

Lake Dance Steps

Competition Team Information & Contract

2026–2027

We are **VERY** excited about the upcoming competition season and look forward to working with your dancer this year! It is important to understand that the competition aspect should be viewed primarily as a performance opportunity. Competition results are strictly subjective opinions; a dancer's growth cannot be fully gauged by scores or achievements alone.

Students are encouraged to strive for personal excellence and work to their full capacity. Each dancer is unique, bringing individual strengths, weaknesses, and distinct talents to the team. Beyond the stage, they will bond as a **TEAM** and **BUILD FRIENDSHIPS** that will last a lifetime. We want this season to be a highly **POSITIVE** and **REWARDING** experience for every dancer!

Team Requirements

- **Scope of Competition:** Compete locally, regionally, and nationally (exact events vary from year to year).
 - **Recital Attendance:** Mandatory attendance and participation in both annual Lake Dance Steps recitals.
 - **Community Performances:** Perform at the Emmett Cherry Festival and any other scheduled community events.
 - **Technique Class:** Mandatory for all competitive dancers. Final placements will be determined by the coaching staff.
 - **Ballet Class:** Mandatory for all competitive dancers. Placements will be determined by Raquel and Julie. Dancers are also required to attend the summer ballet session.
 - **Mandatory Events:** All in-house workshops—including Saturday practices, extra rehearsals, guest instructor blocks, and the team photo shoot—are mandatory unless explicitly stated otherwise.
 - **Attendance Policy:**
 - While the studio makes every effort to be flexible and accommodating regarding school conflicts or important family activities, joining the team means agreeing that dance is a priority in your schedule.
 - A dancer may not miss more than **5 practices** over the entire season.
 - Please communicate with coaches/instructors if you will miss class! Exceeding 5 absences in any given class for the season will result in dismissal from that specific choreography without a refund **OR** a charge of **\$20 per missed class** applied to the account to cover choreography changes and instructor time.
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Dancer Expectations

- **Attire & Dress Code:**
 - *Ballet Classes:* Black leotard, tights (black dance shorts permitted), hair secured in a clean bun, and ballet or contemporary shoes.
 - *Technique Classes:* Leotard with hair pulled back tightly.

- *Competition Classes*: Leotard with hair pulled back tightly. For cleaning rehearsals, all-black attire is required (dancers will be notified ahead of time).
- **Arrival & Readiness**: Dancers must arrive at competition venues in full team makeup and hair **1–2 hours prior** to their scheduled performances. Details will be provided ahead of time, and dancers are expected to be ready to perform immediately upon arrival.
- **Team Identity**: Dancers must wear their official team jacket to every competition and on stage for all award ceremonies.
- **Absences & Illness**: School absences that impact a grade must be communicated to the instructor in advance. If a dancer is sick, please use an absence to stay home and recover. Otherwise, dancers who are injured or mildly unwell should attend to observe, bringing a dance journal or device to take notes and video from the side.
- **Injuries**: Any injury must be immediately communicated to the instructor so a modified plan can be created in accordance with medical recommendations.
- **Appearance Restrictions**:
 - Remove all piercings (unless utilizing assigned team earrings) and jewelry for all performances and competitions.
 - Remove all nail polish from fingers and toes prior to performances and competitions.
 - *Hygiene*: Dancers ages 9 and older (Juniors/Teens) must apply deodorant before classes and rehearsals. Keeping a spare deodorant in your dance bag is highly recommended.
 - *Grooming*: For competitions and classes where leotards or tank-style costumes are worn, underarms should be clean-shaven to maintain a uniform, professional appearance.
- **Team Makeup**: Dancers must wear the designated team makeup look as determined by the director.

Solo Performance Guidelines

- **Deadlines & Auditions**: For dancers wishing to compete with a solo, all choreography, costumes, and music selections must be finalized by **January 1st**. Costumes/Music must be approved by Alesha/Amanda/Raquel. A mandatory solo tryout is required to receive final competitive approval.
- **Choreography Fees**: Soloists must secure an approved choreographer. Please contact your choreographer this summer (as soon as possible) to schedule dates.
 - The base cost is **\$200+ per solo**, which includes 3 choreography sessions and music editing.
 - If additional time is needed or requested for cleaning and polishing, the rate is **\$50/hour**. All scheduling and financial transactions must be handled directly with the choreographer.
- **Support & Volunteering**: We rely on parent support for fundraisers, pre-competition gifts, and team-bonding activities. We aim to have a dedicated "Team Mom" for every dance this season—please let us know if you are interested in volunteering!
- **Studio Boundary**: **No parents are allowed inside the classrooms** during instruction. Parents may occasionally be invited in during the final few minutes

of a class to view progress. Please respect the privacy of our dancers to help them stay focused on their instructors.

Studio Communication

We utilize the **Band App** as our primary communication tool this season. Please check the app **daily** for important updates, schedule changes, and logistical announcements. Kindly use the platform for informational purposes only.

Tuition & Fees

Participating in a competitive program requires a structured financial commitment. Tuition is automatically processed on the **1st of each month**. Costume and competition fees will be processed on their respective due dates unless settled early.

Monthly Tuition Breakdown

- **Competition Dance Bundle** (*Choreography & Technique*): \$95/month
- **Add-on Team Dances**: \$20/month per additional dance
- **Ballet Class**: \$50/month
- **Pre-Pointe / Pointe**: \$20/month (*Highly encouraged for Ballet 2 and older to build crucial ankle and leg strength, even if the dancer does not intend to go en pointe*).

Uniform & Costume Estimates

- **Team Jacket**: \$70
- **Team Competitive Costumes**: \$75 per dance
- **Ballet Costume**: Budget approximately \$75 (*Exact total announced later; we look for closeouts or dual-use options*).
- **Production Routine Costume**: Fee deferred until after winter break. We aim to reduce this cost by repurposing existing studio inventory and adding new accessories.
- *Note*: Additional standard items such as nude tights, dance shoes, and black and nude leotards must be purchased separately if your dancer does not already own them. Costume fees are estimates; occasionally, minor prop or accessory expenses may arise during the season.
- **All base costume fees are due by October 1st.**

2027 Competition Schedule

We attend 3 core team competitions.

Competition	Location	Dates	Fees Due Date & Rates
Kick Off Classic Boise	Nampa Civic Center	Feb 5–6, 2027	Due Dec 15: • \$30 / Team Dance • \$85 / Standard Solo • \$120 / Queen Solo
Team Dance Competition <i>(New!)</i>	Nampa Civic Center	Mar 12–13, 2027	Due Nov 25: • \$60 / Team Dance • \$135 / Solo
Showcase Spectacular <i>(Nationals)</i>	Lagoon Park (Farmington, UT)	Apr 30–May 1, 2027	Due Mar 10: • \$30 / Team Dance • \$95 / Standard Solo • \$135 / Queen Solo
Spotlight <i>(Optional - Solos/Duos/Trios Only)</i>	Nampa Civic Center	Apr 15–17, 2027	Due Feb 28: • \$200 / Solo • \$120 / Per Dancer (Duo/Trio)

Please Return the Section Below by August 12th

2026–2027 Team Agreement

I understand that being selected for the Lake Dance Steps Competition Team is a distinct privilege.

Please initial next to each statement below (Parent initials required unless noted otherwise):

Initial	Agreement Statement
_____	I have read through this informational packet completely, discussed it as a family, and agree to fulfill the required financial and time commitments.
_____	I am committed to the entire contract year (from the time of acceptance through the conclusion of the Cherry Festival in June 2027) with Lake Dance Steps. If we break this contract early, I understand that all funds paid on the account are non-refundable, and I will remain financially responsible for outstanding pre-ordered costumes, monthly tuition balance, and submitted competition fees.
_____	(Parent & Dancer) We agree to maintain a positive, respectful, and professional attitude and work ethic at all times when representing the studio.
_____	I understand that my dancer and our family represent Lake Dance Steps both inside and outside the studio walls. Inappropriate or disrespectful behavior, social media posts, comments, stories, or language reflecting negatively on the studio will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal.
_____	I place full trust in the faculty's professional decisions regarding casting, choreography, level placement, and overall team management.

Dancer Name (Printed):

Parent Signature:

Date: _____

Student Signature:

Date: _____