



STARZ Competition Team 2021-2022

Policies & Guidelines

Welcome to STARZ Competition Team!

We take our roles as a mentors and teachers in your child's life very seriously. It is our objective to inspire a passion for the art of dance in every student who passes through our doors. In the process, we strive to set the right example and help your child (and you) create memories that will last a lifetime.

STARZ Competition Team Dancers are required to attend specific classes for the school year and summer sessions. Please speak with Miss Gabby regarding minimum requirements.

Students who have shown poor attendance during the 2020-2021 season will only be cast in a limited number of group pieces for the 2021-2022 season. Students who do not plan on making their dance education a priority SHOULD NOT audition for STARZ Competition Team. STARZ Performing Arts Academy offers many recreational classes and programs for students who have a limited amount of time to commit to their performing arts education.

Dinnertime, homework time, and social time are not a part of the curriculum at STARZ. All of these are to be addressed before or after required competition team classes – NOT during.

Class time is a time to LEARN. Students who are talking excessively or interrupting class will be sent out for the remainder of the class, so as not to waste the time of the instructor and those who are there to learn.

For our older students: PLEASE be considerate of the younger, impressionable dancers around you. Watch your language, topics of conversation, and disposition. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY YOUNG DANCERS LOOK UP TO YOU AND OVERHEAR YOUR ADULT CONVERSATIONS. STARZ Competition Team dancers should act as role models for our younger, less experienced students. The values and life lessons learned through dance, and the positive environment we work so hard to create at STARZ should always shine through our more mature students. Think of the legacy you want to leave and always try to be the best version of yourself.

For Parents

We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child's dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child's presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school's educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Attendance

All students are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes. Each class offers a step forward in the educational process. A missed class could leave a child one step behind the other students. It is important for children to feel completely confident with choreography. Missing class could result in frustration for the students and their teachers and classmates.

STARZ Company members are expected to maintain impeccable attendance in weekly technique classes and all Company classes. Weekly Ballet, Technique, & Stretch classes are mandatory, as well as Company Choreography Classes, for the entirety of the Company year.

STARZ Competition Team Dancers must be present for at least 75% of each of their required classes for the school year term (September – May) in order to be a member of the Company. Competition Team Dancers with less than 75% attendance may be removed from competition routines or the Company at the discretion of their instructors.

Company dancers are expected to arrive at the Studio 10-15 minutes early for class to stretch and warm up. Dancers who are not properly stretched and warm before physically pushing their bodies in class run a great risk of injury. Please be kind to your body, and prepare it for class.

If a company dancer is involved in any seasonal sport or extra-curricular activity, please notify us in advance. We request a copy of the student's practice/game schedule (if available) in order to work out an alternative schedule for her. If a student misses an excessive amount of technique or choreography classes due to another extra-curricular activity, and does not make-up hours missed, she/he may be pulled from competition pieces.

Please let us know when your child will be absent. It is more convenient to schedule make-up classes when you let us know ahead of time.

All STARZ Competition Team dancers must attend summer classes at STARZ in order to be a part of STARZ Competition Team.

Tardiness

Dance is a physical activity that requires the body to be warmed up in order to execute movement safely. Late students miss the proper warm-up and/or barre and therefore may sustain injury. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late may be asked to observe class for reasons of personal safety.

Makeup Classes

Students who miss a class will have the opportunity to make it up with another similar class (with the exception of Company Choreography classes). Please check with Miss Gabby to determine the best makeup class for your child.

Understanding Dance Education

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your student financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that's comfortable. **No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training.** It's important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Not all children will develop into professional dancers. One of the primary goals of our faculty is to teach life lessons and skills that offer children the best chance for success. Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

Casting, Company Placement & Class Placement

A great deal of thought goes into "casting", based on individual potential, level of experience, technique mastery, work ethic and physical skill. Decisions will be made based upon what will give the Best result on stage.

Ballet & Technique classes are a vital part of what makes a dancer successful, well rounded, and most importantly well trained. We are careful to match students to technique and ballet classes that are conducive to their age level and ability.

A dancer will never be placed in a class that is beneath their technical ability or age division, unless otherwise requested by a parent or legal guardian. We believe in challenging students to the best of their ability. If different levels of company groups are put together for a production number, their individual parts will be separately challenging.

It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child.

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some students who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with students who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. We will never push a student to a level of dance or tumbling that their body or muscle development is not yet ready for. Pushing your child to perform advanced skills before they have mastered the basics

necessary to execute those skills properly can be physically detrimental to their body. Please trust the professional decisions of our acclaimed faculty regarding class levels and Company placement. With a combined 150 years of experience in the arts within our faculty, we are fully aware of your child's abilities and capable of placing them in the class(es) that will best suit their level of education.

Calendar

In addition to Competitions, STARZ Company dancers will perform in the annual Spring Recital (June 2022), STARZ Competition Team Preview Show (February 2022), as well as other local performances to be determined throughout the current dance season.

Stay up to date with your **CALENDAR** on the **STARZ App**, or the **Upcoming Events** page on www.dancewithstarz.com.

All Competition Team dancers are REQUIRED to attend at least 1 Workshop and the 2 Competitions listed as REQUIRED.

Please check our website regularly for schedule updates and changes.

Dancers are encouraged (but not required) to stay at the host hotel the evening of the competition. Rooms reserved under the Convention's name receive a discounted rate, but rooms must be reserved prior to the cut-off date. Parents and dancers are responsible for making arrangements to stay together. Please do not pay for your hotel reservation in full ahead of time. Competition venues are subject to change for any number of reasons and STARZ will not be responsible for funds lost, as many reservations are non-refundable.

Dancers may be given a written schedule of places and times to meet for either registration for the Conventions, or warm up for the Competitions.

Competitions are usually three-day events. The dancers will be given a scheduled time that they are expected to meet for warm up. Each dancer needs to allow themselves enough time to get ready prior to the meeting time.

Please plan on arriving to all Competitions 90 minutes-2 hours prior to your scheduled performance time. Most competitions run ahead of schedule, and will not wait for late entries. Giving your dancer time to get comfortable in their surroundings makes for a better performance and team spirit.

After the dancers perform, there may not be time to leave before the awards, so pack snacks just in case.

Competition Schedules are usually sent to the Studio 7-10 days prior to the Competition. Any information for upcoming events will be handed out in class or sent by e-mail. Attendance for Competition Awards is mandatory for all Company members. Exceptions will be made for emergencies only. Our young dancers will not be expected to stay for any award ceremonies after 9pm. Dancers may not leave a Competition or Convention early without permission. If a dancer sits out or leaves without permission, the dancer may be removed from the Company on the grounds of "poor sportsmanship".

Staying Informed

We work hard to make your dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. **Please read all newsletters and other school information.**

Newsletters and important updates are emailed to you and posted on the STARZ Performing Arts Academy website and Facebook page.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the office at (304)910-9647 between the hours of 4 & 8 pm, Monday through Thursday.

We answer email on a daily basis, except on weekends. Feel free to email questions to the office at dancewithstarz@gmail.com.

Website www.dancewithstarz.com

We are constantly updating our website & the STARZ App. News, important parent and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

Facebook Page www.facebook.com/StarzPerformingArtsAcademy

“Like” the STARZ Performing Arts Academy page on Facebook to receive daily updates on academy events. Please invite your family and friends to “like” the academy. If you are not yet a member of the STARZ Competition Team Facebook Group, please send us an online request. Daily news and important information is posted in the group.

Cost

Please keep your account up to date. Competition Team Costumes not paid for by the set deadlines will not be ordered – thereby subjecting the parent to separate shipping costs, or even excluding the dancer from that competition number.

A \$15 late fee will be added to tuitions paid after the 10th of the month.

A \$25 late fee will be added to tuitions paid after the 20th of the month.

A 10% late fee will be added to late Competition/ Convention fees.

Competition/ Convention fees paid after the Competition or Convention Company’s deadline may be subject to additional late fees set forth by the Company or exclude the dancer from the competition or convention completely. Once an event is SOLD OUT, registration is Closed, and there is nothing STARZ Performing Arts Academy can do about it.

Competition & Convention fees are non-refundable.

Continuous delinquency or failure to pay will result in suspension of the dancer from both classes and Competitions/Conventions until the balance is caught up.

Fundraisers are a great way to defray the costs of costumes, competition fees and travel expenses. STARZ Boosters aim to have fundraisers available for our dancers throughout the school year. Be sure to stop by the office and request information about current fundraising opportunities if you are interested.

Classroom / Convention Etiquette

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Respect for the teachers is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed at you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

STARZ Performing Arts Academy's Company requires its members to behave with respect for the classroom/competition venue, other dancers and other Studios' dancers at all times. You also must respect your body. Proper eating/ nutrition and sleep are required for the physical and mental demands of competitive dance.

Smoking, drinking alcohol, drug usage, or inappropriate behavior is forbidden on the property, at Conventions, Competitions, and anywhere around the Company, the Studio, or Studio events.

Boyfriends/Girlfriends are not allowed backstage or in any dressing rooms at competitions, performances, or anytime. Over display of affection at workshops, competitions, performances, or any other STARZ function is strictly prohibited. We expect our students to behave as mature, professional young people in every situation.

Dancers are required to work to their full potential at all times. Taking a class easy or "marking" will hinder your skills by forming bad habits. If any dancer is not working at their expected potential, one warning will be given. If this behavior continues, the dancer will be suspended from Competitions/Conventions until her dance level has improved in classes.

Young dancers who are disruptive will be respectfully asked to stop the behavior. If the behavior is repeated, they will be reminded of it and told how it affects others. If the disruption continues, the children involved will be asked to sit down for a short period of time (usually three to five minutes) before rejoining the class.

Please help your student (and our teachers) make the most of their time in the classroom by encouraging your dancer to remain quiet throughout classes, focus to the very best of their ability and only ask questions that are directly related to the class.

At Conventions, all Company dancers are required to participate in all classes, not just the classes they feel comfortable in. Your teacher will register you for the appropriate level of convention classes. Workshops are a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn and work with some of the top teachers in the dance world today. We hope that all of our company dancers take advantage of every class offered throughout the workshop day.

Dos and Don'ts

Some parents may compare their child's progress or class placement to another child's. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will imitate a parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Our school's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with your child's teacher or the director. Talking only to other parents can lead to misinformation and confusion. Please contact the school office to set up an appointment; do not approach your child's teacher or the director between or during classes.

If you do request a conference, please listen carefully to what your child's teachers have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education.

Student and Parent Use of Social Media

Use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blogging, and other online social-media vehicles is commonplace. This policy is intended to provide STARZ Performing Arts Academy students and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- You DO NOT have permission to reveal any information that compromises STARZ Performing Arts Academy. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the director, other students or their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or STARZ Performing Arts Academy.
- Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of STARZ Performing Arts Academy.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend STARZ Performing Arts Academy.
- If you post videos of class or rehearsals, don't post any choreography in its entirety; STARZ Performing Arts Academy owns the copyright to all choreography taught at the school.
- Respect the law, including those laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, and copyright and fair use. As stated in this handbook, parents and students should never post negative comments about other schools or teachers. Also, please do not post negative comments about school activities such as competitions, conventions, and performances or about the directors of those events.

Attire

STARZ Dress Codes are designed to help your child make the most of their dance education. STARZ Performing Arts Academy maintains a dress code to encourage concentration and a sense of inclusiveness. Uniformity in dancewear allows the teachers to assess how well the students are implementing the technique being taught, problems with alignment, and other important aspects of dance training. Our Dress Code also prepares students for a professional atmosphere.

Competition Rules

Please be **ready to perform 90 minutes to 2 hours** ahead of time. Competitions usually run ahead of schedule.

Treat everyone with respect. Let them remember you as pleasant and respectful.

Listen to the Competition director carefully. Each Competition has their own set of rules and failure to follow them may result in disqualification.

When accepting awards, smile. Look the presenter in the eyes and say "Thank You".

Take turns accepting the awards.

Be courteous to other performers, clap for everyone.

Be encouraging to the other members of our Company.

If something goes wrong, move on and let it go.

Keep unkind words to yourself. Treat others like you would want to be treated.

Never boo other dancers or the judges' results.

Have fun! Make the most out of every experience and opportunity.

Not showing up for a Competition, Performance, or Convention will give cause for immediate dismissal from the Company. Severe emergencies excluded.

If a Dancer has been dismissed from the Company for any reason, that dancer will also be dismissed from any high-end positions at STARZ, teaching or assisting.

Choreography Rules

All dances taught to the dancers in the Company, the Choreography, will not be repeated or displayed at any other dance studio in performances, Competition or Recital.

As a member of STARZ Performing Arts Academy's Company, dancers are not permitted to dance at other studios *in their Competitive group* or share/teach the choreography taught to them by STARZ. Any routines not choreographed or put together at STARZ by one of our instructors will not be eligible to perform at local performances or compete at any of our various competitions. This excludes only Professional instructors invited by STARZ for Workshops, Master Classes, or hired for private coaching. All Guest Choreographers must be cleared by the Director in advance. We take great pride in all of our Company pieces, and in our Brand. An enormous amount of work goes in to original choreography, costume choices, music selection, and casting.

Remember: Dancing in a Company will give dancers a chance to take dancing to a higher level. It offers many great learning experiences. It also gives dancers a chance to see some outstanding dancers and teachers from around the country. It is a great privilege to be a part of the Company on any level and is not to be taken for granted. Dancers accepted into the Company must always set a good example, as role models to other dancers at STARZ as well as to dancers from other Studios.

This Company is not focused on winning or beating other Studios. If you feel Competition is about winning the highest medal, instead of learning and bettering your performance level, then STARZ Performing Arts Academy's Company is not for you. Un-sportsman like conduct or bad attitudes about other studios, the judge's results, or each other will not be tolerated. Trophies and medals reflect the opinions of a handful of people, and do not make you the person or dancer you are. How you act makes you who you are and how you will be remembered.

The creative team at STARZ works around the clock to make your child's class, performance, and competitive experiences wonderful and memorable. We deeply appreciate and respect your parental efforts as well. Please bring any and all situations (negative or positive) to our attention. After all, we are working toward a common goal.

The rules and policies present in this program are necessary to inspire our students by encouraging them to challenge themselves. Determination and self-discipline are essential in any successful scenario – school, work, extra-curricular activities. Setting goals and providing opportunities for our students to shine shows that through a little hard work and dedication, they can accomplish anything. We are aware that every student will not go on to dance professionally; that is not the intent of our Company program. We do, however, hope that all of our students will one day possess the confidence and self-awareness needed to find their place in the world. Until then, we will provide them with the tools necessary to find their place in the dance world.

