

## LDC Elite Team Member Contract

Revised: March 2020



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 within the Oregon Junior Dance Team circuit. 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 Company Members 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 Company.

### **COMMUNICATION IS KEY!**

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**

Each team member will be given a phone number list with coach information as well as phone numbers for all members. These are private; do not give out this information to non-team members. Coaches can be contacted through the studio email or business phone. You should only contact us via our personal cell in an emergency situation or when we are all traveling out of town together.

### **TEAM DIVISIONS**

Teams are divided based on age in accordance with DDCA/OJDTC guidelines.

- Each team will be given two routines to compete with. Styles of those routines will be chosen by the coach.
- Dancers may be given the opportunity to “dance up” to the next level up (in addition to their age group) if there is a need to help balance the teams out in numbers and/or skill level. If a dancer is selected to dance up to support the greater good of the program, there will be no additional charges for that 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
  - Youth Team – Dancers may not exceed 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Junior Team – Dancers may not exceed 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Senior Team – Dancers may not exceed 12<sup>th</sup> grade

### **DRESS CODE**

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 Lyrical Turners. These are the only shoes to be worn.
- 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**

Company Members must maintain excellent attendance. They should be in class on-time each week and should attend all Company 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, Daily Doubles, 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. You will be given a season schedule by the end of daily doubles. 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 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 be placed on probation and an alternate will dance in their spot at that 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 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 for anything other than what is 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. This is how the unexcused absence policy works:

**1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Unexcused Absence:** In addition to your probation, you will not be allowed to participate in the next team performance, an alternate will 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 an automatic dismissal from the team.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Unexcused Absence:** You will be asked to leave the team for the remainder of the season, pay any fees that you owe and return your uniform back to the team.

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

### **CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND TUITION DISCOUNTS**

All Elite Dancers are required to take the Elite class(es), an appropriate level ballet class, and a "coach's choice" class. The coach's choice class will be selected based on what style each dancer is competing in and what we believe will compliment that and give them adequate technique training. **Because the technique 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 40% 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.

### **FUNDRAISING**

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 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.***

### **INJURIES**

- 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 resume dancing again AT LEAST two weeks prior to competition, the dancer will not be allowed to participate in the event. This is partially 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**

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**

You will not perform if you 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. The fact of the matter is that most spectators will be sitting up higher than the performance level and will be able to see every single dancer, so no one should view a third or fourth row placement as "the back." There is no back in competitive dance team.

### **GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES**

- 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**

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 judgement 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**

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 great rapport with 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**

- Be encouraging of not only your dancer, but of her/his teammates.
- 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.
- Do not ridicule or yell at your child or other 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 Company Director.***

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

***Please fill out and detach the portion below and return to LDC, if you would like a copy, please request one***

**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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_