



WEST CARLETON SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS
COMPETITIVE TEAM CONTRACT
3987 Dunrobin Road, Woodlawn, Ontario K0A 3M0

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME TO THE 2017-2018 COMPETITIVE SEASON!

On behalf of the entire team at WCSOPA, we would like to congratulate and welcome you to the Competitive Dance Team! Being a member of the WCSOPA Competitive Team requires 110% commitment and dedication by both the dancer and her/his parents.

Commitment to Excellence:

At WCSOPA we are dedicated to developing talent in all students, at both the recreational and competitive level. We provide every student with a solid foundation of technique and help every student discover their own strengths and reach their full potential.

Commitment to Inspire:

We are all students of dance, and through this shared learning experience we strive to inspire our students and be inspired by our students. We are committed to experiencing, learning, teaching, creating, and developing an appreciation for dance.

Commitment to the Team:

Together we share the responsibility to build confidence and self-esteem, encouraging each student to be their own personal best. We place a strong focus on respect; respect for teachers, other students, and for ourselves. Our goal is to provide each student with memories that will be reflected on as positive and uplifting experiences.

Director's and Instructor's Roles

The Directors and Instructors strive to make each dancer's experience fun and motivating. Our role is to teach, guide, and mentor each dancer. The Directors and Instructors will treat all dancers and their families with respect at all times.

Level and group placements are the Director/Instructor's decision and are all final. It is our goal to teach and inspire children, and as a parent, we ask you to be supportive of your dancer's placements, developments, and accomplishments.

Parent's Role

Parents of WCSOPA competitive team members are considered "Honorary Team Members". The studio expects each parent to be supportive of the entire dance team, and to be involved in their children's dance activities with WCSOPA. It is understood that parents share our desire to provide the best experience for **each** child. Parents are required to provide WCSOPA with an email address where they can be reached regularly for program updates and last minute notices. Dancers who have access to email are asked to provide their email address as well.

Dancer's Role

Dancers are expected to attend and participate fully in all of their classes, rehearsals, performances, and team related events.

One of the keys to improving dance technique is absorbing correction from the instructor. This entails dance instructors gently providing physical correction to the dancer's positioning. Dancers need to receive these corrections with the understanding that it is done to help them achieve their potential as dancers.

Dancers are expected to show respect to their instructor and fellow dancers, both at the studio and in the community. Remember, you are a very important member of WCSOPA, every other dancer at WCSOPA is as important as you are. Please leave negative comments, gossip, and destructive criticism behind. Our great success as athletes and artists is a reflection of your positive spirit.

Dancers are required to sign a commitment form, which outlines the expectations of the dancer and the consequences of not meeting these expectations.

MANDATORY CLASSES & EVENTS

Mandatory Classes

All competitive students are required to take **mandatory** classes in ballet, jazz, and 1 team choreography.

All dancers are required to take two ballet classes and one jazz class per week, with the option for additional classes and genres (hip hop, tap, musical theatre, acro, etc). We strongly recommend taking a stretch & strength, pilates and/or acro class to improve flexibility and gain strength.

MANDATORY CLASSES ARE IMPERATIVE FOR SKILL IMPROVEMENT, ROUTINE PREPARATION, AND SYNCHRONIZATION OF GROUP MOVEMENT.

Additional classes are offered to provide dancers with technical training in hip-hop, contemporary, tap, acro, pointe, B-Boy/Girl (break dancing), and musical theater. Dancers will not be invited for any extra competitive choreography in styles they are not training in.

RAD Ballet Exam Prep Classes are optional, but highly encouraged for serious dancers. Students enrolled in these classes will take their RAD Ballet Exams in February.

STUDIO ETIQUETTE

Punctuality and Attendance

Competitive dancers are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to class, warmed up, hair done and ready to dance. Lateness is disruptive to a class in progress. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class and those who have not yet arrived will be noted as late. Three late classes will equal an absence noted on the attendance chart.

Punctuality and attendance are mandatory at **all rehearsals**, shows, competitions, and other team events. Attendance will be taken at all events. Please contact the Directors to discuss options if you are not able to attend or need to be late. An absence without a pre-arrangement or a doctor's note will result with the dancer and parents being asked to meet with the Directors to discuss the feasibility of the dancer's continuation on the competitive team. We are providing a calendar of events to allow you to plan to attend all events for the year.

Mandatory vs. Optional

Mandatory classes, rehearsals, shows, competitions and events are compulsory. If a student misses a mandatory class, rehearsal or event they will be marked absent. Three absents results in dismissal from the team.

If a student misses a competition or show, they will be removed from the competitive team immediately. Optional attendance at team events is not required, but encouraged. If a student misses an optional event they will not be marked absent.

Absences: Training Classes

A maximum of 3 missed classes is permitted over the dance season. Any additional training classes will have to be made up in a training class of a different level, at no additional cost, within *two* weeks of the absence. If the class is not made up, the dancer will be suspended from the team.

On rare occasions attendance will not be taken and students are free to decide whether they would like to come to class or not (ex: PD Days, Inclement Weather, etc.) These days will not count towards absence records.

Absences: Mandatory team Choreography

A maximum of 3 missed choreography classes is permitted over the dance season. Missed choreography classes will need to be made up with a private lesson at an additional cost. Base choreography classes are to be scheduled with the office within *one* week of the absence **or the dancer will be removed from the dance.**

Absences: Extra Choreography

A maximum of 1 missed extra choreography class is permitted, per choreography, during the season. A second absence will need to be made up with a private lesson at an additional cost. Extra choreography classes are to be scheduled within *one* week of the absence **or the dancer will be removed from the dance. A third absence will result in automatic removal from the routine.**

Fees

Choreography fees, entry fees and costume fees are **non-refundable**.

Make up sessions for missed choreography classes will be scheduled by the office at a cost of \$60 per 45 minutes.

Mandatory Dress Rehearsal

Attendance is mandatory for all competitive dancers, if you are not in attendance, you will not be permitted to participate in the year end show or competitions.

Illness or Injury

If a dancer is **injured**, they are expected to attend all classes and rehearsals, mark choreography and exercises to the best of their ability. This will not result in an absence, providing the student participates to the best of their ability.

If a dancer is unwell or has an injury preventing them from participating in class, they will be considered absent.

If a dancer has any **contagious illness** (fever, flu, gastro, pink eye, etc.) it is the parent's responsibility to keep them at home. Please do not subject teammates & instructors to contagious illnesses.

As a courtesy to your instructor and other dancers, please notify the studio via phone (613-832-4648) or email (wcsopaoffice@gmail.com) prior to absences. This will be noted as an absence.

Snow Days

We will not put the lives of instructors, dancers and parents at risk in bad weather.

Training classes cancelled due to inclement weather WILL NOT be rescheduled.

Choreography classes cancelled due to inclement weather MAY be rescheduled and attendance will be mandatory.

Please be sure to check your email and the WCSOPA Facebook page for cancellations. You can also call the office (613-832-4648), for a recorded message of class cancellations.

Communication

Email is the primary form of communication for information, newsletters, and updates. Please be sure to check your email regularly. Please ensure your studio account is kept up to date with current email, phone, and/or address details.

Information will also be available through social media, www.facebook.com/wcsopa.dance.

We would also like to encourage you to join our team Facebook group:

WCSOPA Pre-comp and Competitive Team Group, www.facebook.com/groups/249639721806025/

If you wish to communicate with your child's instructor please wait until the class is over, **do not at anytime interrupt a class**. Please understand that instructors often teach consecutive classes, and in order to avoid taking time away from instruction, you may be asked to book an appointment outside of class time to talk to instructors.

If you wish to communicate with the office, you can do so by email (wcsopaoffice@gmail.com), phone (613-832-4648), or by letter (drop box located in waiting room).

A monthly newsletter will be sent via email keeping you informed and up to date on all important information, including all upcoming events. Copies will also be made available in the waiting room.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role at WCSOPA, helping to lower costs for everyone and improving the school as a whole. Throughout the 2017-2018 season, volunteers are required in several capacities. We hope there is something listed which interests you as your contribution will make a great difference. We welcome all volunteers and look forward to working together to make WCSOPA the best it can be! Families are expected to volunteer at **minimum in each of our events**; Christmas Showcase, Team Sleepover, Competitive dress rehearsal, Competitive Showcase and Annual Year End Showcase.

If you are NOT able to volunteer, a fee per student of \$80.00 will apply. This will allow us a small staff budget to manage the remaining tasks. Please attach this fee to the contract and return it to WCSOPA office.

STUDIO ATTIRE / DRESS CODE

Competitive dancers are expected to follow the dress code as it will be strictly enforced. The dress code helps us maintain professionalism and allows instructors to see body alignments and make productive corrections.

If a dancer is not properly attired they will be marked absent for class.

- Hair is to be neatly tied back out of the dancer's face
- A bun is mandatory for all ballet/pointe classes, auditions and workshops
- Jewelry is not permitted (stud earrings are acceptable)

Attire:

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| <u>Ballet Class:</u> | Pink tights, black WCSOPA bodysuit |
| <u>Jazz Class:</u> | Beige tights, black WCSOPA bodysuit |
| <u>Tap Class:</u> | Beige or black tights, black WCSOPA bodysuit |
| <u>Boys:</u> | WCSOPA T-shirt, black dance pants/shorts |
| <u>Choreo Class:</u> | Beige tights, black WCSOPA bodysuit |

Sweaters are permitted during warm-up only. Wrap skirt or fitted dancer shorts are optional at the Senior levels and can be worn only at the Instructors discretion.

Dance Shoes:

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| Girls: |
| Ballet: Pink ballet slippers (Angelo Luzio 246) |
| Jazz: Tan slip-on jazz shoe (Bloch 499) |
| Tap Jr/Inter: Beige Cuban heel tap shoes (TA44 Brand: SoDanca, Cuban Heel Leather Sole Synthetic Upper, Taps On) |
| Tap Sr: Black flat lace up tap shoes (CG19 or CG55) |
| Hip Hop: Indoor non-marking running shoes |
| Lyrical/Contemporary: Capezio Foot Undies |
| Boys: |
| Ballet: Black ballet slippers |
| Jazz: Black slip-on jazz shoe (Bloch 499) |
| Tap: Black flat lace up tap shoes (CG19) |
| Lyrical: Bare feet |

Additional styles and colours of shoes may be required for extra choreographies at competition. Details for competition entries will be specified with the additional choreography invites. Please keep a clean pair of shoes for performances and competitions.

Bodysuits

The studio bodysuit is a Capezio black tank style. All competitive dancers are required to wear their studio bodysuit for jazz, ballet, and choreography classes. Orders can be placed through wcsopa.ca starting in July 2017.

Team Jackets

Team jackets are mandatory for all competitive dancers. Team jackets are ordered through the clothing order form (available at the office) deadline to order is August 21, 2017. Team jackets are to be worn at competition and team events. Please note, the red jacket has been discontinued but is still an acceptable team jacket. All new orders will be for the black zip up jackets.

CLASS CONDUCT

Making a commitment to our competitive dance team requires dedication and a strong work ethic from both dancers and parents. Please come to class prepared and ready to **DANCE**. Out of respect and consideration for other dancers, dancers and parents are asked not to interrupt classes in progress. Water bottles are to be brought into class at the start of the class. All bags and jackets are to be left out in the waiting room.

Please respect the following Studio Rules.

1. **No chewing gum**
2. **No leaving the studio for the duration of class** (*please eat and go to the bathroom before class starts or on break*)
3. **No cell phones** (*please leave cell phones in the waiting room or at home*)
4. **Treat all peers and instructors with respect.** Rudeness, swearing, teasing, gossip or inattentive behavior will **NOT** be tolerated
5. **Arrive on time and in studio Dress Code**
6. **Warm up prior to the start of class**
7. **Parents are not allowed into the studio, unless given permission from the teacher**

Essentials to Bring to Class

1. **Positive energy – Never say “I can’t...”**
2. **Bottle of water**
3. **Extra hair elastics and bobby pins**

We strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all dancers to learn and grow. This requires that dancers display a willingness to learn and pay attention to the instructor at all times. Dancers are expected to show respect to instructors and other dancers. Disruptive or disrespectful behaviour takes instruction time away from the rest of the class and will not be tolerated.

If a dancer is disrespectful or disruptive, they will be given a verbal warning. If the behaviour continues, the dancer and parent will be required to meet with the Directors regarding the behaviour. If the behaviour continues, the dancer will be removed from the dance team. There are no refunds available.

COMPETITIONS

Competition Dates and Locations

Dress Rehearsal: Location TBA, Date: TBA

There will be 3 **mandatory** competitions and 1 optional competition in the 2017-2018 season. The locations and dates are currently TBD.

Students should be expected to be available for the entire duration of the competition, as schedules are often only sent out one or two weeks prior to the competition dates. WCSOPA has no control over the schedule at competitions.

Competition Etiquette

We need the support of our dance family at all competitions and performances. Our dancers have put their heart and soul into their dancing and a supportive cheering section is appreciated by the dancers and instructors.

Dancers will be expected to arrive at the time indicated by WCSOPA for all competitions and remain with their group until after their performance. This time is imperative for warming up both the body and mind. Dancers are required to wear their team jackets and to be part of the award ceremonies for each routine they participate in.

It is the dancer's responsibility to make sure they have all related costume pieces, accessories, and shoes. Triple-check your bags prior to competition as it affects the entire group when one dancer is missing a piece of their costume.

Awards

All awards, special awards and trophies for **group dances** are the property of WCSOPA and will be kept at the studio. Should you wish to have a personal award for your dancer, please purchase a single award at that specific competition.

Props

It is understood that if your child's routine requires a prop/set, it is the parent's responsibility to provide, build and transport the prop/set. Please do not use studio property for props/sets.

CURFEW

When we go to competitions we are a team, we have all put in a great deal of time and energy in hopes of doing well. Late nights and early mornings can erase all of your hard work. A curfew will be in place for shows and competitions.

EXTRA CHOREOGRAPHIES

Extra choreography rehearsals will be held starting in January, and students participating in solos, duets or trios should be expected to be available during the Christmas holidays.

In order for any dancer to perform in a Solo, Duet and/or Trio she/he must first sign up for a minimum number of group routines. These stipulations will be detailed with your extra choreography invitation package.

Students will only be invited to participate in additional choreographies for Tap, Hip Hop, Musical Theater, Contemporary, Acro, Pointe, or B-boy/girl (break dancing) if they are enrolled in a Tap, Hip Hop, Musical Theater, Contemporary, Acro, Pointe, or B-boy/girl (break dancing) class.

Early start dates are available upon request. Please note, all early starts will have additional fees.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Parents & Dancers: As a Competitive Team Member you can expect:

- WCSOPA will welcome you with open arms
- A safe & nurturing environment for all dancers
- Open door policy... if it concerns you; it concerns us
- All teachers & staff will be punctual, respectful & supportive

After reading and accepting these guidelines, please sign the attached contract, and return it to the WCSOPA office. Acceptance of Expectations and Guidelines for Competitive Dance Students

Participation in the WCSOPA Competitive Team Program requires a solid commitment to all the policies listed above in the competitive contract. By signing below, you fully accept these policies and all obligations associated with the WCSOPA Competitive Program. This contract must be signed prior to class participation.

I understand that pictures/videos taken may be used for promotional purposes.

Parent(s) Name (please print) _____

Dancer's name: (please print) _____

By signing this page, I am acknowledging that I understand the expectations made of me as part of the WCSOPA competitive dance team.

In addition, I agree to abide by the following expectations:

- I will wear appropriate studio dress code for all classes
- I will wear my hair in a neat bun for all ballet and barre classes
- I will NOT bring my cell phone or other electronics into class
- I will arrive on time and be prepared for class
- I will rehearse choreography outside of class time and come to class knowing my dances/choreography
- I will show respect to my instructors during all classes
- I will show respect to my fellow dancers, both in and out of the studio
- I understand that if I fail to abide by these expectations there are consequences that will be implemented as outlined in the contract, which could include being removed from the competitive team, and that there will be no refund of any fees paid
- I understand that there are **no refunds** on any fees for any reason

I, _____, have read the 2017-2018 WCSOPA Competitive Contract and understand that my signature constitutes acceptance of all obligations outlined.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I am willing to volunteer

I am not willing to volunteer and have included an \$80 cheque

I, _____, have read the 2017-2018 WCSOPA Competitive Contract and understand that by signing this page, I agree to, and will follow the obligations in the contract.

Dancer's Signature: _____ Date: _____