

## **Competition Teams**

Rules and criteria must be set before any competitive teams are assembled. Students and parents alike, often fail to see the connection between how working on technique in classes will strengthen what is taught in choreography. The criteria established here was developed after much research and careful consideration so that we may bring our students to a higher level of dance education ... not to simply win a trophy or to impress our peers.

Eligibility requirements are a must. If you feel that you comply with all the criteria and requirements as set, please see me to join our competitive teams. If you feel that you meet the criteria and requirements, and we decline your request, please regard this as a learning curve. Know that we are experienced and certified in our field and that our opinions and decisions are based on the students' dance education and performances here at the studio. We are both certified by test to teach and we both judge at several competitions annually. In addition, I am currently the Chairperson for the National Membership Committee for DMA and I examine those wishing to test for certification for our organization. We wish to train each of our students to be the best that they can be ... it serves us no purpose to play favorites. With these thoughts in mind, please continue on to the information listed below and feel free to see me with any questions.

### **Questions Concerning Competitions**

1. Why do we compete?
  - a. To give our students the experience in performing for more than recitals and DPT
  - b. To teach our students teamwork and good sportsmanship
  - c. To allow our students a learning experience by watching other studio performances
  
2. What is the difference between a competition and adjudication?
  - a. Adjudication scores each individual routine on its own merit, whereas a competition scores in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. In other words, in an adjudication there can be 3 Gold Medal Winners in the same age / discipline category
  
3. Who is eligible to compete?

- a. Students who are enrolled in all 3 core disciplines: Ballet, Tap, Jazz
  - b. Students who participate in DPT performances
  - c. Students who now work at the highest level in their own classes
4. Will all DPT members compete?
- a. Not necessarily: competitive students must be part of our DPT, however a DPT member does not have to compete
5. How will students be chosen to compete?
- a. For group routines:
    - i. DPT members who meet the technical requirements
    - ii. Good attendance in all classes throughout the year
    - iii. Continue to improve your technique in classes by using your energy to build stamina and core strength
    - iv. Practice performing in class as if you were on stage
    - v. Take advantage of all outside master classes and conventions offered to you
  - b. For solos:
    - i. A soloist must have competed at least once in a group piece before being allowed a solo piece
    - ii. The soloist must have a teacher recommendation
6. How many competitions will the studio participate in?
- a. Currently, we will work towards the DMA Regional PAC in March
  - b. DMA PAC is an adjudication event – not a competition
  - c. This year we are also considering another competition in March, and possibly their finals since the finals will be local

7. Will our studio attend National Finals?

- a. Since we know that the DMA National Finals will take place in California next year, we will bring only those qualifying routines to Nationals if the student(s) were already planning to attend. Nationals will not be required.

8. How do you qualify for Nationals?

- a. The routine must achieve a medal standing of Silver or higher to qualify for National Finals.

9. What are medal standings?

- a. These are the total scores that must be achieved for each routine to win a medal standing (total from 3 judges):

i. Bronze:	210-224
ii. High Bronze:	225-239
iii. Silver:	240-254
iv. High Silver:	255-269
v. Gold:	270-281
vi. Supreme:	282-300

10. What other awards are available?

- a. There are high score awards for each division in each age level. Some are monetary awards and others are trophies.
- b. Special awards are also presented by the judges who will be looking for unique characteristics or special qualities.
- c. High choreography awards, graduating Senior awards and the Sherry Gold Memorial Award are also presented.

11. What will the cost be?

- a. Each routine presented for competition will be \$300.00. Each routine will have 6 weeks set aside for students to learn choreography and cleaning. In the event that 6 weeks is not sufficient, and more classes are needed for cleaning, there will be an additional \$35.00/wk assessment added.
- b. Whether the routine is a solo or group, the price remains the same. This breaks down to \$50.00/hr for each of 6 weeks. A soloist would be responsible for payment in full. A group would divide the \$300.00 by the number of students in the routine.
  - i. i.e.: 6 girls in a tap routine would pay \$50.00 for the routine for the 6 weeks of work
  - ii. 1 soloist would pay the full \$300.00 for the routine
- c. All tuition, costume fees and recital fees must be current for students to begin competition work.
- d. Payment for ½ the fee will be due in advance on the first week and the balance will be due by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of work. Other payment options will be available by making arrangements in the office.
- e. In addition to choreography fees, parents will be responsible for competition entry fees. Currently, the DMA PAC entry fees are as follows:
  - i. Solo: \$75.00
  - ii. Due/Trio: \$35.00/dancer
  - iii. Groups: 4-8 dancers - \$30.00/dancer
  - iv. Lines: 9-15 dancers - \$30.00/dancer
  - v. Class: 16 or more dancers - \$30.00/dancer
  - vi. Extended and Production routines: \$30.00/dancer

12. Will these routines be performed in the annual recital?

- a. If space allows, we will include all group routines in the recital.

- b. Solos will only be performed in the recital if the dancer is a graduating Senior.
- c. Solos may also be performed in all holiday productions and the P&R Showcase.

13. Who will choose the routines?

- a. The Choreographers will choose the music and routines for groups.
- b. Soloists may choose their own discipline and choreographer.
  - i. All music selections are subject to approval and must fit into the time limits as set down by DMA.

14. How can I (my child) participate in the DMA Titles Competition?

- a. Titles is a separate entity and a dancer must be enrolled separately.
- b. This competition involves:
  - i. Scholarship classes in Ballet, Tap & Jazz
  - ii. An Interview
  - iii. A written essay
  - iv. A solo performance
  - v. Headshots
  - vi. Title Pageant
  - vii. Winners are required to participate in National Finals
- c. Dancers who wish to compete in titles must have satisfied the DMA requirement of attending at least 1 event prior to the March competition
- d. The additional cost is \$75.00 / dancer
- e. Solo Title participants must be referred / invited by either Mrs. Legein or Miss Allison.

- f. Each Title contestant will work with Mrs. Legein for a period of time to prepare for the interview and Pageant.

### **Technical Requirements**

1. Appropriate technical level achieved in each respective discipline
2. Elements for each discipline:
  - a. Strength and flexibility in Jazz
  - b. Smooth and expressive traits for Lyrical
  - c. Clarity of sounds and speed of footwork in Tap
  - d. Entertainment character qualities for Musical Theater
  - e. Ability to adapt to different styles of dance
  - f. High performance skills on stage and in the class room
  - g. Confidence and positive expressions
3. Other requirements:
  - a. The ability to work together as a team with any and all dancers
  - b. Support, encouragement and cooperation with/and for all fellow dancers
  - c. *Support, encouragement and cooperation from all parents for all students*

**There will be “0 Tolerance” for  
envy, jealousy and gossip from  
students and parents alike!**

Parents: your dancers have asked for this privilege and experience. This can be a very valuable experience for all – let us please work together to further your child's dance education and foster a spirit of camaraderie in our school.

Remember that there is no "I" in Teamwork!