

 **STEP AHEAD COMPETITION TEAM HANDBOOK**   
**2017-2018**

**Congratulations & Welcome to the Award-Winning  
Step Ahead Dance Team! Only Positive Attitudes  
Welcome!**

**Dancers-** Congratulations on being selected to be a part of our competition program. Be proud of your accomplishments. Always stay committed to your classes, dance full-out, and pay attention to your teachers. Those who listen to every correction and apply themselves in every class and rehearsals shall succeed. Remember to show respect to all faculty members, your parents, and all students at the studio. We are all in this together!

**Parents-** Our competitive program requires a positive atmosphere from all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected at all times. Please show respect for faculty members, other parents and all dancers. A positive and enthusiastic outlook on this program extends to your child. Negative comments and feedback can be harmful to your child's progress and education.

**Mandatory Components**

The Step Ahead Dance Competition season will run from September through July. (Nationals are in July) Parents and students are expected to give a 100% Dance commitment during this time. More than 3 absences in ANY competition or required class during our season will result in termination. Serious injuries, illness, or family emergencies are the only exceptions. Our Competition Regionals and Nationals (we will do 3 Regionals and one Nationals this year) all specific dates and locations will be announced no later than October 1st. Regionals are during the months of April-May. Also there are 3 Conventions that will be offered to the Competition Team as well. **ONE** is mandatory to attend. Conventions are a great way for the dancers to take multiple Master Classes in many different Genres. It is important for dancers to really explore the world of dance and get a good taste of what is out there. There are hundreds of thousands of good dancers in this world. But to become a great dancer, you must be well rounded; open yourself up and throw yourself into a wide variety of styles and techniques.

***Last minute withdrawals from any competition will not be tolerated. Serious injuries or family tragedies are the only exceptions. All entry fees are non-refundable due to each competition's policies.***

***All competition scheduling is set by the competition itself; not our studio. Any requests to alter specific days and times of performances cannot be accommodated and will not be accepted.***

***Parents are not allowed to contact the offices of competitions. This is prohibited by the competitions. All questions are to be addressed through Miss G.***

***Competition Team jackets are the mandatory uniform for all dancers at all competitions. Team jackets are to be worn for all Step Ahead Competitions. Warm-up suits jackets will be ordered before Christmas. (Will know EXACT prices by October 1st)***

***All dancers are required to enroll in at least one ballet class and one technique class a week from September through June.***

***SASD will sell a practice CD for \$5. The CD will contain all of the cut competition music for this season. This will be ready for pick up Dec. 22nd and charged to your account if ordered.***

***I pay and register for competitions one month prior of the event. A rough estimate of cost per dance is:***

***Groups - \$48, Duo/ Trio- \$55, Solo's - \$100***

***Payment is due one month prior to the dates.***

#### **Attendance Policy-**

Proper attendance is an essential component of the dancer's education and progress. All classes are dedicated to technique and/or choreography. A dancer who misses class and/or rehearsal may hold back the progress of the entire team. When a dancer is absent from a choreography class, they are expected to learn the choreography prior to returning to the next class. All dancers are allowed no more than 3 absences in each class September through July. Although dancers are allowed 3 absences, we **encourage** perfect attendance. Dancers should only be absent if it is absolutely necessary. Attendance will be monitored closely in all classes. Should a dancer be absent, we encourage he/she to attend an additional technique class for the purpose of keeping up with the technique. Attending an additional class does not delete nor give credit for an absence choreography class.

***With the growing trend in social media, we ask that all dancers and parents refrain from negative Facebook or other social network postings regarding the studio, its staff members and its students.***

***You are part of a team and are expected to support, help, and work together with all of your peers. Each class may vary in ages, levels and abilities. Poor attitudes, poor conduct, or any unnecessary drama toward other students or instructors will not be tolerated within our Competition Team or anywhere in***

*the studio. These behaviors will result in warnings that could result in termination.*

***Dress Codes MUST be followed by Dance Competition members. NO EXCUSES. You are a role model and it's your job to represent your studio and set good examples for others.(the look up to you) Students not following dress codes will not be allowed to dance. They will be asked to please change their clothes or sit out for the whole class(s).***

**Dress Code:**

***Ballet: Black Leotard, tights, (pink prefer if you only have ballet on this day), ballet skirt or dance shorts, ballet shoes and hair pulled securely back off of the face. Prefer a bun.***

***Jazz/Technique/Lyrical/Contemporary: Leotard or dance top with fitted shorts, tights and appropriate shoes. Hair pulled securely back off of the face.***

***Tap: Any fitted dance attire and tap shoes.***

***Hip Hop: Any shorts or sweatpants with leotard or dance top. T-shirt or tank is accepted with sneakers. (not sneakers you walked in the class with)***

**Financial Obligations-**

***\*Monthly Tuition is due by the 14th of every month.***

***Discounts apply for the more classes you take.***

**Prices 2017-2018**

\$47 per month= 1 Class  
\$87 per month= 2 Classes  
\$110 per month= 3 Classes  
\$142 per month= 4 Classes  
\$165 per month= UNLIMITED

Solo- \$35 each

Duos/Trios- \$25 each

Unlimited Class ONE Student = \$165 (without a solo or duet)

FAMILY PLAN- \$240 UNLIMITED (NO family pays more then \$240 a month)  
(Technique is FREE for all dancers)

**Fundraising-**

I'm looking into 2-3 different fundraising this year. This will help pay for your dancers Competition fees, warmups etc. If any parent has fundraising ideas, I would love to team up and collaborate ideas.

### **Competitor's Obligations-**

All competitors will be required to rehearse during their scheduled time slot as well as practicing throughout the week on their own time. Dancers should have a copy of all competition music. (December we will offer them for \$5 each) When competition team members sign up, it is with the understanding that their being a member of the competitive team comes before **All** other activities in which they may be involved. We suggest that dance be their **only** activity as competition can be time-consuming especially as competition dates get closer. Committing to outside activities has a strong affect on the student as well as the other team members, when a student is absent. Remember the team is judged as a **TEAM** when competing, and one student with bad attendance hurts the entire team. Occasionally there are required school events that may interfere with rehearsals, if this is the case, bring a copy of the school calendar and other arrangements will be made. Of course classes may be missed due to illness, injuries etc.. If any student or parent feels they cannot see this commitment through, we suggest they bow out of competition before the season begins.

### **Competition Code of Conduct-**

All Competition teams students and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectable manner at all times. Gossiping by a student or a parent about other students, parents, staff members or other studios is not tolerated. Disrespecting a faculty member or another student or being discourteous to a fellow student is grounds for disciplinary action that may result in probation, suspension or being asked to leave the studio permanently. In the event that you are asked not to return to the studio there will be no reimbursement for any classes, collected fees for the revue, collected choreography fees or any other fees collected by the studio. In the event that a student is excessively talking during class, being disrespectful, or is just not focusing, they may be dismissed from class. If this behavior continues their position on the team will be re-evaluated and may result in termination. All Competition Students and their parents will be expected to both read and sign the Competition Handbook.

### **Competition Guidelines-**

1. Everyone is expected to work as a team player and help in the growth of their fellow students.
2. Gossiping will not be tolerated amongst the students and parents, or about other students or parents within SASD.
3. Gossiping will not be tolerated amongst the students or parents about other dance studios.
4. Gossiping will not be tolerated amongst the students or parents about other competitors during competition and conventions.

5. While representing SASD, students and parents are expected to display good sportsmanship conduct to everyone they are in contact with.
6. During competition, whether we win or lose, we are expected to have a winning attitude.
7. All competition dues must be paid on time; otherwise we will not attend the competition. (One month prior to event)
8. It is mandatory for all competitors to wear SASD warm up jacket for all competitions and conventions.
9. All students are to respect the teachers and to do what is asked of them
10. All students and parents must abide by the Code of Conduct.

**I am very excited for this upcoming SASD Competition Year! Positive  
vibes...Positive attitude...Positive Dance Life 🙌**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION!**

**SASD Competitors Contract 2017-2018**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **D.O.B.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone(emergency)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I(parent)** \_\_\_\_\_

**and I, (student)** \_\_\_\_\_

**have read, understand, and agree to comply with the  
2017-2018 Competition Team Rules and Policies  
including:**

- Mandatory Components*
- Attendance Policies*
- Financial Obligations*
- Fundraising*
- Competitor's Obligations*
- Competition Team Code of Conduct*
- Competition Guidelines*

**Signature: (parent)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature: (student)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_