

# Competitive Dance

Competition is very expensive, but we'd like to offer it to those who would like a chance to compete. You can only do these competitions through a dance school, and we have wonderful teachers and choreographers that can really put it all together for you in one package.

Many competitors choose to do fundraisers and/or get sponsors to help alleviate the costs. The dance school will not set this up or help with fundraisers. Some schools have a Parent Group that organizes fundraisers and disperses funds. When the dance school needs to send in fees, etc., then the parent group just writes the school a check to cover those expenses. No tuition for competitive lessons are to be paid by fundraisers. All entry fees, costume fees, etc. have to go through the dance school, but a parent group can decide what fundraisers are done and how monies are disbursed. However, there doesn't have to be a fundraiser group especially for solos and small groups, it's much more affordable for those.

Competitors will be required to take a technique class along with their competition class. Without technique classes, you won't do well at the competitions. This is explained further in the Competitive Dance Policies and Procedures that you will find attached.

We do mostly solos, duets. However, the competitions also have trios, small groups and large group categories.

Competitions run January through April with finals being in June/July, in most cases. You can do as many competitions as you'd like, but tuition fees are paid for competition & technique classes are still attended even if you decide to skip a competition. You do not have to pay for competition fees for a competition that you decide not to go to unless, you drop out at the last minute and the fees have already been turned in. There will be no pro-rating of fees.

Competitions usually run from Friday afternoon thru Sunday night in Little Rock. However, a dancer only competing in 1 discipline, will only be required to be there at their allotted time. You don't have to be there the entire time. There are 4-5 competitions a year, but competitors may choose to do as many or as few they'd like. Practice makes a dancer more proficient, confident and fluid regardless if they choose to go to all or just some competitions.

Competitors must be aware that the coach may or may not be able to attend all competitions.

You compete in age groups and styles of dance. Age groups are: under 4, 5-6,7-8,9-10,11-12,13-14, 15-16, 17-18 compete. For large groups the age is averaged. So if you have 3 dancers age 10, 2 dancers age 15, and 1 dancer age 13. The average age is 12. However, the rules state that in averaging the group can only compete 1 category underneath the oldest competitor's age. So then, this group would compete in the 13-14 year old group.

There are several categories: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Modern, Baton, Musical Theatre, Clogging to name just a few.

Privates are NOT allowed in the classroom during a private unless invited by the coach. It is very important to keep the focus between coach and competitor.

Privates consist of teaching and perfecting a dance, doing some technical skills and also dealing with costuming and make-up. Any extra time spent outside of the hour time slot to work on costumes and make-up, props, etc. that require the coach's time, will be charged accordingly.

Before any private lessons may start, the following must be done:

1. All private lessons are to be approved by Cindy and then set up with the coach.
2. All paperwork is to be filled out including the competition registration form, signed contract and payment information.
3. All costumes are to be ordered through the school.

Here's to a great competition season!