to the success of the entire team.

- Absences must be **reported as soon as possible**
- **No absences are permitted within 2 weeks** of any competition or performance

If a dancer misses a rehearsal, they are responsible for:

- Learning missed choreography from a teammate or video
- Scheduling a private lesson (if needed and available)

Dancers are expected to return fully prepared. Rehearsal time will **not be used to reteach missed material**, as this takes away from the progress of the group.

If a dancer is not adequately prepared:

- The instructor may require **paid private lessons**
- The dancer may be **removed from sections of choreography**
- The dancer may be **pulled from the routine entirely**, at the instructor's discretion

Group routines depend on every dancer being present and prepared. Missing rehearsals impacts spacing, timing, and overall performance quality—something widely recognized across competitive dance programs .

Reporting an Absence

Clear communication is required for all absences.

Planned Absences:

- Must be submitted **in writing via email** to laura@silhouette.dance
- A minimum of **3 weeks' notice** is required for vacations or known conflicts

Illness or Emergencies:

- Notify the studio **as soon as possible** via:
 - Call or text: **321-312-0255**
 - Email

All communication must include:

- Dancer's **first and last name**
- Class(es) being missed

Failure to properly communicate absences may result in the absence being considered unexcused.

Class Attire Policy

Dancers are expected to arrive **on time and fully prepared** for every class. Proper attire promotes discipline, safety, and allows instructors to properly evaluate technique and body alignment.

General Requirements:

- Hair must be pulled back neatly (bun, ponytail, or braid)
- Proper shoes must be worn for each style

Dress Code by Style:

- **Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary, Acro:**
 - Leotard and tights (any color permitted unless otherwise specified)
- **Hip Hop:**
 - Athletic, loose-fitting clothing permitted
 - Pants/shorts must be secure and **not drag under the feet**

Company Rehearsal Attire:

- **No baggy clothing is permitted during Company rehearsals**
- All attire must be **form-fitted** to allow instructors to clearly see body lines, placement, and technique
- Dancers may wear **crop tops and shorts**, however:
 - **Tights must be worn at all times**

Dancers who are not in proper dress code:

- Will **not be allowed to participate in class or rehearsal**
- Will be marked **absent for that class**

Maintaining a consistent and professional dress code is standard across competitive dance programs and ensures dancers are training in an environment that supports technical growth and performance readiness.

6. Media & Liability Waivers

Participation in Silhouette Dance Company includes consent to various media, performance, and studio-related policies. These waivers help us promote our dancers, protect our studio, and ensure a positive and professional environment for all.

Photo & Video Release

By participating in Silhouette Dance Company, dancers and their families grant permission for Silhouette Dance to photograph and record dancers during classes, rehearsals, performances, competitions, and studio events.

These images and videos may be used for:

- Social media (Instagram, Facebook, website, etc.)
- Marketing and promotional materials
- Studio displays and advertisements

No compensation will be provided for the use of these materials.

Performance Media Policy

- Competitions and recital performances may be professionally recorded and photographed
- Media will be distributed to families via **Google Drive**
- Personal recording at competitions may be **restricted based on event rules** and must be respected

Studio & Choreography Rights

- All choreography taught at Silhouette Dance is the **intellectual property of the studio and its instructors**
- Routines may not be shared, performed, or taught outside of Silhouette Dance without permission
- Music edits, choreography, and concepts are not to be recreated or redistributed
- Posting choreography or full routines without permission is **not permitted**

Liability & Participation Acknowledgment

Dance is a physical activity that carries a risk of injury.

By participating, dancers and their families acknowledge:

- They understand and accept the physical risks associated with dance training and performance
- Silhouette Dance and its staff are not liable for injuries sustained during classes, rehearsals, or events
- Dancers are physically able to participate and will inform the studio of any injuries or limitations

Medical & Emergency Authorization

In the event of an emergency:

- Silhouette Dance staff may seek appropriate medical care for a dancer if a parent/guardian cannot be reached
- Parents/guardians are responsible for any medical expenses incurred

Injury & Replacement Policy

In the event that a dancer is unable to perform due to injury or other circumstances, Silhouette Dance reserves the right to make adjustments to choreography, formations, or casting in order to ensure the success of the routine.

If a replacement dancer is needed, Silhouette Dance may request to temporarily use the original dancer's costume so the routine can be performed as intended. All borrowed costume pieces will be handled with care and will be returned to the original dancer once the competition season has concluded.

We understand that injuries can be challenging, and we will work with families to support the dancer's recovery while also maintaining the integrity of the team and performances.

Agreement & Consent

Participation in Silhouette Dance Company indicates agreement to all media, participation, and liability policies outlined above. A signed acknowledgment form will be required prior to the start of the season.

7. Dancer Development & Goal Setting

The Silhouette Dance Company (SDC) is about more than just competing. We are committed to creating opportunities for every dancer to grow in their **technique, performance quality, and overall confidence**.

As part of the audition process, dancers will be asked to reflect on their **individual strengths, areas for improvement, and personal goals** for the upcoming season. This reflection allows our instructors to better understand each dancer's mindset, motivation, and vision for their growth.

Using this information, our staff will:

- Support each dancer in working toward their personal goals
- Align individual development with overall team expectations
- Track progress throughout the season to ensure continued growth

To reinforce this process, **progress check-ins will take place in July and October**. During these check-ins, instructors will meet with dancers to:

- Review their initial goals
- Provide feedback on progress
- Offer guidance and actionable steps for continued improvement

This structured approach ensures that every dancer is not only growing as part of the team, but also developing as an individual artist.

8. Parent Responsibilities & Communication

Parent involvement and clear communication are essential to the success of both the dancers and the team. We value a positive, respectful partnership with our families and are committed to maintaining open and effective communication throughout the season.

Communication Expectations

- **Email is the primary and required form of official communication** for all team-related matters
- If any concerns or issues arise, please communicate directly with **Ms. Laura or Mr. Jeff**
- We encourage families to reach out early so concerns can be addressed promptly
- Our goal is to **resolve issues quickly and proactively before they become larger problems**

Response Time Expectations

- Please allow up to **24–48 hours** for a response during regular business days
- Communication sent outside of business hours or during events/competitions may require additional time
- We will always do our best to respond as quickly as possible

Emergency Communication

- For urgent or time-sensitive matters (such as competition day issues, absences, or emergencies), please contact us directly as instructed at the start of the season
- Emergency communication should be reserved for **immediate or critical situations only**

Respect for Staff & Studio Decisions

- All studio and team decisions are made with the **best interest of the dancers and the team as a whole**
- We ask that parents respect and support the decisions made by instructors and directors
- Open and respectful communication is always welcome, but final decisions remain at the discretion of Silhouette Dance staff

Sideline Conduct

- To maintain a focused and positive training environment, **sideline coaching is not permitted**
- Dancers should receive instruction and corrections directly from their teachers
- Encouragement and support from parents are always appreciated

9. Agreement & Acknowledgment

Participation in Silhouette Dance Company requires a clear understanding and acceptance of all policies outlined in this handbook. The following agreements must be reviewed and signed by both the dancer and their parent/guardian prior to the start of the season.

Parent & Dancer Agreement

By signing below, both the dancer and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to uphold all policies, expectations, and guidelines outlined in the Silhouette Dance Company Handbook.

Dancers and parents agree to:

- Demonstrate respect, professionalism, and positive behavior at all times
- Follow attendance, rehearsal, and performance requirements
- Support the values and culture of Silhouette Dance Company
- Communicate appropriately with staff and fellow team members

Financial Responsibility Acknowledgment

A detailed financial agreement will be provided outlining the **estimated costs associated with participation** in Silhouette Dance Company, including (but not limited to) tuition, competition fees, costumes, and additional expenses.

By signing, families acknowledge and agree that:

- All listed comp fees are **mandatory and non-refundable once team invitations are accepted, only monthly tuition** can be stopped if injuries, withdrawal or dismissal.
- Competition fees remain due **regardless of injury, withdrawal, or dismissal from the company.**
- **If a dancer is replaced in any dance, Silhouette Dance may ask to borrow the costume if it is needed to complete the dance. Once the season is over the costume will be returned.**
- If a dancer chooses to leave the team or is dismissed after choreography has begun, a **\$350 reblocking fee** will be charged to cover the cost of reworking choreography.
- **Accounts must remain in good standing** for dancers to participate in classes, rehearsals, and performances. We are committed to working with each family whenever possible to support participation; however, this requires timely communication and follow-up from families so we can understand needs and make appropriate arrangements.

Code of Conduct Agreement

All dancers and parents must agree to adhere to the **Silhouette Dance Company Code of Conduct** as outlined in this handbook.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Maintaining a positive attitude and respectful behavior
- Upholding studio expectations in class, at events, and online
- Supporting teammates and fostering a healthy team environment
- Following all disciplinary, social media, and conduct policies

Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including removal from routines or dismissal from the company.

Acknowledgment of Commitment

By joining Silhouette Dance Company, dancers and families acknowledge that this is a **full-season commitment** requiring time, effort, and dedication. Participation includes all required classes, rehearsals, competitions, performances, and events as outlined in this handbook.