

# **North Shore Dance**

## **Competition Team Handbook**

### **2018-2019**

## **Welcome!**

Welcome to the North Shore Dance Competition Team! We are pleased to have you as a member of our growing family! In this handbook, you will find information detailing our rules, policies, procedures and much more! Please review it thoroughly and let us know if you have any questions or concerns!

NSD promotes a positive, nurturing environment for all our dancers! Our competition team is our third and highest level of dance at NSD and requires 100% commitment from our students, parents, teachers and staff! Our goal is to have a fun, inspiring, character building program- with winning results!

NSD has retained both Regional and National recognition and we look forward to a bright future! We, as a staff, will make decisions that are in the best interest of the competition team and our dancers. We take great time and care in selecting and casting appropriate groups as well as solos, duets and trios to compete. We are here at any time to provide you with the information you need to guide you and your Competition dancer!

We are happy to discuss any issues or concerns you may have. We ask that if you have a question or concern at any point throughout the year, please email us regarding your situation and we will respond in a timely manner. We will not address any issues or concerns during class time, so as not to take time away from scheduled classes. We also ask that you do not text message an instructor regarding personal issues, please only text to confirm or cancel a scheduled rehearsal.

We look forward to a successful, rewarding- and most importantly FUN year! Thank you for selecting to be a part of NSD, and for putting your faith and trust into us! We appreciate your confidence in us!

All students and parents must sign and date the Competition Handbook Agreement after reading through and understanding our program!

**THANK YOU!**

# NSD Mission Statement

North Shore Dance strives to provide quality dance education in a positive, nurturing environment. We will provide a venue of inspiration for dancers to express themselves freely and confidently. Our program will provide opportunities for dancers to advance their training and take class from our talented, knowledgeable faculty. NSD will always do what is in the best interest of the team and to work together with students and parents to achieve our goals!

## Auditions

Auditions for our competition team members are held in mid-June to potentially begin choreography over the summer and begin the fall season with schedules and casting in place. Later auditions may occur for newcomers or those who missed the June audition due to illness or injury. To be considered for a solo, duet or trio, it is recommended to have completed a full year in a group piece in the style of dance you wish to audition for.

## Class Requirements and Attendance Policies

**To compete at NSD you must take ballet to eventually achieve company status.**

**Each company level has weekly class requirements.**

**Weekly class requirements are based upon Company Member placement.**

**SENIOR – 3 Hours Ballet, 1 Hour Pointe, 1 Hour Progressions, 1 Hour Leaps and Turns**

**TEEN ELITE – 3 Hours Ballet, 1 Hour Progressions, 1 Hour Leaps and Turns**

**TEEN INTERMEDIATE- 3 Hours Ballet, 1 Hour Jazz, 1 Hour Leaps and Turns**

**TEEN SECONDARY- 3 Hours Ballet, 1 Hour Jazz, 1 Hour Leaps and Turns**

**JUNIOR INTERMEDIATE – 3 Hours Ballet, 1 Hour Jazz, 1 Hour Leaps and Turns**

**JUNIOR SECONDARY – 2 Hours Ballet, 1 Hour Jazz, 1 Hour Leaps and Turns**

**JUNIOR PRIMARY – 1 Hour Ballet, 1 Hour Jazz**

**MINI - 1 Hour Ballet, 1 Hour Jazz**

Attendance at all classes and rehearsals is mandatory, unless otherwise notified. **Team members must make up all technique classes that are missed.** Frequent student absences may result in suspension from the class or removal from the dance or a piece. If consistent absences occur, NSD reserves the right to remove the dancer from that portion of choreography, from a dance completely, or from the team.

If a student must miss a class due to illness or other emergency, it is the parent's responsibility to call and notify the studio and its instructors. If absence is due to illness or injury, a doctor's note may be required. **Injuries or illnesses do not preclude you from fulfilling your class/competition financial obligation to NSD.**

NSD reserves the right to review each injury and or circumstance on an individual basis.

Any decision regarding absences and how to handle any re-staging, etc. that may arise are at the sole discretion of the instructors, choreographers and director and will be made in the best interest of the team.

**In the event of an injury, NSD will require a doctor's note clearing you to participate in dance class two weeks prior to the date of the competition.**

Multiple absences that cause a need for major re-choreography, re-staging, etc. will result in the assessment of the absent student's account.

Once class or choreography has begun, should you withdraw from a dance for any reason, you must withdraw from ALL classes including your solo, duet or trio. Situations will be evaluated on an individual basis.

## **Competitive Team/ Solo, Duet, Trio**

**Each solo, duet, trio includes 10, 45-minute sessions or 15, 30-minute sessions (7 ½ hours total). This time will include choreography, music and costuming.**

**Solo \$600**

**Duet \$300 each dancer**

**Trio \$225 each dancer**

**Additional rehearsals after you have completed your initial 7 ½ hours (10, 45-minute sessions) are to be scheduled directly with the teacher.**

**A ½ hour of choreography cleaning is \$30 and paid directly to the instructor by cash or check, not NSD. This price is for Competition privates only.**

**Technique privates are \$35 and TDP privates are \$45 and paid directly to the teacher.**

**Multiple class discount does not apply to private fee charges.**

**If you must miss your private, please give your instructor ample notice.**

**If the instructor must cancel your private, your instructor will schedule a makeup ASAP.**

**WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PLACE ALL PRIVATES ON HOLD IF ANY PAYMENTS ARE NOT UP TO DATE.**

## **Competitive Team Groups**

The choreographer for each dance and the studio director chooses the participants for each competition routine. Many factors go into these decisions, including but not limited to: overall concept of the dance and the dancer's ability to relate, the dancer's overall technical ability and strengths, the dancer's ability to adapt, the dancer's communication, respectfulness, drive, determination, attitude, performance level, emotional maturity, and overall age range of the dancers.

A lot of time and energy goes into the choreography of every dance. The concept, music choice, editing of music, staging, use of props if applicable, countless hours of preparation, etc. are all part of the bigger picture. Please respect the artistic creativity of the instructors and choreographers and that they will do what is best for each dancer and routine.

Each Competition Group is a **45-minute-long** class and is added on as an additional hour of dance within tuition. (See hourly tuition chart). Competition group classes begin during the first week of classes and continue through the recital. Upon attending Nationals, rehearsals will continue in the assigned slot at \$10/student per half hour until Nationals. (Day/Time scheduling may change)

Extra Rehearsals: If necessary, additional rehearsals may need to be scheduled for group dances leading up to a competition. The rehearsal rate is \$10/half hour per dancer.

**Rehearsals before Nationals are mandatory for each dance!**

## Costumes

Costume fees for solos, duets, trios and groups range from \$100-\$250 per dancer per routine. Costume fees are billed and due upon receipt. No costumes will be given out unless they are paid in full. We will do our best to keep costs of costumes down and stay in communication with parent as we select, alter and adorn costumes. We strive to dress our dancers in tasteful, original costumes that are appropriate to the dance. We encourage those interested to reuse costumes, appliques, headpiece etc. or borrowing from others to keep costs down.

## Competition Fees

NSD diligently researches every competition in which we participate. Upon selecting three regional competitions for the year (and National if applicable) we will inform you of the dates and fees ASAP. These competitions will take place between February and May and will usually be within a one hour driving distance from the studio. Competition fees charged by NSD will include a minimal service charge to help reduce the cost of paperwork, entry forms, instructors, travel fees, etc. Fees must be paid in cash.

To not be closed out of a competition, all fees are due by December 3rd, so we may enter successfully! Non-payment of a competition fee by the published deadline date will incur a delinquent fee of \$10 per dance that the dancer is in.

**By signing the competition agreement, you are committing to pay for all entry fees associated with your dancer's routines. As well as, costumes, adornments, tuition, and additional rehearsal fees if necessary.**

**\*All fees that are paid are non-refundable and non- negotiable.**

## Financial Responsibility

We understand the time, energy and financial commitment you are making to be a part of the NSD Competition Team. If you have any questions about the fees necessary to be on the competition team, please see Diane at the desk. She will be happy to sit down with you personally and help to answer any questions you may have. If, after you commit to dances and rehearsals have already begun, you decide to drop or change for any reason, you may be subject to additional charges for re-choreography, re-staging, etc. Tuition, choreography fees, costume fees and entry fees will all have specific due dates and are provided to you at the beginning of the dance year.

All financial matters are to be handled with Diane. Please refrain from discussing financial matters with the instructors, staff members or other parents.

Once you have made your commitment, please be advised that there will be no refunds, credits, pro-rated amounts, etc. Please consider all information and fees carefully prior to signing the competition agreement.

# Fundraisers

NSD will offer several fundraising opportunities for our dancers throughout the year! This is a great way for your dancer to work together with the team and to help raise money to put toward Competition fees! Please let us know if you have an idea for a fundraiser- we welcome any ideas and help in orchestrating them for our students!

All NSD Team members are required to participate in at least 2 fundraisers.

## Teacher Assistants

- *Students who assist a class will be given \$50 credit for the year upon completion of the school year. Limit one credit per student.*
- *Students must arrive on time.*
- *Must always be in appropriate dance attire.*
- *No more than 2 absences for the year.*
- *Call to notify if late/missing class.*

## Yankee Candle

Yankee Candle has been a big success in previous years! All orders can be placed online and will receive a greater percentage back.

## Saturday Morning Coffee/Bake Sale

If any 3-4 students would like to organize a bake sale in the front of the studio on a Saturday morning, please note that we have a very large family crowd from 9am-12noon. This task would be solely the responsibility of the students and families (i.e. providing food, coffee, etc.) and we request that a parent supervise. Please email your interest and Saturday date requested.

# Competition Procedure

Competitions post their schedules 1-2 weeks before the scheduled weekend. As soon as we receive times, we will email a schedule ASAP! **NSD will not request a dance be moved out of its assigned time for any reason. Please be sure to keep the entire weekend open!**

Please always arrive performance ready at least **2 hours** before your scheduled dance. Competitions can run early or late. Please be sure to have every part of your costume, including the required dance shoes. At the first competition, teachers will rehearse and stay backstage with all solo, duet, trio and groups.

Additionally, all dancers are responsible for:

- \*Warming themselves up
- \*Bringing their own music to rehearse with
- \*Preparing their own makeup and hair
- \*Knowing when their dance is going on
- \*Being backstage a few dances beforehand
- \*Checking in with the stage manager

We believe this will help the dancer to grow and to become more confident and prepared during competition weekends. Of course, we are always here to support and encourage our dancers. Ideally, we would like to instill a sense of responsibility in them by

learning what it takes to prepare oneself to become a successful performer! At competitions we, (the instructors) are very busy making sure all students are accounted for. YOU may be finished dancing but

other NSD dancers may be arriving for the next session and we are making sure all are in attendance. Additionally, we try to watch all dances within a category.

Each dancer is required to stay for awards. Please wear all your NSD gear to support your team!

Group awards will be displayed in the studio. Solo, duet, trio awards can be taken home. Group cash awards go back to the team. Solo, duet, trio awards are credited to your account.

When we receive the comments, they will be listened to at the first rehearsal after competition, providing we have already received them. If parents would like to listen, please attend this rehearsal.

## **Master Classes and Conventions**

As your instructors, we want to continue to challenge and educate your children! Conventions are weekends of master classes and workshops taught by professionals within the industry. It's a great opportunity to learn new choreography and styles of dance, as well as being a ton of fun! Some conventions also offer the opportunity to compete.

## **Nationals**

**We will be attending Nationals every year! Every other year some dances will be mandatory to attend. The optional year will always be a Nutcracker year.**

This year we will be attending Nationals in Foxwoods from July 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Please book your hotel room for the entire length of the competition. Once we know more details you may alter your reservations.

**Looking forward to another fun and successful season  
with our dance family!!!**

**Stephanie**