

TARA-JAYNE DANCE ACADEMY



COMPETITION TEAM HANDBOOK 2027

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Welcome

Congratulations on being selected to join our Competition Team!

Being part of our team is a privilege and an exciting opportunity. It is also a commitment that requires dedication, teamwork, responsibility, and a positive attitude.

Our competition program is designed to help dancers grow not only as performers, but also as confident, resilient, respectful young people. Success is measured by personal growth, teamwork, sportsmanship, and the joy of performing—not just by trophies or scores.

This handbook outlines the expectations for dancers and families throughout the competition season. By joining our team, you agree to support these expectations and contribute positively to our studio culture.

Our Team Values

Our competition team is built on the following values:

- Respect
- Commitment
- Teamwork
- Kindness
- Integrity
- Growth
- Resilience
- Excellence

We celebrate effort, progress, and supporting one another.

Team Commitment

Competition dance requires a higher level of commitment than recreational classes.

Dancers are expected to:

- Attend all scheduled classes and rehearsals
- Arrive on time and ready to dance
- Practise choreography between rehearsals
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Support teammates
- Represent the studio with pride

Parents are expected to support these commitments by ensuring their child attends rehearsals, communicates absences promptly, and is prepared for competitions.

What We Offer

We offer the following competition teams:

- U12 Hip Hop Team
- U12 Jazz Team
- Senior Hip Hop Team
- Senior Jazz & Contemporary Team

Please note that our Jazz and Contemporary Team is **combined**. If you do one, you must do the other.

Dancers in our U12 Jazz Team and Senior Jazz & Contemporary Teams must enrol and attend the weekly jazz/ballet technique class, designated to the team, which will be timetabled directly before the Team class starts

We offer solo/duo/trio in many different styles:

- Jazz
- Contemporary
- Hip Hop
- Lyrical
- Ballet/Classical
- Character

A dancer doing a solo/duo/trio in a particular style, must be taking weekly lessons in that style.

If a dancer withdraws from weekly classes, any associated solo, duo or trio may also be withdrawn from competition

Attendance Policy

Attendance is essential to the success of the team - competition choreography relies on every dancer being present.

Required Attendance

All competition team dancers are expected to attend:

- Weekly classes
- Competition rehearsals
- Team rehearsals
- Dress rehearsals
- Workshops (where required)
- Competitions
- Studio performances

If a dancer cannot attend due to illness or an emergency, families must notify the Studio Director as soon as possible.

Repeated absences may result in choreography changes or **removal from routines** or **removal from the competition team** at the studio if they affect the team's preparation.

More than **two absences in a term** may affect a dancer's position within competition routines or the competition team. Each situation will be considered individually, taking into account the reason for the absences.

Fees

Competition Team fees may include:

- Weekly tuition for that enrolment
- Competition entry fees
- Choreography fees
- Teacher travel costs

Invoices are **payable by the due dates** advised on the invoice.

Late payment may affect participation in competitions.

There is a **\$50 competition fee per family** applied to accounts at the start of term 1. This helps cover costs associated with competitions eg. Entry fees. This is for our Competition teams only, not to dancers only competing in solo/duo/trio.

Competition Team Fees:

U12 Jazz Team - \$180 per term

U12 Hip Hop Team - \$180 per term

Senior Hip Hop Team - \$200 per term

Senior Jazz & Contemporary Team - \$250 per term

U12 & Senior Jazz/Ballet Technique - \$160 per term

Solo/Duo/Trio Fees:

Solo:

30 Minutes - \$30

1 hour - \$60

Duo/Trio:

30 minutes - \$20

1 hour - \$40

Competition fees are non-refundable once choreography has commenced or competition entries have been submitted.

Punctuality

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before every rehearsal and competition call time.

Late arrivals disrupt rehearsals and impact the entire team.

Consistent late arrivals will result in a discussion about the dancers further incorporation in the competition teams.

Uniform & Dance Attire

A dress code is required for all competition team classes, as well as solo/duo/trio lessons, which is relevant to the style:

Jazz – fitted clothing and jazz shoes

Contemporary – fitted clothing and bare feet or half soles

Hip Hop – loose/baggy clothing and enclosed shoes

Lyrical – fitted clothing and bare feet or half soles

Ballet/Classical – Leotard and skirt, pink ballet tights and ballet shoes

Hair must be tied back in all classes.

Jewellery must be kept to a minimum, unless medically required.

A studio competition team jacket is **compulsory** to purchase and wear as uniform to all competitions and studio events.

TJDA class uniform is available for purchase, however it is not mandatory to wear to class each week

Commitment to Training

Competition dancers should:

- Attend all compulsory classes.
- Practise at home regularly.
- Work towards improving technique.
- Set personal goals.
- Demonstrate a willingness to learn.

Teachers may provide individual feedback throughout the year to support each dancer's development.

Routine placement, formations, featured roles and casting decisions are made solely by the Studio Director and teaching staff based on choreography, suitability, attendance, commitment and the needs of each routine.

These decisions are final.

TJDA COMPETITION TEAM DANCERS ARE NOT ABLE TO DANCE OR TAKE CLASS IN ANY OTHER DANCE STUDIO IN THE EAST GIPPSLAND REGION.

Behaviour Expectations

Competition dancers are ambassadors for our studio.

Students are expected to:

- Demonstrate kindness
- Encourage teammates
- Listen respectfully
- Accept corrections positively
- Display good sportsmanship
- Arrive with a positive “can-do” attitude
- Respect teachers, adjudicators, volunteers, venue staff, and other studios

The following behaviours are not acceptable:

- Bullying, including online or through social media, will not be tolerated
- Gossip
- Negative comments about teammates or oneself
- Disrespectful behaviour
- Poor sportsmanship
- Inappropriate language
- Damaging studio property

Parent Expectations

Competition families play an important role in our team culture.

Parents are asked to:

- Encourage effort over results
- Speak positively about all dancers
- Respect coaching decisions
- Support studio policies
- Communicate concerns privately with the Studio Director
- Avoid discussing concerns through social media or group chats
- Parents should avoid coaching from the audience or backstage unless requested by a teacher

Children benefit when parents model respect and positivity.

If a parent or dancer has a concern, they should speak directly with the Studio Director. Concerns should not be discussed with other families, dancers, or through social media.

Competitions

Competition schedules are provided as early as possible.

Please understand that competition organisers may change running orders, schedules, or venues.

Families should remain flexible and follow updates from the studio.

All competitions that the studio enters are compulsory to attend and compete at

These are:

East Gippsland Performing Arts Eisteddfod (Bairnsdale) – runs mid-late June

Morwell Festival of Dance (Morwell) – runs first week of June/July School Holidays

La Trobe Valley Eisteddfod (Traralgon) – runs first week of September School Holidays

If a dancer is unavailable for **one** of the above competitions, this unfortunately means they are **unable to compete** as a team at all competitions due to choreography and arrangements. This also means they are **unable** to attend weekly senior team classes. Competition Team members are expected to attend all nominated competitions. If exceptional circumstances prevent attendance, this must be discussed with the Studio Director as early as possible. Ongoing participation in the team will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Competition Day Expectations

On competition day, dancers must:

- Arrive on time
- Wear the correct studio uniform
- Bring all costumes and shoes
- Have hair and makeup completed as instructed
- Stay with the team unless released to a parent
- Respect venue rules

Parents and dancers should ensure they have:

- Healthy snacks
- Water bottle
- Dance shoes
- Tights
- Costume accessories
- Emergency sewing kit
- Hair supplies

Costumes

Costumes remain the property of the family once paid for, unless otherwise stated.

Families and dancers are responsible for:

- Keeping costumes clean
- Transporting costumes safely
- Completing minor repairs
- Returning hired costumes in good condition

Costumes should not be altered or changed without permission.

Costume fees will be kept to a minimum where possible.

Hair & Makeup

Uniform presentation reflects professionalism.

Families must follow studio instructions regarding:

- Hairstyles
- Hair accessories
- Makeup
- Jewellery
- Nail polish

Failure to follow presentation requirements may result in deductions or additional stress on competition day.

Backstage Behaviour

Backstage areas should remain calm and professional.

Dancers are expected to:

- Speak quietly
- Respect and encourage other performers
- Keep costumes tidy
- Stay with the team
- Listen to teachers

Parents should only access backstage where permitted by event organisers and TJDA teachers.

Sportsmanship

Winning is exciting, but it is not the purpose of competition.

Our team celebrates:

- Personal improvement
- Confidence
- Courage
- Hard work
- Team success
- Respect for others

Every dancer deserves encouragement regardless of results.

Social Media

Dancers and families are welcome to celebrate achievements respectfully.

Please:

- Represent the studio positively
- Avoid negative comments about judges, competitions, studios, or dancers
- Respect photography restrictions at competitions
- Consider the privacy of other dancers before posting images

Dancers should not be taking any photographs or videos in designated change area rooms

Health & Safety

Healthy dancers perform their best.

Dancers should:

- Eat nutritious meals
- Stay hydrated
- Get enough sleep
- Warm up properly
- Report injuries early

Injuries

If a dancer is injured:

- Notify the Studio Director immediately
- Provide relevant medical advice where appropriate
- Participate in modified activities if approved

A medical clearance may be required before returning to full participation.

Returning to dance too early may increase the risk of further injury

Child Safety

Our studio is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for every child.

Competition events are conducted in accordance with our Child Safety Policy.

Students should immediately report any behaviour that makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable to a teacher or the Studio Director.

Please see our designated TJDA Child Safe Policy

Communication

Competition information will be shared through our approved communication channels.

Families are responsible for reading:

- Competition schedules
- Rehearsal updates
- Costume information
- Travel details
- Payment reminders

Our Commitment

As teachers, we promise to:

- Provide quality training
- Encourage every dancer
- Create a positive team culture
- Prioritise child safety and wellbeing
- Communicate openly with families
- Celebrate every dancer's achievements

Competition Team Agreement

By joining our Competition Team, dancers and parents agree to:

- Support the values of our studio
- Demonstrate respect at all times
- Honour attendance commitments
- Encourage teammates
- Communicate openly and respectfully
- Represent the studio with pride both on and off the stage

Upon enrolling in our Competition Team Classes, you have read and agree to the above policies and standards outlined in this document. Failure to comply will result in suspension or cancellation of the dancers position in the competition teams.

Together, we create a team that is supportive, inclusive, hardworking, and proud to perform together.

Thank you for being part of our Competition Team. We are excited to share an incredible season with you and look forward to watching every dancer grow in confidence, skill, and passion.

Student Signature:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Date:___/___/___

