

# BEST SUPERSTARS 2024-25 TEAM HANDBOOK

# WELCOME TO THE BEST SUPERSTARS DANCE TEAM!

*Please read through this manual thoroughly. All information in this handbook is subject to change per the discretion of the Studio Director.*

*An electronic agreement form will be emailed and texted to each family and must be signed and submitted no later than September 30, 2024.*

The Best Superstars is a traveling competition dance team. We travel every other year for our national dance competition and on occasion some regional competitions. We are comprised of up to 75 dancers ranging from the ages of 6-19 years.

Being a part of the Best Superstars Dance Team will require consistent hard work and dedication from August to Early June (early July on travel years). Dancers are required to attend regular classes twice a week and occasional weekend rehearsals once choreography begins.

BEST Superstars may also partake in other performance opportunities throughout the year. These may include being a part of parades, televised performances and community service events. *These performances may or may not have participation fees depending on the caliber of the event.*

## COMMUNICATION

All communications for the Best Superstars Dance Team will be sent via text messaging, email and/or phone call. All team information can be found on our website [www.besttalentcenter.com](http://www.besttalentcenter.com) under the COMPETITION TAB. It is imperative that you notify the studio if any of your contact information changes.

Text: All rehearsal and class information (schedules, cancellations etc), fundraisers, reminders, and studio closings.

Email: Any general studio announcements such as studio closures and also team placements.

Phone: Our front desk will contact parents or guardians for various reasons.

Website: All information related to the team may be located on the website.

Parent Portal: All information related to the team may be located on parent portal (*coming October 2024*)

## PLACEMENTS

Placement on the BEST Superstars Dance Team is based on the following criteria: technique, enthusiasm, and stage presence. We place students together in groups that we feel will work best together in rehearsals and performances. Competition team members selections are suggested by judges during tryouts and are reviewed and selected by Best Staff.

## REGULAR CLASSES

Will include Ballet\*, Acro, Jazz Technique, Body Conditioning, Performance/Rehearsal Class, Tap (for some dancers).

\*Dancers will be assessed at the beginning of each season to ensure they are placed into a ballet class that will allow them to hone their skills and grow throughout the season.

## EXTRA REHEARSALS

Extra rehearsals/or team gatherings may be called approaching a performance or competition. Extra rehearsals will be held on Saturdays, Sundays or at other times that the studio's schedule permits. Students and parents will be notified of any additional rehearsals at least one week prior to the date. We will make our best efforts to schedule additional rehearsals well in advance.

## COMPETITION & CONVENTIONS

Each year, the BEST Superstars Dance Team will attend 2-3 Regional competitions and 1 to 2 conventions. We will also compete at 1 National Dance Competition\* that may be held out of town. Please be aware that becoming a team member will obligate you to these competitions and conventions. All Regional competitions are held on weekends and are a full day and quite often a full weekend commitment. Competition management does not send the performance day and time to the studio until 5-7 days prior to the event. Dancers and parents will need to be available for the entire weekend. We highly encourage you to come out and support teammates on the days you are not scheduled to compete.

\*Please note during Nationals we may ask that you keep your schedule open. We may call for a rehearsal during a day we identify our team is not competing.

# TEAM GEAR AND SPIRIT WEAR

## TEAM GEAR

It is mandatory that all competition members have BTC team jackets and a competition book bags for competitions/conventions/performances. Team jackets cost \$150 (jacket w/dancer's name & leggings). Competition book bags cost \$45. Dancers must wear their team jacket or jersey upon arrival and when leaving all competitions, conventions, and performances.

## SPIRIT WEAR

Spirit wear will be ordered twice a year. You may submit your order & pay online. We will offer BTC t-shirts & jerseys.

# TUITION AND FEES

## MONTHLY TUITION

Tuition is due at the beginning of each month and AUTODRAFT is required for payment. Please stop by the front desk to enroll. Payments will be processed on the 5th of each month.

## COMPETITION FEES

Each team member is responsible for paying competitions fees. The cost is lined out along with dues date on your dancers fee sheet.

## CHOREOGRAPHY FEES

Each team member is responsible for paying choreography fees. The cost is lined out along with dues date on your dancer's fee sheet.

## COSTUME FEES

Each team member is responsible for paying costume fees. The cost per costume is \$130. This fee includes tailoring, shipping, steaming, and any preparation needed to make sure the costume is stage ready.

## REFUNDS

No refunds of tuition, competition fees, choreography fees, dance attire(including shoes and team gear purchases or costume fees will be issued if dancer is dismissed from or quits the team.

## FUNDRAISERS

Each team member is required to participate in the annual BTC raffle ticket fundraiser. Each dancer must sell a minimum of \$35 worth of raffle tickets in December, anything sold over the first \$35 will go towards costume & competition fees.

We will have additional fundraising opportunities throughout the year that are optional. All of the funds raised (less the fundraising fee) will be applied to your dancer's account.

## CORE ROUTINES

Students will be required to compete a set number of routines and this will be communicated via email prior to the start of the season.

## SPECIALTY ROUTINES

Some students may receive an invitation to be a part of specialty group routines. Please know this is optional and accepting the invite is up to the discretion of the parent. All specialty group routines will be decided upon by choreographers and the studio director, not all dancers will be invited to participate. These routines are in addition to your core assigned routines and are optional, you may decline to participate.

# SOLOS, DUETS, TRIOS

Staff is constantly watching and identifying dancers who are ready for a solo, duet or trio. This is to ensure that each dancer that is paired with a compatible choreographer and genre that will allow them to shine on stage. Requests will be reviewed and discussed between the requested choreographer and the studio director. Approval or alternative suggestion will be communicated to the parent and dancer. In some cases, the studio director may meet with the dancer and parent(s) to discuss the request to compete a solo, duet, or trio. If you decide to compete a solo, duet or trio, be mindful that rehearsal times for these routines will be outside of your regular classes, team rehearsal time and there are additional costs associated with these routines. Additional fees include:

CHOREOGRAPHY FEES: start at \$375(may be higher) and is decided by the choreographer.

50% is paid at the first session and the final 50% is paid upon completion of the choreography being taught to the dancer. COMPETITION FEES: SOLOS \$160 per each regional competition/\$170 per national

DUETS/TRIOS: \$80 per each regional competition/\$90 for nationals.

## COSTUME FEES

Costumes are generally decided by the parent and the choreographer. If the costume needs to be ordered by the studio the parent must communicate that to the front desk. Payment of 50% is due at the time of placing the order.

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## ATTIRE

ALL Best Superstars team members must wear all black dance attire. ABSOLUTELY No T-shirts or sweatshirts may be worn to rehearsals or class. Please refer to attire list that will be given out the first week of Mandatory Dance intensives.

## HAIR

Should be neatly pulled back PRIOR to arrival to class. Any hair past the dancers neck must be put in a bun. Braids longer than your waist will not be permitted. Long braids are a distraction and inhibit dancers from being able to spot and turn, also they tend to hit other team members. Therefore, dancers with longer braid must secure their hair in a bun PRIOR to arriving at the studio.

JEWELRY (necklaces, bracelet, rings, watches, earrings larger than a stud) are not permitted while in class.

Forgetting dancewear, shoes, proper hair and/or wearing inappropriate clothing is not acceptable and the dancer will not be allowed to attend class.

## ATTENDANCE & TIME COMMITMENT

We are a team....ONE TEAM! ONE DREAM! We require dancers to attend all classes and rehearsals. Absences will not only affect the individual dancer, but the team as a whole. Punctuality is just as important as attendance, please be on time and prepared for class. Dance requires consistent ongoing training, and dancers who excessively miss classes will not be able to perform at the same level as those who have attended all classes regularly. Excessive absences may cause dismissal from part or all of a routine(s). No refund of payment will be given in the event of dismissal from a routine.

Team members must be present in ALL of their classes and rehearsals the week prior to every performance and competition. Being a member of a competitive dance team is a privilege and comes with responsibility. Personal accountability is essential for a successful season, and commitment to your other team members is a vital component to our success. When a member of the team is not present, it negatively impacts your entire team. Please do not consider being a part of the BEST Superstars if you expect frequent scheduling conflicts with other sports or activities.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

All electronic devices (cellphones, tablets, smart watches, etc.) must be put away 10 minutes before class begins and may not use their device during breaks between classes. Any dancer that does not comply, will be asked to bring their phone to the front desk until they leave for the day and will also receive a STIKE. Their electronic device will be returned when the dancer leaves to go home.

## STUDIO CODE OF CONDUCT

All Best Dance and Talent Center (BDTC) activities are approached with professionalism and integrity. We are committed to providing a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment that seeks not only to instill a lifetime love of dance in our students, but to develop important life skills as well – respect, commitment, reliability and teamwork included. To ensure a happy and positive experience for all involved, it is important that students, parents (including caregivers or legal guardians), extended friends, family members and staff be familiar with and agree to adhere to the following requirements of participation. It must be understood that as a member of this organization, both the students and participating parents are members of the BDTC Family and therefore representatives of BDTC and must maintain high moral and ethical standards.

To ensure a happy and positive experience for all involved, it is important that students, parents (including caregivers or legal guardians), extended friends, family members and staff be familiar with and agree to adhere to the following requirements of participation. It must be understood that as a member of this organization, both the students and participating parents are members of the BDTC Family and therefore representatives of BDTC and must maintain high moral and ethical standards. These guidelines serve as the foundation for maintaining a successful dance season.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Must display respect for studio and fellow students
- Must act as a leader at ALL times while representing the studio (both in person and on social media).
- Maintain a positive attitude during every team function.
- Maintain a positive attitude, RESPECT and cooperation towards ALL teammates, teachers and staff

## CONDUCT

- All team members will be treated equally. No one member is more important than any other. We are a team and unity is our goal!
- Respect is a necessity! All members are expected to act for the benefit of the team.
- All team members will act in a respectful manner at all times towards teammates, teachers, staff AND opposing studios.
- Negativity will not be tolerated. Bad attitudes will not be tolerated. One bad attitude will affect the entire team.
- Disruptive or blatant disrespect toward others or lack of respect for the policies of the studio will result in disciplinary action, up to dismissal.
- Team members must not use foul language during or after practices, or performances.
- Team members must not use tobacco, alcoholic beverages or illegal substances. This will result in automatic dismissal from the team at a Best Dance and Talent Center event.

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

We believe that in order for our studio to remain safe space for all dancers and staff, every dancer must be held accountable for their actions. We at Best Dance have implemented a THREE STRIKE system. This system will allow for every dancer to be given the opportunity to correct the negative behavior that has been cited by BEST STAFF (instructors, choreographers, administrative staff & appointed parent chaperones). Failure to comply will result in suspension and if further negative behavior persists the dancer will be removed from the team.

The THREE STRIKE SYSTEM is as follows:

STRIKE ONE: verbal warning given

STRIKE TWO: dancer will be asked to leave the classroom (or area) and a call home to parent to inform them of the behavior

STRIKE THREE: A conference will take place with the dancer, parent, instructor/choreographer, and studio director

## SOCIAL MEDIA & TEXT GROUP CHATS

Any inappropriate comments written or photos/videos posted on ANY social media site/or discussed in any group chats about the BEST DANCE & TALENT CENTER or teammate(s) will be cause for disciplinary action and can result in removal from the studio. This includes the sharing of information posted or written by others.

For example: forwarding texts, sharing snap chats, or tweeting/retweeting. This includes chat group discussions about one another or other teammates.

Information posted on websites, Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, Snapchat, etc., is public (even if you have your account set to private). You will be dismissed immediately for inappropriate actions. ALL information, words, pictures should be appropriate.

## ZERO TOLERANCE

Conduct unbecoming of a dancer either at the studio or in the community will result in suspension or dismissal from the team/studio. This includes but is not limited to fighting or other inappropriate behaviors. Dancers must always be a good representation of BDTC.



# EXPECTATION AT COMPETITIONS

## CODE OF CONDUCT AT COMPETITIONS

While onsite of the competition every team member must conduct themselves accordingly. Dancers and parents are a representation of our studio. Inappropriate behavior as well as recording routines (this includes anyone connected to our team parents, friends, and family members) could result in our studio being disqualified from the competition.

ON STAGE: While on stage each dancer must wear either their BTC team jacket, BTC team jersey, or BTC issued T-shirt. No dancer may be on stage without the appropriate BTC spirit wear. Dancers should not have their backs facing the audience and absolutely no gum chewing. Dancers not in compliance will be asked to leave the stage by an instructor or the Studio Director.

WHEN RECEIVING AWARDS: Each routine will have a dancer designated to receive the award issued by the competition. This dancer will be notified in writing and the selected dancer will be reminded the day of the competition that they are to accept the award on the studio's behalf. Pins, ribbons, and trophies should NOT be handed out, they should be given to Ms. Marcia upon leaving the stage after awards are over. Upon receiving the award dancer(s) must stand in 5th position if asked to stand in a line up on stage. Every dancer must make sure they are aware of who the choreographer is and of course the name of our studio "Best Dance & Talent Center" *Make sure you are smiling when you are on stage!*

There should be no horseplaying, arguing or fighting over awards received, nor shall there be any cellphones, water bottles or brought on stage during the awards ceremony.

## COMPETITION DRESS CODE

Competition day is a very demanding day. Dancers have prepared all season for these events. We are a TEAM and we must stay on one accord throughout each day of the competition. Warmup jacket or BTC Jersey must be worn at all times when dancers are not competing. No scarves or bonnets are to be worn at the competition.

HAIR and MAKEUP will be decided by the Studio Director and will be communicated in writing at the beginning of each year.

Finally...

Don't forget to have fun! You'll gain lifetime of great memories and friendships during this time together so enjoy every second!

We strive to make this the most

positive and rewarding

experience for our dancers and

look forward to having an

exciting dance season!