



RISE DANCE CENTER OF VIRGINIA LLC

COMPETITION TEAM HANDBOOK

RISE Dance Center of Virginia LLC

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RISE

DANCE CENTER

1. TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Table of Contents	2
2.	RISE Dance Center Competition Team	3
A.	<i>Team Philosophy and Goals</i>	3
B.	<i>Studio Policies</i>	3
C.	<i>Team Membership</i>	3
D.	<i>Choreography</i>	4
E.	<i>Placement</i>	4
F.	<i>Commitment</i>	5
G.	<i>Dress Code</i>	6
H.	<i>Conduct and Behavior</i>	6
I.	<i>Costumes and Appearance</i>	7
J.	<i>Makeup</i>	7
K.	<i>Parental Support</i>	7
L.	<i>Competition Etiquette</i>	7
M.	<i>Health and Safety</i>	8
N.	<i>Communication</i>	8
O.	<i>Media and Promotion</i>	8
P.	<i>Discipline and Dismissal</i>	8
3.	RISE Competition Team fees	9
A.	<i>One-time Team fees</i>	9
B.	<i>Recurring Team Fees</i>	9
C.	<i>Regional and National Competition Event Fees</i>	10
D.	<i>Time and Method of Payment</i>	11
4.	RISE Competition Schedule	11
5.	Studio Calendar 2024-2025 Season	12
6.	Owners' Financial Responsibility Pledge	13
7.	IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT RISKS OF INJURY	14
8.	Acknowledgement	14

2. RISE DANCE CENTER COMPETITION TEAM

Welcome to the RISE Dance Center Competition Team! We are thrilled to have you as part of our Team and look forward to an exciting 2024-2025 season. This handbook outlines RISE policies, expectations, and guidelines to ensure a positive and successful experience for everyone!

Together, let's focus on improving and enhancing our collective overall experience, aiming for growth, enrichment, and a higher level of achievement for the Team!

A. TEAM PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

1. Our goal is to foster a love for dance while encouraging teamwork, discipline, hard work, and personal growth.
2. The RISE Competition Team provides opportunities for dancers to showcase their talents in a supportive and competitive environment.
3. **Respect, Dedication, and Sportsmanship** are the core values of our Team.

B. STUDIO POLICIES

1. **Studio Policies** - All policies outlined in the "RISE Dance Center Handbook" are considered part of the Competition Team Handbook policies and apply to Competition Team members.
2. **Facility Use** - Respectful use of Studio and event venues, facilities and equipment is expected at all times.
3. **Conflicting Policies** - If a policy in the general RISE Dance Center Handbook contradicts a policy in the Competition Team Handbook, the Competition Team Handbook shall take precedence for Competition Team members.

C. TEAM MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership on the Competition Team is by audition and/or invitation only. Students may request a private audition to join the Team.
2. Dancers must attend all required classes, rehearsals and competitions.

3. Class requirements are as follows:
 - a. Two (2) ballet classes per week for levels 3, 4, and 5. One (1) ballet class per week for levels 1 and 2. (Ballet classes are not required for dancers choosing to compete only in hip hop and/or tap.)
 - b. One (1) technique class in each genre of your group dance(s) (i.e., jazz/musical theater, lyrical/contemporary, hip hop, acro, or tap).
 - c. One (1) choreography/rehearsal class per week for each of your group competition routines.
 - d. One (1) Team Production class.
4. Team member accounts must remain in good standing for continued membership on the Competition Team.

D. CHOREOGRAPHY

1. All choreography acquired through RISE Dance Center is the sole property of the Studio and shall only be performed under the auspices and/or expressed written authorization of the Studio.
2. RISE Competition Team members wishing to compete in solos, duos or trios under the auspices of RISE with choreography from outside choreographers can do so under the following conditions:
 - a. The dancer must provide RISE with written consent from the choreographer.
 - b. The choreography must be approved by the Artistic Director.
 - c. The dancer must enroll in RISE private lessons designed for the category of dance (i.e., solo, duo, trio) for cleaning and rehearsal.

E. PLACEMENT

1. A positive experience is paramount to a young dancer's commitment and enjoyment of dance. Toward that end, we place dancers in classes and performance routines that are suitable for their individual skill level, while still providing a challenging experience that pushes dancers to continually learn and improve their dance skills.
2. Dancers will be placed in dances (and, therefore, Team classes) based on audition results and recommendations of teachers and/or the Artistic Director.

F. COMMITMENT

1. **Agreement** - To ensure a clear understanding of the Team's requirements, commitment, and expectations, both the dancer and the parent must fully read this handbook and sign the last page indicating their acknowledgment and commitment to the Team and the Team's policies.
2. **Attendance** - Regular class attendance is crucial to the development of the dancer and to the success of the Team. If you must miss any Team class due to illness or any other reason, you must contact the class teacher or Artistic Director **prior** to class. A doctor's note may be required, at the discretion of the Studio. Three unexcused absences will result in consequences such as sitting out from performances or competitions, or even removal from the Team. Please remain in class for its duration, as leaving class can be disruptive to other students and disrespectful to the teacher. Injured dancers are required to attend and observe class, unless attendance will compromise their health and well-being.
3. **Tardiness** - Out of respect for your teachers and the rest of your class, please develop the habit of arriving to class **on time**, with your hair up and your water bottle full – and having already used the restroom.
4. **Rehearsals** - Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals is mandatory unless excused in advance by the Artistic Director.
5. **Competitions** - Attendance at all regional competitions and the studio recital is mandatory. Regionals are held on the weekend, generally Friday through Sunday. Until the competition releases its official schedule and we know exactly when you will dance, Team members must set-aside the full weekend. Failure to attend regional competitions or the recital may impact future participation. If you must miss a regional competition, there will be a \$50 re-blocking fee per dance. (See attached RISE Competition Schedule for dates and details). Participation in Nationals is optional but highly encouraged. (We would really miss you!)
6. **Participation in Recital** – Participation in the Studio recital is not optional for Competition Team members. Team members are expected to perform all dances that the Studio selects for the recital program.

G. DRESS CODE

1. **Female Students** - For ballet, students should wear a black leotard, pink tights and pink ballet shoes, with hair secured tightly into a bun. Leg warmers, ballet skirts and sweaters are acceptable. For lyrical, musical theater, contemporary and jazz, any appropriate dance wear is acceptable, as long as teachers can see your lines. Please wear jazz shoes (bare feet, paws, or turners are also acceptable for lyrical and contemporary). Hair should be secured in a bun or ponytail. For tap and hip-hop classes, the attire is anything the dancer is comfortable wearing, along with tap shoes for tap and sneakers for hip-hop.
2. **Male Students** - Class attire for ballet is a white or black form-fitting tee shirt with black tights, black socks and black ballet slippers. For lyrical, musical theater, contemporary and jazz, any appropriate dance wear is acceptable, as long as teachers can see your lines. Please wear jazz shoes (bare feet, paws, or turners are also acceptable for lyrical and contemporary). Long hair should be secured in a bun or ponytail. For tap and hip-hop classes, the attire is anything the dancer is comfortable wearing, along with tap shoes for tap and sneakers for hip-hop.
3. **NO dancing in socks**. Dancing in socks is strictly prohibited. We care about you and your safety!

H. CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

1. **Respect:** Respect for instructors, Teammates, competition staff, and instructors and dancers from other studios is non-negotiable. This means that any time you are at an event or venue with RISE Dance Center, you are representing all of us. As such, cooperative and respectful behavior is expected at all times.
2. **Sportsmanship:** We expect all dancers to display good sportsmanship both on and off the studio and stage.
3. **Each of Us Represents All of Us** - The Studio is committed to creating and preserving a brand and reputation that represents our entire RISE community as fun, friendly, professional, and full of hard-working, excellent dancers. We expect the same from all our Competition Team members and families. Remember you are representing RISE Dance Center both in person and on social media. It hurts the entire Team if dancers or parents represent the Team in a negative light.
4. **Express Your Concerns** – Direct all your concerns and questions to RISE instructors, the Artistic Director, or Studio Director. We can't resolve what we don't know about! We ask

that dancers and parents avoid engaging in gossip, speculation, or other types of communication that can damage the morale of the Team. We are here for you and want to hear from you and support you!

5. **Attitude** - A positive attitude is essential for the success of the Team. We need your good vibes!

I. COSTUMES AND APPEARANCE

1. **Costumes** - Team members are responsible for the care, maintenance, and neat appearance of costumes. After each performance, please go through your costume checklist to ensure that you have all the pieces.
2. **Eating While Wearing Costumes** - Dancers should not eat in their costumes unless they are wearing a cover up.
3. **Solo/Duo/Trio:** Costumes for solo, duo and trio numbers are often custom-created and are the responsibility of the parent (approval/financial) and choreographer (approval/design). In the past, parents have been very satisfied with the design and creations of Jenna Clay. With this type of costume development, the financial aspect of the interaction does not happen through RISE. However, the choreographer must still approve the costume.

J. MAKEUP

1. Shades of makeup, along with suggested brands and other specifics, will be provided at a later date.

K. PARENTAL SUPPORT

1. **Communication** - Parents are encouraged to ask questions and maintain open communication with the Team Director, Artistic Director, and instructors so we are all able to best support your dancer's participation in the Team.
2. **Support** - Parents play a vital role in supporting and encouraging their dancer's commitment to the team, including attendance at competitions and events.

L. COMPETITION ETIQUETTE

1. **Arrival** - Arrive 2 hours early with hair and makeup done and be prepared for all scheduled events.

2. **Support** - Encourage and support teammates from RISE and other studios, time permitting. Do not boo, disparage or speak negatively about other dancers, teachers or studios.

M. HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. **Injury Prevention** - Warm-up and cool-down exercises are mandatory at all rehearsals and performances, including competitions.
2. **Pointe Readiness** - RISE cares about your long-term physical well-being. Pointe readiness will be determined by one of Rise Dance Center's ballet teachers.

N. COMMUNICATION

1. **Updates** – Please read emails, texts, and studio social media pages (e.g., Facebook and Instagram) regularly for updates and announcements. Studio announcements are sent out via text and email to the family's contact of record.
2. **Concerns** – Please feel welcome to address any concerns or questions with teachers or studio director. We are here to elevate our collective experience at RISE.

O. MEDIA AND PROMOTION

1. **Media Release** - Photos and videos for promotional purposes may be taken during performances and rehearsals. Your signature on this form indicates your understanding that the dancer may appear in videos created and promoted by RISE Dance Center of classes, events or competitions we attend.
2. **Social Media** - RISE appreciates when you post on your social media accounts about a class you have enjoyed or a competition we attended. Your friends will also enjoy seeing your pictures and videos – let's keep it positive!

P. DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

1. **Conduct** - Failure to adhere to team policies and guidelines may result in disciplinary action.
2. **Dismissal** - Continued violations of policies or significant misconduct may result in suspension or dismissal from the team at the Studio's sole discretion.

3. RISE COMPETITION TEAM FEES

At RISE Dance Center, we are committed to offering a high-quality dance education and a wholesome life-enhancing experience for our students, parents and staff. Toward that end, transparency and clear communication of the financial relationship between families and the Studio is of paramount importance. Please read this document thoroughly and ask any questions that may come to mind.

A. ONE-TIME TEAM FEES

Fee Description	Amount	Due Date
Team Fee (per student) (\$400 comp + \$50 reg)	\$450	August 20, 2024
Group Costume Deposit (per routine)	\$50	Due at registration
Group Costume Balance (prices range \$75-\$295 each)	\$25-\$245	Due upon receipt of costume
Earrings (per pair)	\$8	November 1, 2024
Prop fee (per student)	\$75	November 1, 2024

B. RECURRING TEAM FEES

Recurring tuition is based on a set annual (September – June) fee divided into ten (10) equal payments regardless of how many lessons a class has in a month. The number of lessons in a month may vary due to holidays, absences, or inclement weather. Note that Recurring Ballet and Pointe Master Classes are priced separately and not discounted. Tuition is due and charged on the 20th day of each month (beginning on August 20th) to the credit card on file. Late payments will be assessed a \$30 late fee after the 25th of the month. Recurring class fees do not include “Master Classes” and “Workshops” that may be offered throughout the year.

DANCE CENTER

Classes Per Week	Yearly Tuition	10 Monthly Payments	First Payment Due Date
Private Solo 30 Minutes	\$1,700	\$170	August 20, 2024
Private Duo (per person) 30 Minutes	\$1,100	\$110	August 20, 2024
Private Trio (per person) 30 Minutes	\$900	\$90	August 20, 2024
1 Group Class (per person)	\$900	\$90	August 20, 2024
2 Group Classes (per person)	\$1,400	\$140	August 20, 2024
3 Group Classes (per person)	\$1,900	\$190	August 20, 2024
4 Group Classes (per person)	\$2,400	\$240	August 20, 2024
5 Group Classes (per person)	\$2,800	\$280	August 20, 2024
6 Group Classes (per person)	\$3,300	\$330	August 20, 2024
Unlimited Group Classes (per person)	\$3,600	\$360	August 20, 2024
1-Hour Group Master Class (per person) *	\$1,150 *	\$115 *	August 20, 2024
1.5-Hour Group Master Class (per person) *	\$1,350 *	\$135 *	August 20, 2024

*** “Master Classes” are not discounted and are not included in the class discounts or “unlimited” packages.**

C. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITION EVENT FEES

Competition event registration fees charged by the hosting competition organizations, plus a \$50 Studio administration fee per dancer, are due to the Studio 30 days prior to the host's deadline. The Studio will announce competition payment deadlines for each competition in advance of each due date.

D. TIME AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. The first monthly tuition payment is due at registration (and no later than August 20, 2024) along with a \$50 registration processing fee. The remaining nine (9) payments are due the 20th day of every month (September – May).
2. Payments for recurring fees are made via on-file credit card, which is auto-charged on the 20th day of the month for the upcoming month's tuition.
3. Accounts must always have a valid credit card on file to allow for timely payment of tuition and fees when due.
4. Late payments, for any reason, will incur a \$30 late fee.
5. Students will not be permitted in class for tuition that remains unpaid by the 1st of the month.
6. A 30-Day written notice is required for dropping a class.
7. One-time competition fees are non-refundable. Recurring tuition fees are non-refundable.
8. Although a current credit card must always remain on file, if a family prefers to make payment by check, the check must be received in the Studio office before the 15th of the month to allow for processing and clearing prior to the 20th of the month when payments are due.

4. RISE COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Coming soon...

RISE will announce its 2025 competition schedule to the Team on or about September 1, 2024. The RISE Team will take to the competition stage in three (3) regional competitions and one (1) regional competition/convention between March and May, and one (1) national competition in June/July 2025.

5. STUDIO CALENDAR 2024-2025 SEASON

Classes start on Monday, September 9, 2024, and run through Saturday, June 6, 2025. The Competition Team will continue to hold rehearsals after classes end in preparation for Nationals.

RISE follows the Loudoun County Public School system for studio closings for inclement weather. However, in the event of an unexpected closing or delay caused by situations such as bad weather, we will also send out notifications via text and email to the family's contact of record, and post updates to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

2024 - 2025 Studio Calendar	
Date	Event
Monday, September 9, 2024	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES. Let's Dance!
Thursday, October 3, 2024 - STUDIO CLOSED	Rosh Hashanah
Monday, October 14, 2024 - STUDIO CLOSED	Indigenous Peoples' Day
Thursday, October 31, 2024 - STUDIO CLOSED	Halloween
Friday, November 1, 2024 - STUDIO CLOSED	Diwali
Monday, November 11, 2024 - STUDIO CLOSED	Veterans' Day
Sunday, November 24 - Sunday, December 1, 2024 - STUDIO CLOSED	Thanksgiving Break
Monday, December 23, 2024 - Sunday, January 5, 2025 - STUDIO CLOSED	Winter Break
Monday, January 20, 2025 - STUDIO CLOSED	Martin Luther King's Birthday
Monday, February 17, 2025 - STUDIO CLOSED	President's Day
Saturday - Sunday, April 12 - 20, 2024 - STUDIO CLOSED	Spring Break
Monday, May 26, 2025 - STUDIO CLOSED	Memorial Day
Sunday, June 1, 2025	Dress Rehearsal for Studio Recital (Tentative)
Friday, June 6, 2025	LAST DAY OF CLASSES
Saturday, June 7, 2025 - STUDIO CLOSED	Studio Recital (Tentative)
Thursday, June 19, 2025 - STUDIO CLOSED	Juneteenth National Independence Day
Friday, July 4, 2025 - STUDIO CLOSED	Independence Day

6. OWNERS' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PLEDGE

As the owners of RISE Dance Center of Virginia, we pledge to our Competition Team members, families and staff to always be good stewards of the financial matters of the Studio. We pledge to always remain transparent and communicate openly and directly with all our stakeholders. We pledge to always make financial decisions that keep the interest of students, families and staff at the forefront, and to balance those decisions with the financial health of the Studio so that we may remain a pillar of our community and a home for dancers for years to come.



7. IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT RISKS OF INJURY

PARTICIPATION IN DANCE CLASSES, REHEARSAL, PERFORMANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES COULD INVOLVE SOME PERSONAL BODILY INJURY and, despite precautions, accidents and injuries may occur.

By signing this document, I attest to a) being the parent/legal guardian to the student(s) registered under my account, b) **I AM FULLY AWARE AND UNDERSTAND THE INHERENT RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DANCE CLASSES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES;** c) I have been provided the opportunity to ask any questions about these risks; and d) I assume all risks related to the use of any and all spaces used by RISE Dance Center of Virginia LLC.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read and understand the policies outlined in this handbook. By signing below, I agree to comply with these policies and uphold the standards of the RISE Dance Center Competition Team and the Studio.

By signing below, I also acknowledge that photos and videos may be taken during classes, rehearsals, performances and other events for promotional purposes, and I expressly give RISE Dance Center permission to use my student's image in videos, photos, websites, or other media forms created and promoted by RISE Dance Center.

Parent Acknowledgement & Commitment Signature:	Dancer Acknowledgement & Commitment Signature:
Parent Name:	Student Name:

THANK YOU for your commitment to the RISE Dance Center Competition Team! We are excited for the journey ahead of us and look forward to a successful season together! Let's dance!!

- RISE Dance Center