

THE DANCE COMPANY OF LOS GATOS

2025-2026 Competition Team Handbook & Contract

Congratulations and Welcome to TDC's Competition Team Family!

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Welcome Letter

Congratulations and welcome to TDC's Competition Team and family!

Congratulations on being selected as a member of The Dance Company of Los Gatos Competition Team for the 2025-2026 season. We are excited to welcome new and returning dancers and families to another year of growth, dedication, teamwork, and achievement. Being a member of the TDC Competition Team is an honor and a commitment. This handbook outlines the expectations, policies, financial commitments, and requirements for the upcoming season. Please read carefully and sign.

We are grateful for the trust you place in our staff and look forward to partnering with you throughout this exciting season. Together, we will continue to create a positive, supportive, and inspiring environment where dancers can thrive.

With gratitude,
Brea Paillet, Studio Director & Owner
Brittain, Competition Director

Acceptance & Placement

Introduction and Acceptance

The audition panel comprises the Studio Director, TDC Instructors, Competition Director, and select outside choreographers. They will decide the placement of the dancers for all groups, duets, and trios. The audition panel's decisions are final. Please respect our decisions regarding placement. Do not call for results or discuss results with the teachers and staff.

As professionals, we place the dancers where we see the best fit and always have your child's best interest in mind. Our primary goal is to create groups that we feel will do well, both for the sake of the team and each dancer involved. Being part of a team requires everyone involved to agree to accept and embrace that every routine your child is in will bring them benefits in some way, shape, or form.

The Director and Instructors want every single one of our dancers to be the very best they can be so that we can build the very best team possible.

TDC places dancers in routines based on their level of dance experience. There are three levels of routines: Elite, Competitive, and Intermediate.

Attendance & Time Commitment

A dance company is a team. Just as sports teams require all players to attend practices, dance companies require their dancers to attend all classes, extra practices, and rehearsals. Absences will affect the individual dancer and the group as a whole.

Being a dance company member is a privilege and comes with responsibility. Personal accountability is essential for a successful season, and commitment to your other team members is a vital component of this success. When a member is not present, it negatively impacts the entire group.

Please do not consider being a part of the TDC Competition Team if missing a birthday party or trip to the mall with friends will be an issue, or if you expect scheduling conflicts with other sports or activities. Dance requires consistent, ongoing training, and dancers who excessively miss classes due to illness, injury, or any other reason will not perform at the same level as those who attend classes regularly.

Each dancer is allowed up to three (3) unexcused absences from their routine competition classes per dance season. The whole group must rehearse together every week during these months.

Dancers must be present in all of their classes the week before every competition or performance. Dancers who miss class the week before a competition may be asked to sit out of that competition. This applies to medical absences as well as other reasons.

Excused absences receive prior approval from the Director. Advance notice of absence does not mean it is excused. The following are considered excused absences:

- Death in the family
- Scheduled school programs or performances required for credit
- Wedding or religious dedication of you or a member of your family
- If you are seriously ill or infectious

Dancers who miss more than five (5) competition classes may be removed from the group. Dancers should not miss more than five (5) of any technique or competition classes per dance season, after which the dancer may be dismissed from the competition team.

TDC recognizes that personal and school conflicts arise. However, dance must come before other extracurricular activities. Dancers cannot miss competition classes for after-school activities. Resolve all conflicts that pertain to your dancer's competition practice days.

Punctuality is just as important as attendance. Dancers must be on time and prepared for class. Call time is 10 minutes before class. Parents, please do not drop off dancers any earlier.

TDC has a closed-door policy at all practices and classes. Our experience is that students are better focused without the distraction of parents, siblings, and friends.

Team dancers must contact Brea if they cannot attend practice: 408-204-6849 or admin@tdcoflosgatos.com.

Competitions & Conventions

The regular dance season runs from January-May. TDC will attend five competitions and 1-2 conventions throughout the regular dance season. Please be aware that becoming a competition team member obligates you to these competitions and conventions.

TDC will try to publish the competition schedule by mid-August. Team members must save these dates and resolve any conflicts that arise. Dancers who have a conflict with a specific competition and cannot compete with their group(s) will not be allowed to perform their solo(s). Dancers must be available the week before a competition if extra practices are added. Do not schedule any additional extracurricular activities or vacations.

All competitions are held on the weekend and are an entire weekend (Friday-Sunday) commitment. Competition management publishes the performance schedule 1-2 weeks before the event. Dancers and parents need to be available for the entire weekend until the final schedule is posted.

This year, we will not be requesting certain days and times to compete to align with dancers' extracurricular plans, so please block off the entire weekend of the competition dates.

Conventions are a combination of a competition and master classes/workshops. Event organizers require two days of attendance at the workshop portion of the event to participate in the competition. There is a separate fee for each part of the event. These are an entire weekend commitment (Friday-Sunday), such as NRG and/or HEAT convention.

Choreography Process

Attendance at fall choreography sessions and team selection masterclasses is mandatory for all team, alternate, and pre-comp dancers. If a dancer cannot make the entire scheduled choreography session, TDC may remove that dancer from the group.

This year we will be hosting a master class before team selections so that the choreographer and Brea can finalize teams based on the choreographer's vision. This will make the selection process fair and reduce bias.

Choreographers must see all dancers simultaneously to block and stage the routine. They cannot leave an empty space to accommodate a missing dancer. Each dancer's technique level and tricks are taken into consideration when composing the dance.

The dance is composed over the scheduled sessions, not all in one day. The choreographer does not come with a preset routine to teach. They compose the dance during the scheduled choreography sessions. In other words, it all happens during that time frame.

The choreographer comes with a selection of 3-4 songs per group. The choreographer and Studio Director select the song for each group.

Videos of the group routines are taken and sent to each dancer via Dropbox or AirDrop to practice. Dancers must watch the videos of their groups and solos, practice the routines at home, and attend the next session knowing the routine.

Criteria when selecting teams: technique, potential, attitude, commitment level, enthusiasm, stage presence, timing and musicality, ability to pick up choreography, ability to take and apply corrections, flexibility, power, and strength.

Courtesy & Respect

Being a member of TDC's competition team is a privilege. All Competition Team members and their families will be held to the highest standards of conduct. Communicating negatively about anyone in or outside our studio will not be tolerated.

Team members and families must show courtesy and respect to all instructors and other students. Any student who exhibits repeated negative or disrespectful behavior may be asked to leave TDC.

TDC dancers are always respectful, supportive, encouraging, and positive in spirit, attitude, and behavior. At competitions, parents and dancers represent TDC and must always act professionally. Dancers, before and after performing, must cover up in TDC outfits, etc.

A formal code of conduct will be provided, outlining acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. The process for handling infractions includes:

- Verbal warning for the first infraction
- Written warning for the second infraction
- Possible dismissal from the team for repeated offenses

Judges' Comments

No parent may discuss results with judges or dance teachers until one week after a competition. Most competitions do not give scores and feedback until days after. It is up to Brea to decide if dancers need to hear the comments.

Everyday Conduct at the Studio

Dancers must respect the studio, put dance bags away, and clean up after themselves. Respect your instructor by wearing proper dance attire and always having your hair back and ready to dance. Dancers that take off during break will not be TDC's responsibility.

Dancers must come to class knowing the dance. It is not retaught. Class time is spent practicing, cleaning, and making subtle changes to the routine.

Extra Practices

The Director, Instructor, or Choreographer reserves the right to call extra practices for routine(s) as needed during the season. An additional fee per dancer will be charged for each routine's extra practice session (\$20.00 per extra practice). Extra practices will be scheduled with advance notice and communicated to parents and dancers in writing.

Nationals

TDC competes at a National Competition every year. The selected Nationals will be announced by the end of August. Event organizers run their Nationals at the end of June to the end of July.

Dancers must attend the mandatory training sessions two weeks before Nationals. Both weeks of training are double days, meaning there are classes in the morning and evening. The 2026 Nationals event will be announced by the end of June 2026.

Dancers must be available for the entire two weeks of practice if extra practices are added. Do not schedule any additional extracurricular activities or vacations.

All routines that compete at the competition's regional event have qualified for Nationals. The Director, Instructors, and Choreographers will decide on dancers and routines participating. If chosen, participation is mandatory. Soloists in the Top 10 at the regional are eligible to perform in the Opening Number, Showcase, and Winner's Banquet when offered by the event.

Recital

TDC will perform one showcase a year. The date is TBA. All competition team dancers must participate in the recital/showcase. Competition dancers will perform selected competition routines and routines learned in their technique classes.

The recital offers our recreational and competitive students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends the results of a year's hard work, dedication, and progress.

Competition Team Dancers Who Leave or Are Asked to Leave

All group costumes will remain with the studio until the end of the current dance season, and a \$250.00 penalty will be applied to the family's account for breach of contract.

Payment Options & Penalties

The Dance Company of Los Gatos accepts only automatic credit card payments (Visa or MasterCard) for tuition and competition fees. We do not accept cash or checks.

Tuition is due on the 1st of each month and is considered delinquent if not paid by 6:00 PM on the 5th. Competition fees are due on the 15th of each month and are considered delinquent if not paid by 6:00 PM on the 20th.

A late administrative fee of \$15 will be applied to any account whose credit card has not been successfully authorized by the 5th or 20th of the month. Dancers with past-due accounts may be withdrawn from class and the competition team. No private lessons will be given to students with a past-due account.

Estimated Financial Information

The Dance Company of Los Gatos uses Studio Director for all registrations and payments.

Tuition

All Competition Team dancers will be on unlimited monthly tuition except Hip Hop-only dancers. Unlimited tuition includes up to nine (9) classes. Nine or more classes will be an additional \$20 per class. Group competition classes count toward unlimited tuition. Solo, duo, and trio classes are an extra monthly charge.

Tuition payments are September-July and are billed on the 1st of each month, separate from competition fees. Tuition is subject to change.

- Unlimited Tuition: \$510.00 per month
- Family Unlimited: \$675.00 per month
- Solo Charge: \$50.00 per month

Estimated Competition Fees

Once accepted to the team, a \$1,500 non-refundable per dancer deposit for dancers in more than one dance will be charged to your Studio Director account on July 15, 2025. Dancers needing this split into two payments should send an email. Nationals charge date is TBA.

A \$500 deposit applies for dancers in one or two competition dances.

Deposit breakdown:

- Choreography Fees: \$500 deposit
- Group Choreography: \$350.00
- Solo Choreography: \$650.00
- Duo/Trio Choreography: \$500.00
- Costume Deposit: \$500.00
- Costumes: \$200-\$300
- Hip Hop Costume: \$75.00
- Competition Fees Deposit: \$500.00
- Regional Competition Fees: \$70 per group/duo/trio and \$160 per solo

Choreography fees may change due to rates set by choreographers. Classes are mandatory during fall choreography sessions.

Continuing education master classes are scheduled after the fall choreography session ends. Classes are not mandatory, but attendance is highly encouraged. Fees are charged only when a dancer registers for a master class.

Costume fees only cover the cost of the costume, fabric, trim, and designer labor. Rhinestones will be extra and charged at a later date. Solo costume fees may be adjusted based on the Director's choice to rent, buy, or design. Hip Hop costumes will be announced at a later date.

All fees are non-refundable.

Competition Dates / Convention

Competition Fees Deposit: \$500. This deposit guarantees your placement in the competition for the 2025-2026 season.

- Hollywood Vibes: March 28-30, Burlingame - All dancers
- Jump: April 25-27, Santa Clara - Elite dancers only
- NRG: May 2-4, Las Vegas - Elite dancers only
- HEAT: May 2-4, Santa Clara - Convention and solos only
- Starbound: May 30-June 1, Santa Clara - All dancers
- In10sity: TBA - All dancers
- Thunderstruck: TBA - All dancers

Extra Competitions / Conventions

If you would like to add to your schedule:

- KAR Convention: October 27, Santa Clara
- Radix: November 8-10, San Francisco
- Titans: January 17-19, Santa Clara
- NUVO: February 7-9, Santa Clara

Estimated Convention Fee

Estimated convention fee: \$275-\$380.

Conventions are workshops taught by master choreographers from all over the country. These are run in conjunction with a competition. Workshops are Saturday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM-6:00 PM. Competition days are Friday evening and Saturday from 3:00 PM-11:00 PM.

This is a one-time fee per convention. Additional costs apply if dancers compete at the convention.

Estimated Nationals Fee

Nationals fees are billed separately in May. Arrangements and costs associated with hotels and travel are the responsibility of each family.

- Per Group: \$70-\$80
- Per Solo: \$160
- Per Duo/Trio: \$60-\$80
- Please keep July 7-25, 2026 open for practice and Starbound Nationals.

Makeup Fee

A makeup fee will be assessed for each competition dancer. This fee, amounting to \$150, will be collected on February 15, 2026. Each dancer will receive the necessary makeup kit, earrings, etc. If the kit is lost, it is the responsibility of the dancer or family to repurchase it.

Additional Estimated Fees That Are the Responsibility of Each Family

- Extra practice session fees
- TDC Team Jacket: \$75-\$85
- Dance attire and accessories
- Community event performances
- Travel expenses

Travel Expenses

Families are responsible for entrance fees or ticket purchases for their dancers and family members to attend the event. Competition team dancers may also have the opportunity to travel to locations overnight or over a weekend. Families are responsible for any extra hotel, food, transportation, and travel expenses that may occur.

Travel Fee

- Per family for one dancer: \$450
- Per family for two or more dancers: \$650

This fee covers travel expenses for the Studio Director and choreographers for the regional competition season, including travel expenses to and from regular-season competitions.

Parent Volunteer Requirement

TDC needs your help supporting our dancers' needs at the studio. Parents have two options to fulfill their requirements.

- Sign up for a Parent Volunteer Position via SignUpGenius. The sign-up will be posted on September 8, 2025. Job descriptions will be listed on the SignUpGenius and can be found on the team page of the website.

- Buyout option: \$250 fee to buy out your volunteer hours. The fee will be charged via the family's Studio Director account on June 1, 2026. Please notify Brittain by October 31, 2025 if you plan to buy out your volunteer hours.

Evaluation

Parents and dancers can request one-on-one feedback sessions with the instructor and Director. These sessions will be scheduled at the discretion of the instructor and Director.

Competition Season

The dancers selected for each dance are chosen based on skill level, performance ability, and dedication. Detailed explanations for these selections can be provided upon request.

Billing

Competition Fees Schedule

Additional competition fees will be collected 12 weeks in advance of each competition. The online calendar will provide detailed dates and deadlines. An email will be sent out with specific charge dates.

Payments will be processed on the 1st and 15th of each month. If either date falls on a weekend, the payment will be processed on the next business day. Additional sessions will be charged depending on when the class was taken.

Tuition is priced each month based on the number of classes taken. Discounts are introduced depending on the number of classes taken, sibling discount, etc. For example, \$510 per month covers 8 weekly classes for 4 weeks, which breaks down to \$15.93 per class. Detailed tuition charges can be viewed in Studio Director. For any accounting questions, please reach out directly.

Payment Plans

If you require a payment plan, please speak to Brea for assistance.

Fundraising

We offer various fundraising options to help families offset the costs of competition fees, costumes, and other expenses. Please check the online calendar and newsletters for upcoming fundraising events and opportunities.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact us. We are here to support our dancers and their families throughout the competition season.

Competition Members

Your season starts once you sign your contract and continues through July 31, 2026. At no time can a competition dancer audition for another studio's competition team during the contracted season without written approval from the Studio Director.

Competition Director at The Dance Company of Los Gatos

Brittain serves as Competition Director for The Dance Company of Los Gatos. With experience in dance and a passion for excellence, Brittain will help lead and support our competitive dance teams throughout the 2025-2026 season.

Brittain works closely with Studio Director Brea Paillet, instructors, choreographers, dancers, and families to support the success of the Competition Team program. Responsibilities include team placement support, competition preparation, dancer mentorship, communication, and team development.

Please Read Carefully and Sign

This handbook and contract contains important information regarding Competition Team expectations, attendance requirements, financial obligations, competition commitments, studio policies, and dancer conduct for the 2025-2026 season.

Please read this document carefully and discuss all policies with your dancer before signing. By signing below, both the dancer and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by all policies, procedures, requirements, and financial commitments outlined in this Competition Team Contract.

We are excited to have you as part of the TDC Competition Team family and look forward to an amazing season together!

Dancer Name: _____

Dancer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Studio Representative: _____

Date: _____

The Dance Company of Los Gatos
Brea Paillet, Studio Director
Brittain, Competition Director
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