

Competitive Team Information Package

The competitive team at Studio 360 is a group of dancers that perform their various routines at different competitions in front of judges. There are several groups within the competitive team, who are selected based on their auditions and placed within a group based on their age, level and dance style.

Dancers audition during one of our audition sessions and are marked based on their technique, performance, work ethic as well as their ability to pick up choreography.

Competitions: What are they all about?

Dance competitions are a great way to showcase our dancers' talent and hard work, as well as that of our choreographers. Dancers prepare for competitions beginning in September, and continuously work at improving their technique and perfecting their choreography throughout the year, leading up to the competitive season that generally runs from March to June.

Important information about competitions

- During the competitive season, we attend approximately 4 to 6 competitions per year
 - 3 or 4 in Ottawa/Gatineau
 - 1 or 2 out of town
- Each competition is run by a different organization, and in a different location
- Competitions are chosen by the Studio Director, and parents are informed of the competition dates upon registration in September.

Competition schedules

- Schedules vary from competition to competition. Some smaller competitions run only on Saturdays and Sundays, while others run from Wednesday or Thursday until Sunday evening.
- Dancers are most likely to miss school on a few occasions in order to attend competitions.
- Many studios will register for the same competition. Competitions then schedule routines based on categories. For example, all of the intermediate level small groups ages 10 to 11 in jazz, will perform in the same category.
- Specific performance dates and times for each routine are distributed to all dancers via e-mail as soon as we receive them. We do not receive the final performance times until about 2-3 weeks before the competition. So for example, the competition might run from Wednesday to Sunday, but your routine only performs on Saturday afternoon. In which case you are only required to be there during that time.

Competition costs

- There is a registration fee charged by the competition for each dancer in each routine. These fees vary from competition to competition. An estimation is included in the Cost section of this document.
- There is no fee or ticket required to watch the competition (with the exception of some).

Competition awards

- There are normally 3-4 judges with various backgrounds and expertise in dance.
- At most competitions, every routine receives an award based on their score as well as a placement within their category (for example, high gold and 2nd place).

- At some competitions there are “overalls” or “finals”. For these, dancers will perform their routine again, for the chance to compete against the highest marking routines of the competition.

Class requirements: How many hours a week do I dance?

Below are the class requirements depending on the style of dance. Typically, classes are placed back to back in order to prevent students from having to come to the studio multiple days a week.

For example, if your child is registering for jazz, they would have an hour of ballet, an hour of jazz technique and an hour of choreography on one day, and then their other hour of ballet, the other hour of jazz technique and their stretch and strength class on another day.

Students must also take part in extra choreography classes at the beginning of the year, scheduled on an ad hoc basis on weekends.

It is also mandatory for competitive students to be part of the production. This is 1-2 hours on a bi-weekly basis.

Jazz/Lyrical/Contemp

- 1 hour of stretch and strength
- 2 hours of jazz technique
- 2 hours of ballet technique
- 1 hour of class choreography per style

Acro

- 1 hour of stretch and strength
- 1 hour of acro technique
- 1 hour of jazz technique
- 1 hour of class choreography

Musical Theatre

- 1 hour of jazz technique
- 1 hour of class choreography

Hip Hop

- 1 hour of cardio and strength
- 1 hour of mash-up (hip hop technique and choreography skills)
- 1 hour of class choreography

Summer requirements: What happens during the « off season »?

Competitive dancers must keep up their training over the summer. This is to ensure their strength and flexibility does not regress over the summer months, and that they start the season in late August/early September ready to go.

Competitive students must fulfill at least one of the two following options:

1. Complete 20 hours of summer classes: you can choose between technique classes, stretch and strength classes, cardio and strength classes and/or drop-ins
2. Complete one week of summer intensives in the style they perform (either hip hop or jazz/lyrical/contemp).

If students do not fulfill this requirement during the summer, they will not be accepted into the competitive team in the fall.

Other implications: What else is required of me?

Attendance

As stated in the Registration Terms and Conditions, competitive students are allowed up to 3 absences during the season. If a participant misses 3 or more classes, Studio 360 reserves the right to exclude the participant from performing at competition) or to terminate their enrolment. This rule is EXTREMELY important. If you are feeling sick but are not contagious, we strongly encourage you to come to class anyways to sit and watch. This way your mind is still learning the routine or picking up any changes that are being made.

Extra Practices

At the beginning of the year, in order to learn the choreography for competitive routines, students will be required to attend extra practices on weekends. It is also likely that leading up to competitions, extra practices may be held on weekends.

It is very important that all students attend these classes. Teachers will send parents an email as soon as any practice dates are chosen.

Competitive Team Show

Every year we have a Competitive Team Show a few weeks before the first competition. This serves a dual purpose.

The first purpose is to give the students a chance to practice their routines, on stage, in front of a real crowd. We film the whole show so that the students and teachers can watch the performance afterwards and make any necessary adjustments or corrections before the first competition.

The second purpose is to offer another fundraiser. Students then sell tickets for the show at \$10 each. All of the money goes directly into the student's account to help pay for costumes. For example, if you sell 10 tickets, that's \$100 that you receive.

A participation fee is included in your Competitive Team Package fee at the beginning of the year.