



## ***Company Dancers Handbook***

Being a DXP Company Member is a tremendous learning opportunity and an experience that students will remember forever! A Company Dancer's year is filled with excitement, challenges, exposure to new skills, lasting friendships... Members practice responsibility and dedication as they work together to achieve a common goal of succeeding at competition and performance as well as a feeling of accomplishment and pride every time they step on the dance floor.

DXP Companies are for the truly dedicated dancer. Parental commitment is also required; helping with fundraisers, competitions and convention arrangements, costume adjustments...

All DXP Companies are directed by Studio Owner and Director, Amber Frishman, along with the assistance of various DXP staff. Marissa Wiseman is the Co-Director of Broadway Company and she will be directing this Company on a day-to-day basis. Other DXP staff and master guest artists will provide choreography and/or focused instruction.

Dance Xplosion's goal is to provide Company Dancers with a strong technical foundation, confidence and the variety of experiences they need to push their dancing to the next level. We maintain high-expectations of our dancers and help them develop in a positive, supporting and loving environment.

### ***COMPANY EVENTS...***

Annual DXP Company Production - BRAVO!!

Zilker Park's "Trail of Lights"

Austin Toros Basketball Half-Time

Back to School Lock-in

In-studio Master Classes w/Guest Teachers such as...

Gino Johnson, Leslie Garcia, Wizard of Oz Broadway-Tour Cast, Dane Burch, David Justin, Grace Holmes...

Studio Spring Recital

Big-Sis' / Lil-Sis' / Best-Buddies  
(A helpful support system during busy times)

End-of-Year Company Gala

3-5 High-level Competitions per/yr in Austin, Dallas, Houston and/or San Antonio

2-3 Educational Dance Conventions in Austin, Dallas, Houston and/or San Antonio

Summer Dance Travel

(Optional, pre-planned trip to take classes from the best of the best)

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## I. Calendar & Payments

-Dates listed on the calendar provided by Amber at the beginning of the year are subject to change. Please regularly check your email and the "Company" section of the website for updates. Changes will only be made if absolutely necessary.

-Please mark your personal calendar with all company events and payment deadlines. All payments must be paid by no later than 3 days after the "due date." At that time the credit card you have on file for Company will be charged.

-Please keep your credit card information on file with Dance Xplosion up-to-date.

-Please contact Amber if you are ever struggling to pay. She can work with you to set up a payment plan, etc. Communication is key!

-Fundraiser participation is optional but highly encouraged. If the fundraiser is done on an individual basis, then any funds earned will go straight towards individual students' accounts. The student can apply these funds to tuition, competition entry fees, and/or costumes (not retail). If it is a group fundraiser, then the total funds earned will be evenly divided among those who participated in that particular fundraiser. A fundraising committee formed of Company Parents will work with the Director to develop yearly fundraisers.

## II. Requirements and Expectations

### COMMUNICATION:

All Dance Xplosion Company Info will be communicated via the following methods:

- 1) Email
- 2) "Company Info" sign board
- 3) Website

**\*\*Please check your email and the "Company" Section on the website at least one-time per week**

### ATTIRE:

Class Attire:

Company Members should wear the required attire as stated on the studio website. For Company Class, dancers should come prepared as if taking a jazz class (no baggy clothing) but with ALL dance shoes accessible. Students may put on or take off layers depending on the type of dance being done. Hair should be pulled away from the dancer's face.

Required Attire for Performance/Competition:

1. Basic Tights - Capezio Ultra Soft Transition tights (possible colors= Suntan, Black, Ballet Pink)
2. Specialty Tights - Capezio Studio Basics footed, seamless fishnets (Black)
3. Tap - Capezio "Fluid" lace-up, oxford tap shoe (Black)
4. Jazz - Bloch "Super Jazz" S0401 (Black and/or Tan depending on costumes)
5. Lyrical - Bloch "Super Jazz" S0401 (Tan) and/or Capezio FootUndeez (Nude)
6. Undergarments (if needed) - Capezio #3537 (Nude)

**\*Bright Lights Dancewear holds all Dance Xplosion Company items in stock.**

*NOTE:* Instructors select costumes and accessories for each dance. This includes tights, shoes, jewelry, hair styles, etc. Additional items other than those listed above may need to be purchased.

Other Events:

- DXP Jackets must be worn at awards ceremonies and during non-performing times at events
- DXP T-shirts must be worn at any public event in which dancers are not in costume.

### FUTURE AUDITIONS:

All Company Members must re-audition every year. Auditions are divided into age groups, but this does not determine the Company a dancer may/may not be asked to join. Companies are primarily formed by level. When a returning Company Member is auditioning we take their full past year into account, looking at everything from dance level, to attitude, to if they arrived on time at events, to their team spirit.

**CLASS LEVEL PLACEMENT:**

Teachers talk with Amber regularly as to which class levels are most appropriate for a dancer. Placement is based on a variety of factors. Everything from skill level to emotional maturity; From their age to attitude and focus. Every dancer progresses at a different rate, therefore we cannot focus on keeping certain groups of dancers together. We always strive to challenge our dancers but it is fine line not to push them into frustration or to push them so quickly that they sacrifice learning "the basics." Without a strong foundation a dancer will continually struggle. Each dancer must have the freedom to progress at their own rate. Feel free to set up an appointment with Amber if you have questions or concerns, but please do respect the professional opinions of our experienced Staff.

**ATTITUDE:**

Dance Xplosion Company Members are role models for the rest of the studio. Dancers and parents are expected to be positive, excited, up-beat, respectful to everyone they encounter and extremely dedicated. This is not to say that you might have questions or concerns from time to time, as this is only natural, but you are expected not gossip about others, to act as a team and to basically treat others how you want to be treated. A rule of thumb in Company is that "Enthusiasm is contagious." With hard work and a positive, "never give-up" type of attitude, you can soar!

**ARRIVING ON TIME:**

Arriving EARLY for events, performances, rehearsals, etc. is of utmost importance. This ensures that you're allowing time for the unpredictable (a traffic jam on the way to competition, running out of gas...), for your dancer to stretch and warm-up properly, for your dancer to mentally prepare for what is about to take place and for your dancer to fully be ready when their instructor calls on them. Most Company members cannot drive themselves, so timeliness is so important for Company Parents to abide by. There's a saying in the dance world that Amber follows... "If you arrive early, you're on-time. If you arrive on-time, you're late. If you arrive late, you're REALLY late."

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Class and Rehearsal attendance are mandatory.** It is a team effort to make our dances look great. One missing person in formations makes effectively practicing routines impossible. If you miss technique classes, you will not have the technique skills to be in the routines. Attendance is VERY important!

We do understand that illness and emergencies happen. If this occurs, you must notify Amber **before** the absence. Depending on the type and number of rehearsals/classes going to be missed a dancer may be required to pay for a private lesson, to catch-up, so that the whole group is not affected upon the student's return. "Catch-up" privates = \$20/half-hour NOTE: If injured, you should still attend and observe.

**The only acceptable reasons to miss class/rehearsal:**

1. Sick - If appropriate and not contagious, come to observe
2. School Function - Only for pre-planned functions that Amber has approved
3. Family Emergency

\*\*Birthdays and too much homework are NOT acceptable reasons to miss class. Although school is top priority, dancers should budget time appropriately so they can balance dance and homework. If grades fall or there are any struggles at school, please let Amber know. She will keep this private and will work with the Company Member to find a solution.

**IMPORTANT:**

If a dancer misses class or rehearsal excessively (3-5 times/yr max) OR is consistently late, a meeting will be held between Director, Parents and Dancer to discuss what actions need to be taken to resolve the situation.

If a dancer misses Company rehearsal without prior notification, that dancer will 1) Be required to pay for a private to catch-up and 2) They must write an individual apology letter to each dancer and their Director. We are a team and we need to be there for each other. No-showing is not fair to anyone, including oneself.

If either of the issues above occur, a student may have to sit out competition(s) and/or performance(s) and/or in extreme situations they will be asked to step-down as a Company Member. In this instance, already paid tuition will be reimbursed, but paid for costumes, competition fees, etc. cannot be reimbursed.

**SUMMER DANCE CLASSES:**

All Company Dancers are required to take Summer Dance Classes AND the Summer Dance Intensive/Choreography Camp. This is to keep them growing and strong in the Summer so they are ready to hit the ground running when the school year begins. Not-fulfilling Summer hours could result in losing a position on Company. Summer Dance Requirements will be noted every year on the Company Calendar. Any dancer missing Choreography Camp cannot be on Company (no exceptions).

**FALL-SPRING DANCE CLASSES:**

All Company Dancers are required to take Company Rehearsal Classes and additional technique classes. Exact classes/hour requirements will be announced in April each year at the parent meeting for those interested in Company for the next school year.

### **III. PARENT, TEACHER, DIRECTOR RELATIONSHIP**

A note from Amber:

*It may or may not be true that the casual, recreational dancer can be successful without the continuous support and participation from their parents. But parental support is an absolute must for any dancer really pushing themselves to go the extra mile and taking part in a competition/performance team.*

*Of course financial support is necessary, yet it will most likely be the most over-looked type of support from your dancer, but emotional and physical support and encouragement are the key to success!!*

*Growing up dancing, even if I might have acted embarrassed that my mom and dad were cheering loudly for me from the audience, their enthusiasm made me excited, their pride made me joyful, and their commitment to my passion made me push myself harder. Without their insistence to have me to dance on-time, to never miss a rehearsal, to believe in myself and to always support others, I would not be where I am today. You're parental support is more important than your child will ever realize in the moment, but I know first-hand that it is critical to their success and makes a huge difference.*

Please stay in communication with Amber, Marissa and Tiffany. We might not always have the same view point but none of us (Dance Xplosion Staff, Yourself, Your Dancer) can attempt to grow, learn, understand or change without open and effective communication.

Gossip is an absolute no-no!

### **IV. COMPETITION**

Why do we attend competitions?

- 1) To show our abilities to others in a fun, energetic setting
- 2) To learn from watching other teams
- 3) To build our team spirit and a strong bond of friendship
- 4) To practice sportsmanship and encouragement of others (other teammates, other studios...)
- 5) To build self-confidence
- 6) To set and reach goals

**\*For Company Dancers & Company Parents**

*Tips for a Positive Competition Experience*

1. Treat others like you want to be treated!! Of course, we come to put our best foot forward and strive to win, but first and foremost we want to be known as a group of dancers with class and incredible sportsmanship.
2. Be SUPER POLITE!! Use "please", "thank you", "excuse me"... Always be gracious winners and thank the judges. Congratulate other teams.
3. Cheer for everyone in our groups, not just individuals. And cheer for other teams.
4. Dancers and Parents... Never, ever, ever, ever talk about a team's dance in any way that could even possibly be taken as negatively. Even when you think no-one can hear or no-one is listening, someone may be. You just never know...
5. Arrive early (not just "on-time." Plan ahead and allow time for traffic, parking...)
6. Dancers must wear their DXP jackets over their costumes during all non-performing times. This keeps us looking unified and appropriate.
7. Dancers must always be fully dressed in costume, hair, and make-up at least 1 hour before their first dance, as we will run through the dance before performing on stage AND competitions sometimes run ahead of schedule.
8. NO EATING OR DRINKING ANYTHING BUT WATER IN OR AROUND COSTUMES
9. Dancers should make great effort to stay and watch all groups. Remember... we're a team and we should always be there to support each other. ☺
10. Parents and/or dancers are **never** to approach judges, as this could get us disqualified or unable to attend the next year. If you have a question, speak with Amber and she can communicate with the judges.
11. Check competition rules before videoing or photographing. Some competitions do not allow this and doing so can cause disqualification or point deductions.
12. Come prepared with all items you think you MIGHT need (extra tights...). No holes in shoes or tights!!! Before you leave, double and triple check that you have everything you came with.
13. Everyone should attend full awards ceremonies and must have permission to not attend.
14. If you have an emergency, first call Amber, Marissa or Tiffany. Be sure to have everyone's cell #'s programmed in your phone.
15. Be sure to CAREFULLY listen to Amber and other DXP staff for directions at competition. We're trying to get multiple groups to different places at the correct times and we need help getting this accomplished efficiently.
16. Most importantly.... HAVE FUN!

**COMPETITION COSTUMES:**

Competition Costume fees will be due in September or October each school year. Exact dates will be noted on the Company Fee Schedule. Please keep care of your costumes and make sure you have all pieces (undergarments, accessories, extra tights, etc.) ready at least 1-week before a competition/performance.

