



Burford Dancers

Competitive Team Guide

Welcome to our Competitive Dance Team!

We are thrilled that your family is joining our competitive program. Competitive dance offers dancers the opportunity to grow as performers, athletes, artists, and teammates while building confidence, discipline, and lifelong friendships.

Our goal is to provide a positive learning environment where every dancer is encouraged to achieve their personal best.

Competitive dance is a rewarding experience, but it also requires commitment from both dancers and their families. This guide will help to explain the expectations and policies that will make our season successful.

Our Philosophy

At our studio, we believe dance is about more than just winning awards.

Our competitive program focuses on:

- Personal growth
- Confidence
- Responsibility
- Teamwork
- Respect
- Positive sportsmanship

Awards are wonderful, but they are not our measure of success. We celebrate improvement, dedication, perseverance, and the courage to perform.

Team Expectations

Competitive dancers are expected to:

- Attend all scheduled classes and rehearsals
- Arrive on time and prepared
- Respect teachers, teammates, parents, competition staff, and other studios
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Represent the studio professionally both on and off the stage

Parent Expectations

Parents are an important part of our team as well. We ask parents to:

- Encourage positive attitudes
- Respect teachers' decisions
- Help dancers arrive on time
- Read studio emails and announcements
- Ensure costumes and supplies are packed
- Promote kindness and good sportsmanship
- Encourage your dancer rather than focusing on scores
- Be respectful of volunteers and competition staff
- Avoid discussing placements or results negatively in front of dancers

Our teachers work with many dancers. Your organization and support help everything to run smoothly.

Attendance

Attendance is extremely important. Missing classes or rehearsals affects:

- Team formations
- Spacing
- Choreography
- Overall performance quality

Each dancer is permitted **3 excused absences** during the season. If a dancer exceeds these 3 excused absences, they are expected to arrange a private lesson with their teacher to review any missed choreography/formations. Any private lesson fees are the responsibility of the dancer/family.

We understand that unexpected situations can arise. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis at the discretion of the studio.

Dancers who miss multiple classes or do not complete the required choreography through a private lesson may have their role or participation in routines adjusted at the teacher's discretion.

Dancer's Group Placement

- Dancer placements are determined by the teachers
- Based on age, ability, experience, maturity, and team needs
- Placements may change from season to season

Please keep in mind that the beginning of each season is a transition period as dancers adjust to new routines, choreography, expectations, and team dynamics. The first three weeks will allow both dancers and teachers time to ensure this is the right fit. If needed, families may choose to discuss this and opt out during this time.

Class Requirements

To participate on the competitive team, dancers must have completed **at least one year of dance and are invited by our teachers.**

Ballet

Ballet is strongly encouraged for every competitive dancer because it is the technical foundation of all dance styles and helps to develop:

- Technique
- Strength
- Balance
- Flexibility
- Alignment

Required Classes to Compete

The following class requirements apply to compete in each genre:

Jazz, Lyrical, Acro, Ballet, & Contemporary

- Ballet class is required

Tap, Musical Theatre & Hip Hop

- One additional recreational class is required, preferably in another style

If a dancer is offered a **solo, duet, trio or small group** in a particular genre, they are required to participate in the corresponding larger group(s) routine, if one is offered, within their age division.

Classes

Group Dances

Group classes run our entire season and are billed as part of your regular class tuition.

Solos, Duets & Trios

Generally, these begin after Thanksgiving weekend but may vary depending on teacher scheduling.

Additional class time may be requested before competitions.

Competition Fees

Competitive numbers have additional fees beyond regular class tuition which include the following:

- Costumes
- Competition entry fees

A detailed fee schedule will be provided.

Please note that all fees are estimates and may vary depending on the costume costs, and competition entry fees.

A full commitment to the comp team is required by October 1. Once routines and entries are finalized, dancers/families are expected to fulfill their commitment to the team.

Competition entries are submitted and paid for in advance, and fees may become the responsibility of the family if the studio is not notified prior to registration deadlines.

Competition Item Checklist

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Costume(s) | • Gel or styling products |
| • Dance shoes required | • Makeup/False |
| • Extra tights | • Makeup remover |
| • Hair brush and comb | • Small sewing kit |
| • Bobby pins | • Safety pins |
| • Hair elastics | • Band-Aids |
| • Hair net | • Deodorant (age appropriate) |
| • Hair spray | • Stain remover stick |

Competition Day

Competition weekends are exciting, rewarding, and pretty busy. This timeline is meant to help dancers and families stay organized and have a great experience.

Costumes

Parents/dancers are responsible for ensuring costumes remain:

- Clean
- Steamed/Pressed
- Labelled/Complete

Hair and makeup instructions will be provided before each competition

Before Competition Day

- Read the competition schedule carefully
- Check your dancer's class and performance times
- Pack all costumes, shoes, tights, accessories, and makeup
- Label all costumes and personal belongings • Get a good night's sleep

Competition Morning/Afternoon

- Complete hair and makeup
- Double check your costume bag and dance shoes
- Leave early to allow for traffic, parking, navigating the performance centre, putting on your costume and any final touches needed

Arrival Time

Dancers are expected to be backstage in the rehearsal area with their **costume, hair and makeup done, at least 60 minutes before their scheduled performance or as soon as possible following their previous performance.**

Upon your arrival:

- Find the change rooms/rehearsal area
- Hang costumes neatly in our area
- Put on your costume and check makeup/hair
- Stretch and warm up with your team

Dressing Rooms

Dressing rooms are shared with other studios during the competition. Please help keep the space clean and respectful for everyone by:

- Keeping drinks/food sealed and tucked away to prevent spills on costumes
- Throwing all garbage in cans
- No running in the dressing rooms
- No sitting or standing on tables or counters
- Take all of your belongings with you when you leave and clean up after yourself
- The dressing room must be left clean and organized at the end of each day

After Performing

Once your dancer has performed their number they are encouraged to:

- Return to the changeroom
- Place costumes to their garment bag
- Change into the next costume if necessary
- Cheer on fellow dancers and stay for adjudication whenever possible

Adjudication/Awards

Whenever possible, dancers should remain for the awards. Awards are a time to celebrate the accomplishments of all dancers.

We encourage all dancers to:

- Wear their studio jacket or Burford Dancer spirit wear
- Cheer for every studio
- Congratulate fellow competitors
- Celebrate personal growth
- Demonstrate excellent sportsmanship

Communication

Communication throughout the season will be provided through:

- Email
- Parent meetings
- Studio social media (if applicable)

Please ensure your contact information remains up to date.

Teacher Communication

To help our teachers focus on classes and choreography, please direct all questions and inquiries to your Team Parent first. They can help answer questions or forward anything to the teachers if needed.

We ask that all parents and dancers follow this communication process throughout the entire season.

If something is private or needs direct attention, please reach out to the studio or speak with an executive member.

Thank you

Thank you for choosing our studio to be part of your dancer's journey. We love watching our dancers grow in confidence, skill, and friendships each season, and we're excited to share another year of learning, performing, and making memories together. We can't wait to see what this season brings.

Any questions/concerns regarding competition, please feel free to reach out to:

Kristen Bates 519-495-8165

Betty Shrubb 519-757-7046

Parent & Dancer Agreement

Dancer & Parent Code of Conduct

All families agree to:

- Respect teachers
- Respect teammates
- Respect other studios
- Respect competition staff
- Display good sportsmanship
- Represent our studio with pride

We have read and understand the Competitive Team Guide.

We agree to support the policies, expectations, and commitment required to participate in the competitive program at Burford Dancers.

Dancer Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Dancer Signature: _____

Date: _____