

Solo Code of Conduct

Congratulations on being selected for a solo, duo, or trio this season. Parents should sit down with their children and review the expectations we have for all our solo, duo, and trio dancers. Parents should also review this with their dancers before each competition. While we want every dance to place, it's more important to the teachers that our dancers show good sportsmanship and respect for one another.

Solo Sportsmanship Recipient:

Staff will be taking notice at every competition of each dancer's conduct. The staff will select one dancer who we feel exemplifies the standards set in this code of conduct. The recipient will win a scholarship to any one-day dance convention that the studio is attending.

Setting Goals:

- The goal of a solo dancer should be to improve their personal performance at each competition. This is not accomplished by placing higher in the top ten. The goal of a solo dancer is to walk off stage and say "wow this time I nailed my turns", "this time I felt I performed it my best", etc. While we all want to stand up in the top ten, it is based on only three judges' opinions, and we need to teach our dancers to value their own opinions more than the judges.
- Dancer journals will be distributed at the dancer's first solo practice. This journal is for dancers to set goals, write down corrections, and help them and their teachers improve their technique AND mindset.

General Conduct:

- Dancers should be attentive in the moment and cheer and encourage their teammates during all practices and performances.

Competition:

- Dancers are encouraged to watch each other perform at competitions; however, please don't be offended if a team member misses your dancer because they are preparing for their own performance. I know we all want our dancer to have the biggest audience possible while they compete but sometimes it just isn't possible.
- Whether a routine places or not, it is expected that all dancers cheer and congratulate each other. Everyone should walk offstage lifting each other up because everyone worked very hard to get to that competition.
- No bragging at any time. Comments such as "I'll probably get first again" or "I place higher than you every time" are not ever appropriate. Student teachers hear a lot more than the dancers realize. If a dancer is heard bragging on stage their dance will be moved up to the advanced level and may be put on probation. We always want our dancers to be proud of themselves but confidence with a malicious tone will not be tolerated.
- If your dancer does place in the top ten they should be very proud. They should always congratulate the dancer to the left and the dancer to the right of them, even if it's a dancer from another studio. We would like our good sportsmanship to reach beyond our studio.
- Dancers should not be crying or sulking on stage if they don't place as high as they would have liked or if they don't place at all. We understand they are young and may be upset with their results but the stage is not the time or place for negative energy. This behavior on stage takes the moment away from a dancer that did place and those dancers worked very hard for their moment.

Parents:

- Before each competition, parents should review this code of conduct, the competition's levels, age divisions, and awards. Sometimes your dancer may be the oldest in a division, giving them an advantage, and other times they may be the youngest, making it more difficult to place. Every competition is different and preparing your dancer for the awards ceremony will help.

- Please explain to the dancers that making the top ten is a great goal; however, realistically this is very hard to accomplish at every competition. Our studio alone has over 50 solos and we compete against other studios with just as many.
- Celebrate each other's victories! The emotions of not placing can be overwhelming. Instead of having a negative attitude we ask parents to encourage dancers to share in the success of others. Live in the moment with your teammates, celebrate, post it, and enjoy that moment with them. Encourage the mindset that "today is not my day but I'm so happy that it's a great day for my friend". Celebrating your friend's success is more beneficial for a dancer's outlook than jealousy or anger. It's hard to stay upset if you truly celebrate someone else's success.

Bumping:

- Dancers that consistently score in the top 5 may be moved up mid-season. This is at the discretion of the staff.
- High scoring soloists may also be bumped up at competition by the competition director/staff.
- Once a dancer has moved up a division they will stay in that division for the remainder of the season.

Ballet:

- All ballet classes will be recorded.
- Ballet attendance will be strictly monitored this year. Please make sure your dancer is attending their required ballet classes. Dancers with excessive absences will be put on probation.
- Dancers that are not focused during ballet will have their solo placed on probation. If their behavior does not improve their solo will not compete at the next competition. Additionally, they may be dismissed from the ballet class, making them ineligible for a solo.
- If a solo is pulled from competition, no refunds will be issued. Please speak to your dancer about being held accountable for their actions.

Our studio has won the sportsmanship award more times than we can count. This is an honor that the staff is truly proud of. We look forward to earning more sportsmanship awards this season and we can do it again by working together. Remind your dancers there will always be a younger dancer on stage or in the classroom watching how they treat others and how they react in different situations. We already have amazing role models on our team and we hope to continue to develop new role models for our newer and younger dancers.

Dancer Name: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name: _____