

## Frequently Asked Competition Questions

We are addressing some general questions many of you have regarding auditions and class placements for the upcoming dance year. Please read through the information. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact us and we will be happy to answer your questions. Please make sure to read the "Competition Team Handbook" thoroughly as well.

**1. Intentions for Competition:**

The Competition Team will attend two required in-state competitions/conventions, and two out-of-state competitions/conventions. The competitions chosen will depend on the dates. They will not be chosen until the fall when the competition schedules come out. The potential of attending Nationals may also be added.

**2. Commitment:**

As with all competitive studios, there is a high expectation in which we want our 'Competition Team dancers' to maintain. We strongly encourage dancers to take additional workshops in and out of state in order to improve technique. We do expect that dancers who decide to compete must be committed to their team. Dancers must abide by the studio attendance policy (see constitution) for Company dancers as well as always giving 100% effort in the classes they attend.

**3. Auditions:**

During auditions, dancers will be judged on ability and placed into groups based on ability as well as age. We have to group dancers and classes so they will have the same things in common such as technique, work ethic, performance skills, etc.

**4. Who Can Compete?**

Anyone who is entering second grade or above (or referred by an instructor) and who is interested in dancing on a Competition team may audition. Usually, they are recommended by the instructor to audition, but some take an interest and are welcome to try without a recommendation. Students who audition are not guaranteed to make a Competition team (Please see Competition Handbook for more details).

**5. Why do we take ballet if we don't compete it?**

Ballet is the foundation of ALL dance and it is where the students work on their dance technique. Ballet technique is used in all styles of dance - even hip hop and tap! With any sport or activity, the more you practice, the better you become. The same is true with dance. Those who dance more during the week become stronger, more well rounded dancers than those that come for one hour a week. Certain levels are required to take more ballet classes each week.

**6. Audition Fee:**

There is an audition fee of \$10/student/style. Any audition you attend has an audition fee. This is to cover the cost of your judges, admin work, as well as use of studio space. You are paying for the choreography and instruction you will be getting during this time.

**7. Recreation Classes:**

Our recreation program is a strong program and is growing each year. We have just as many talented dancers in these groups. Many of them would love to compete, but are unable to dedicate either time, money, travel, extra rehearsals, etc. These classes learn just as much material, but move at a slightly slower pace (they have until June to clean and perfect routines, whereas Competition classes only have until January). These classes do not have the pressures and demands of competition yet receive the same instruction, workout, routine, costumes, and recital performances.

**8. Class Scheduling:**

When making the fall schedule, we try to schedule the Competition classes in blocks. Depending on the styles of dance you choose and the final schedule, you may have to be at the studio several nights of the week. If dancers want to participate in other activities that conflict with their class, choices will need to be made. The class schedule cannot be adjusted in order to accommodate individual students. The schedule is based on studio space and instructors availability.

**9. Workshops & Intensive:**

Competition dancers are required to attend "**Ignite**". This workshop is a two or three day event held in Belgrade. Ignite is scheduled for the week of July 15th, with the extra choreography for certain classes held before and after those dates, starting as early as July 13th and could go through July 20th.

Extra choreography will occur throughout the week of the workshop. Groups who will receive extra choreography will be determined after auditions. Competition students competing in these classes are required to attend these sessions. Please contact the office for the cost for the professional choreography per student per style. It is dependent on how many dancers are in the piece and who the choreographer is.

Other workshops will be offered when available. The studio is looking at bringing in other guest teachers throughout the dance year. Competition dancers are required to attend these.

**Intensive** will be held August 12th - 15th. All Competition dancers are required to attend Intensive. Dancers will attend the teambuilding session each day, as well as their appropriate Ballet and Competition classes.