

LDC Elite Team Member Contract

Revised: May 2021



The purpose of the LDC Competitive program is to teach our dancers not only how to become successful dancers, but how to contribute to a team, work together, and focus on the “we” rather than the “me.” Company Members will participate in community events and performances as well as compete State-wide and occasionally out of state. They will learn about sportsmanship and healthy competition while they build relationships to last a lifetime.

While of course, we have fun, this is not a recreational program. It is a training program for dancers who want to be serious about improving and competing. We urge you to strongly consider the commitments of this program before you accept a spot.

The policies and procedures contained within this document are in place to protect the safety of our dancers and the integrity of our program. These rules are not frivolous or over-demanding by industry standards. It is the expectation that all Elite dancers and parents will sign this contract and do their best to uphold it. Team members who cannot adhere to these policies may be asked to leave the program.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

Initial: _____

It is important to keep the lines of communication open between parents, dancers, and coaches. Every dancer will have “off” days. It is safe to say that most of the time when a dancer goes home upset; the coach was unaware of a problem. It is the responsibility of the dancer to speak with the coach about concerns or frustrations. Parents should contact coaches as soon as a concern arises so we can quickly resolve the issue. Most problems are caused by a lack of communication.

TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Initial: _____

Each team member and parent will be given access to the coach's personal cell phone numbers. We ask that you do not reach out to us outside of business hours unless it is an emergency. Coaches will respond to texts and phone calls within 48 hours of receiving them. We will not respond on weekends or after 8 pm. We ask that you default to calling the business phone or emailing us through the business email.

It is required that all parents download and use the app “Band.” We use this app for the majority of our team communication. Dancers may also have access to the app should parents choose, but one parent per dancer absolutely must have the app.

TEAM PLACEMENT

Initial: _____

Teams are divided based on age in accordance with competition guidelines.

- Each team will be given two routines to compete with. Styles of those routines will be chosen by the coach.
- We typically do not “dance up” dancers to the next level up. Coaches will make these decisions if there is a need to help balance the teams out in numbers and/or skill level. Parents should not ask coaches to move their dancer up, we will contact you if we see a need to move your dancer.
- If there are not enough dancers to make a team, they may be combined with the next closest level. The coach will decide what is most appropriate.
- Team divisions may be broken down by the following guidelines:
 - Mini Team – Dancers may not exceed 3rd grade
 - Youth Team – Dancers may not exceed 6th grade
 - Junior Team – Dancers may not exceed 8th grade
 - Senior Team – Dancers may not exceed 12th grade

DRESS CODE

Initial: _____

The dress code in practice is very important. Wearing baggy or otherwise distracting clothing makes it difficult to see lines and correct errors in precision. Please use these guidelines in choosing practice wear:

- Dancers are expected to wear all black, tight-fitting dance attire
- Sports bras should be worn as needed
- Socks are not acceptable footwear. Dancers will be provided a pair of team tennis shoes and technique shoes. These are the only shoes to be worn at Elite practice. Dancers also need to have the required footwear for any other classes they are taking.
- Black leggings, spandex shorts, or leotards and tights are all acceptable
- Hair must ALWAYS be secured in a slicked-back ponytail or bun. No exceptions.
- No jewelry (Piercings must be removed for competitions)

If you show up in attire that does not meet the dress code, you will be asked to sit out and marked unexcused (see unexcused absence policy)

ATTENDANCE AND TIME COMMITMENT

Initial: _____

Elite dancers can expect to attend classes or practices 2-4 nights a week. Each dancer is required to attend the following classes:

1. Elite Team practices. One class per week.
2. Elite Technique Class (appropriate level, placed by Director). One class per week.
3. Ballet Class (appropriate level, placed by Director). One class per week.

Elite dancers can expect to attend 6-7 competitions per season beginning around March. Competitions are a FULL DAY and sometimes FULL WEEKEND commitment (Thursday-Saturday, or Friday-Sunday). Competition Directors do not release schedules until 5-7 days before an event. As soon as we have the information, we will pass it on to you.

Elite dancers must maintain excellent attendance. They should be in class on time each week and should attend all Elite events and performances/competitions. If your dancer is ill or needs to miss class or an event for any other reason, it is the responsibility of the parent to make contact with a coach and let us know at least a week in advance for classes, and at least two weeks in advance for other events (see below for a list of acceptable excused absences). Keep us informed so we can plan for the needs of the whole team. ***Camp, Practices, and Competitions are MANDATORY.***

Because dance is a TEAM sport and your teammates are dependent upon you, we ask that Elite take precedence over any other extra-curricular activities. Practices are 100% mandatory. Hair appointments, work, birthday parties, and the like are not valid excuses. Doctor/Dentist appointments should **not** conflict with practice, please schedule around it. If you have a conflict you need to contact the head coach **no less than one week before**. We understand that certain situations are out of our control, and we will take them into consideration on an individual basis. If it seems that any member is missing practice excessively (excused or unexcused), that member may be asked to leave the team for the season.

When excusing your dancer from practice, please be aware of the following rules about performances: 1. Dancers MUST be in practice and participating for the two weeks prior to the competition. They MAY NOT miss practice during that time for any reason.

- a. If a dancer misses practice during the two-week period prior to a competition, they will not dance at the competition.

What constitutes an "Excused Absence?"

1. The dancer must be excused by a parent **PRIOR** to the absence.
2. Dancers will be allowed no more than 2 excused absences per season (August - December, and January – April) for a total of 4 per year. Missing more practice than this will result in you losing your performance and/or competition placement.
3. Emergencies such as a death in the family will not count towards the dancer's absences.
4. **The following are acceptable reasons to be miss practice WITH NOTICE GIVEN TO THE COACH NO LESS THAN ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE:**
 - a. Wedding in the family or similar family events
 - b. Illness (please notify us as soon as you realize your dancer is too ill to participate. If the dancer can sit and observe practice, that would be preferred over missing entirely)
 - c. Special school/religious activities
5. ANYTHING else should be scheduled around practices. If you miss due to any reason other than what has been outlined above, you will be marked unexcused.

Any unexcused absences are totally unacceptable, and they show a complete lack of respect for the coaches and your teammates.

1st Unexcused Absence: You will be placed on probation. You will sign a written probation agreement from the coach, which your parent(s) must sign as well and that must be returned at the next practice. You will also write an apology to the team and explain the importance of being at practice.

2nd Unexcused Absence: In addition to your probation, you will not be allowed to participate in the next team performance, an alternate may dance in your place. You will sign a written probation agreement. If you violate any rules in this contract or outlined in the probation agreement, it will result in automatic dismissal from the team.

3rd Unexcused Absence: You will be asked to leave the team for the remainder of the season and pay any fees owed.

We will not make exceptions. If something comes up, CALL and let a coach know.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND TUITION DISCOUNTS

Initial: _____

All Elite Dancers are required to take the Elite class(es), an appropriate level ballet class, and a technique class.

Because the technical training offered in classes is especially crucial to Elite dancers, they must attend their required classes using the same attendance policy as outlined above.

The tuition for those classes is included in their Elite Fees. They may take additional classes at a 20% discount.

a) The tuition discount for Elite dancers may not be combined with any other discounts including Intern discounts, family discounts, prorates, etc.

b) This tuition can be fundraised. However, if it has not been fully fundraised by September, it is the expectation that the parent will be responsible for paying the tuition monthly. Students will not be allowed to attend class if their tuition has not been paid.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Initial: _____

The cost of the Elite program is \$2,165.00 per dancer for the 2021-2022 season.

This includes Tuition for Elite Classes (Team practices, assigned ballet class, and assigned technique class), costumes for two dances, camp and camp attire, team warm-up uniforms, hair, and makeup supplies, and competition fees (3 studio competitions +1 nationals and 2 junior dance team competitions). Competitions are tentative and subject to change at any time during the season.

FUNDRAISING

Initial: _____

Our fundraising pays for the cost of uniforms, hotels, competition fees, camp, etc. You will be given a budget at the beginning of the season. You will be able to see exactly what it costs for a dancer to participate in the Company. You will be given many fundraising opportunities that will allow you to avoid out-of-pocket expenses altogether. If you choose not to participate in fundraisers you will be responsible for paying for costs necessary in order to continue to participate in the program. All expenses have deadlines and they must be met. Fundraising is fun!! It's a great time to bond as a team and build friendships! ***Fundraised money, although often credited to each dancer individually based on their time/sales, belongs to the team and will not be refunded in the event your dancer chooses to leave the team.***

REFUNDS

Initial: _____

- Legacy Dance Company and the Elite program have a strict NO REFUNDS policy. If at any point your dancer decides to leave the team or the studio, or your dancer is removed from the team or studio for any reason you will not be refunded.
- All fundraised money stays with the Elite team and coaches will use it for team expenses as they see necessary. This includes is not limited to: bottle drives, individual sales such as donuts or jerky, events, car washes, etc.
- If your dancer had business sponsors, those sponsors agreed to sponsor the Elite team, and therefore that money will not be returned to you.
- Any money that you pay out of pocket will not be refunded.
- Your dancer will be allowed to keep team warm-ups, backpacks, etc **IF** those have already been purchased and customized. They will not be given their dance costumes or any other items if they quit or are removed from the team.

INJURIES

Initial: _____

- Dancers are not allowed to sit out of practice unless they are truly sick or injured.
- Dancers must be in good health and physical condition in order to participate. Dance is incredibly physically demanding and as with any sport, there is a risk of injury.
- Dancers must notify the coach of any injuries.
- If you cannot practice, you cannot perform. If you become injured during the season, please take the time to treat the injury and let it heal.
- If the same injury sits you out of practice three times, you will be required to bring a doctor's note releasing you to practice again. If you see a doctor for any injury, a note will be required in order to practice.
- Dancers must participate in all practices for the two weeks leading up to a performance/competition. If a dancer becomes injured and is unable to resume dancing again AT LEAST two weeks prior to the competition, the dancer will not be allowed to participate in the event. This is partly to protect the dancer from becoming injured again by jumping in too quickly after having had weeks or months off from injury. It is also to allow adequate time for coaches to reform routines and prepare the rest of the team for the competition.

TRANSPORTATION

Initial: _____

Parents are responsible for making sure their dancer has transportation to classes, performances, and competitions. If you are unable to transport your dancer yourself, it is up to you to find an alternative.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Initial: _____

Dancers will not perform if they don't know the material. Just as in any other sport you have to know what you're doing and perform at a certain level. This is not meant to cause hurt feelings, but rather to keep everyone working and performing at their best. The Coaches will evaluate everyone before a performance. If you are not ready you will sit that performance out and hopefully be more prepared for the next one (Practicing at home is a great way to avoid this). Dancers are placed in their spots for performances based on a variety of factors. Things such as skill level, participation in practice, and knowledge of the routine. Sometimes there are other things that help us decide where a dancer should be placed. It is always the coach and/or choreographer's decision. It is not personal. We want to make sure the performance is of the best quality and that the entire team blends. All dancers will be visible. There is no back in competitive dance.

GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

Initial: _____

- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Attitude plays a large part in your participation on the team so please have a good one.
- At all times YOU will be held accountable for your actions.
- Absolutely no gossip, bullying, or clique-type attitudes will be tolerated. You will get one warning, if it continues you will be asked to leave the team for the remainder of the season.
- **Smoking/vaping, drinking, and/or drug use is NOT permitted at any time in any place! If we have proof of you participating in illegal activity (a citation, school discipline, photos, etc), you will be pulled out of the next performance and an alternate may take your place for that event.**
- Boyfriends/Girlfriends are not allowed to "hang out" with the team. They may come and watch performances and support you, but they may not sit with the team and will not be allowed in team areas such as a dressing room. When the team is together, it is team/family time.
- Be polite and supportive of other teams. No "trash talk."

SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Initial: _____

Legacy Dance Company (and especially the Elite program) is committed to teaching and promoting safe behavior both in and out of the studio. Each dancer should conduct themselves in an appropriate manner always. This includes their behavior on social media sites, including but not limited to Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram. Please use good judgment when posting things online. Inappropriate posts online regarding the team or team members will not be tolerated. Be mindful of the language you use, the pictures you post, links you share, etc. Most importantly, be kind. As stated above, no form of bullying will be tolerated within this program or our studio. If your social media becomes an outlet for you to be unkind to other dancers, your coaches, other teams, or ANYONE else you may be released from the team.

ACADEMICS

Initial: _____

The Elite program is one in which we train for excellence. While we are not a school district-affiliated program, we understand and encourage the need for academic progress. Kids who participate in team sports and activities are more likely to be successful in school and gain valuable life skills to apply to real-life situations. It is important to us that our dancers stay caught up at school, maintain passing grades, and have a great rapport with the school faculty. We would like to encourage parents to communicate with us if your dancer begins to do poorly in school, especially if you believe it is directly related to the hours they are spending with the team.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Initial: _____

- Be encouraging of not only your dancer but of her/his teammates.
- Do not put your dancer against other dancers on the team. They are teammates first and competitors second.
- Set your dancer up for success by helping them fundraise, attending monthly parent meetings, and ensure your dancer has what they need to be successful (ex: dress code appropriate attire).
- Back the coaches in teaching the spirit of competition and the love of the sport and measure success outside of wins and losses.
- Do not speak ill of other dancers or their parents.
- Support coaching decisions. If you have a concern, come to the coach individually.
- Set an example for your dancer by having constructive and open communication with coaches.
- If you volunteer for a task, complete it to the best of your ability.
- Do not air your grievances on social media or to other dance parents. Communicate with coaches.
- Do not ridicule or yell at your child or another participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.

Please know that the poor behavior of a parent can cause a dancer to be removed from the team. This needs to be a positive environment.

Disclaimer: All company policies are at the discretion of the Directors.

Each situation has its own set of circumstances and will be evaluated as such.

Parent or Guardian, please initial the following:

_____ I have received, read, understand, and agree to the Legacy Dance Company Elite Team Contract.

_____ I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and gain clarification on any areas I did not understand.

_____ I understand that my dancer will be given opportunities to fundraise to cover all of her/his Company expenses, and if they are not fundraised for, I will be responsible for paying the balance by the due date.

_____ I understand that all individual fundraised money, although credited to my specific dancer, will stay with the Elite Teams for team expenses. All fundraised money is final and non-transferable. Any money that I pay out of pocket toward dance expenses is non-refundable.

_____ I understand that if my dancer decides to leave the team at any point, I will not be refunded anything, nor will we be allowed to keep any team gear including but not limited to: costumes, bags, jackets, shoes, etc.

Parent Name (Please Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dancer (Print or Sign): _____