



Acclaim Team Policies 2012/2013

As a member of Acclaim, exemplary dancers have the privilege of performing, competing and receiving elite instruction. Although the benefits of being a team member are plenty, there is a large amount of responsibility for both students and parents. The time commitment, and financial obligations exceed those required in a recreational dance class. The following policies pertain to Acclaim members, and their parents or guardians. Please read the following information along with the price list and return the signature portion before your scheduled tryout.

- 1. Behavior:** Being an Acclaim member is a privilege and should be treated as such. Working together as a team will strengthen performance ability and build personal friendships.

RESPECT for instructors and fellow members is mandatory. Unacceptable language, dress or treatment of others at any time will not be tolerated and can result in immediate probation or dismissal. This pertains to outside of class as well.

Respect for studio and performing venues is also mandatory. **Cell phones** and food or drink (except for water) are NOT allowed in the dance room. Students are expected to clean up after themselves.

- 2. Attitude:** A positive attitude is critical to the success of the team members as individuals as well as the team in whole. For this reason, negative and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Backbiting, gossip, harassment, or speaking negatively or disrespectfully about or to teachers, staff, or other team members by students or their parents will result in a warning. Three warnings can result in probation or dismissal.
- 3. Attendance:** Attendance is crucial. Attendance will largely determine eligibility to perform. Only four excused absences will be allowed for the entire dance year (Sept.-June). This includes all required classes (technique, choreography, ballet, tap, and tumbling). Absences beyond this may result in disqualification from performances or competitions. The member may also face team probation.

If you will not be attending class, please inform your instructor **prior** to missing. Excused absences include: contagious illness, immediate family wedding/funeral and mandatory school functions. All classes, extra practices, performances and competitions are **mandatory**.

MISSING PRACTICE THE WEEK OF A PERFORMANCE/COMPETITION, EXCUSED OR NOT, WILL DISQUALIFY THE MEMBER FROM PARTICIPATING IN THAT EVENT!

- 4. Tardies:** It is necessary for students to arrive to class and performances on time and prepared (proper attire and props). This is critical because special instructions are given prior to performing and warm-ups must be completed in order to avoid injury. Three Tardies will count as an Absence.

5. **Class Attire: Technique and Choreography attire:** Team members must review and obey class attire requirements provided in the class descriptions. Appropriate dance wear and shoes are required for class participation. Loose fitting tops/bottoms, jeans, school shorts/skirts/shoes etc. are not acceptable. Do not wear your performing items to class. Hair must be pulled back in ponytail or bun. Do not wear hair accessories that are loose and need constant adjustment. Students who are not in proper class attire will receive a “No Dress” for the class. Each “No Dress” will count as one Tardy. Continual “No Dress” may result in students being asked to sit and watch, rather than participate. Please plan ahead if coming to dance immediately after school, friends, etc. Please check with instructors for additional class requirements (i.e. specific tap shoes, sneakers, etc).

6. **Training:** Qualified instructors praise team members and offer constructive criticism to help them learn and improve. Students are expected to perfect certain skills taught by the instructors aside from the routines. Parents are welcome to ask the instructors what their child needs to work on at home. Awards or incentives may be offered as each skill is passed off.

Additional classes will considerably improve dancers’ technical skills, strength, flexibility, endurance, memorization skills and discipline. Dancers benefit from different teaching styles and instructors

For this reason, Ballet is required for dancers 8 years of age and above. Tumbling is required for Acclaim 1. An additional style class of your choice is required for Acclaim 2-4. Keep in mind that taking all classes on a particular day increases absences due to illness or obligations.

7. **Practice:** Practice is vital to the team member’s success! Students will not remember/perfect multiple routines from week to week, and perform at competition level without home practice. There is clearly a difference in both the ability and attitude between students who practice, and students who do not. Parents, please take the time to ensure that your dancer is practicing at home. Practice CDs including the current routine(s) music are included in Acclaim fees.

8. **Performances:** When costumes are paid for and received, details on accessories, hair, make-up, etc. will be given. Dates, times and places will also be posted as soon as events are finalized. We are always open to suggestions for performing opportunities. There are no absences allowed from performances (unless of course, it is an emergency). If a student unexpectedly misses a performance, the entire group is let down. Formations and partners are obviously effected if someone does not show up. Team warm-up outfits are mandatory at performances. No costume piece should be exposed to the audience.

9. **Competitions:** Plan on participating in 3 competitions throughout the year (after January). Most competitions are held on Saturdays, and due to the number of entries, are all-day events. In order to achieve variety and levels of competition, some

traveling may be required. Be aware that performance time cannot be controlled, and may be earlier or later than scheduled.

Students are expected to stay for award ceremonies. After working so hard, it is appropriate to be present when awards are presented, not only to accept them, but to cheer on other dancers from our studio, as well as learn sportsmanship among other competitors. Team warm-ups outfits are mandatory at competitions.

- 10.** Parents are expected to encourage respectful behavior by example and to address problems as they arise. Any actions by the parents that are not in compliance with the policies of Acclaim, will result in the above described consequences to the parent's child. These consequences can include probation or dismissal of the student, due to the parent's non-compliance.

Please help your child prepare for performances and competitions/performances by double-checking all his or her costume pieces and props. Everything should be labeled.

In order to eliminate distractions, parents are not allowed in the dance rooms during practice. They may wait..... Furthermore, please do not approach teachers with concerns during class. Instead, utilize the email system. Emails will be read and answered by the designated teacher in a timely manner. Concerns regarding clothing, tuition, performance specifics etc... should be addressed by the secretary.

Parents are encouraged to attend all performance/competitions and practice good sportsmanship as they watch. Be supportive and positive about your child, as well as those with whom they participate and compete. By doing so, you are teaching your child valuable lessons about the joys of fair and respectful competition.

By following these policies, you will help make Acclaim a positive experience, not only for your child, but for all the dancers.

Please keep top portion for your records and return signed portion prior to tryout.

I have read the above Team Policy and agree to meet the requirements, both as a parent and as a student, to the best of my ability. By signing, I understand that consequences may be taken if the requirements are not met.

Student: _____ Date:

Parent: _____ Date:

Birthday- Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone # _____ Cell # _____

(Please indicate if one number is better to reach you on)