

## 2017-2018 Zeeland Youth Dance Company and Zeeland Dance Company Contract

The following are the rules and requirements for participating in ZYDC/ZDC:

- 1.) **Dancers must enroll in weekly technique classes.** The minimum requirement is two classes per week and at least one of those being a Ballet Technique class. Secondary classes meet the requirement for the second class. A la carte classes such as Hip Hop or Tap do not meet the weekly requirement. Dancers in ZDC are highly encouraged to take at least three weekly classes, two Ballet classes and one Secondary.

Dancers should remain in good standing with attendance in their required classes. Dancers missing more than three technique classes in a semester, may jeopardize their Company status.

- 2.) **Summer Maintenance:** To maintain strength, flexibility, and the technique needed to learn difficult company choreography throughout the year, all dancers in Company are expected to continue their training in the summer months through enrollment and attendance in at least one weekly Ballet Tech class. Pointe dancers should take two Ballet Tech classes throughout the summer.

### 3.) **Dress Code:**

- A.) Black leotard needed as base layer for performances:  
Adult sizes: Capezio CC110 Camisole Leotard with BraTek  
Child sizes: Capezio CC100-C Camisole Leotard with adjustable straps  
\*Dancers may wear solid black leotard of their choice to weekly rehearsals.
- B.) Pink convertible or footed tights in good condition should be worn to Company rehearsals
- C.) Arrive with hair in secure, neat bun, no bangs on the face. If hair is too short for a bun, it must be secured off the forehead and off the neck, if possible. When buns are required for performances, dancers will need to have a hair piece if they do not have enough hair for a bun. The goal is to have hair that does not need to be redone throughout class.
- D.) Pink canvas split-sole ballet slippers (we like Pro-Elastic by Bloch) and tan slide-on jazz shoes for the feet.
- E.) No visible undergarments, please. Underwear is generally not worn under leotards; tights serve as the bottom layer. If a dancer needs chest support, please find a nude bra created to look invisible under leotards or a **black** sports bra that blends into your leotard. Please note: most young dancers can get by for many years with a lined leotard, a leo with a shelf bra, or a body tight under their leo, before ever needing a bra.
- F.) No tank tops.
- G.) Long sleeve leotards may be worn in winter time for warmth, otherwise a fitted wrap around sweater may be worn until warm-up is over. No baggy sweats.
- H.) Black dance shorts can be worn for jazz rehearsal. No shorts for ballet rehearsals.
- I.) No jewelry or accessories, except for a set of post or stud earrings.

- 4.) **Dancers must be committed to excellent attendance and promptness:**

- A.) Dancers are allowed one excused absence from a calendar event per year. All calendar events are required with the exception of NUVVO, which is encouraged, but optional, and parades, which may be excused for ZDC members only. This year, the Pop Can Fundraiser is a required group fundraising event, however, there is a buyout option of \$50 for those who do not wish to participate.
- B.) Dancers are allowed one excused absence from a practice per semester (2 quarters) Please submit an absentee form to the envelope in Studio A in advance of your absence. In the case of last minute emergencies or illness, call the Zeeland Recreation service desk at 748-3230 to leave a message and please fill out an absentee form within one week following your absence. E-mails are great to let us know about absences, but we would like dancers to fill out the absentee form for accountability as well.
- C.) Dancers should arrive early to prepare for class, so rehearsal can begin on time. Tardiness is unacceptable. Two "tardies" add up to one absence. Additional absences or unexcused absences may result in probation.
- D.) Extended absences due to long term illness or injury are dealt with on an individual basis.
- E.) Even when absences are excused, students should work with a fellow company member to catch up on missed material before the next rehearsal.
- F.) It is up to the discretion of the directors to determine if absences have left a student unprepared for a performance.
- G.) The burden of obtaining missed information and newsletters after an absence falls on the dancer and not the directors or choreographers.

**5.) Classroom etiquette is held to the highest standards.**

- A.) No talking during Company rehearsals. Weekly Company time is too short and valuable to waste time with chit chat. Please take advantage of special social events which are planned for fun and bonding. On Company nights, be prepared to walk through the studio door with absolutely no noise and get right down to business.
- B.) Dancers will maintain eye contact with the director or choreographer when they are talking/teaching at all times.
- C.) Stay on task. Questions for the choreographer should pertain to the task and choreography at hand. Unrelated questions should be asked after rehearsal. Dancers will refrain from rehearsing choreography from other pieces or classes during ZYDC time.
- D.) Dancers do not sit down in rehearsal, unless directed to do so. Dancers do not lean against barres or walls while standing. Dancers maintain good posture throughout rehearsal.
- E.) Dancers do not yawn without covering their mouth in a dance class or rehearsal.
- F.) No complaining. Address concerns with the instructor after rehearsal.
- G.) Failure to follow the above rules can result in dismissal from rehearsal. Dancers will be given one warning for talking and at the second offense, will be dismissed from the studio with the absence counted against them. Dancers who are dismissed twice from rehearsal will be placed on probationary status (see below) and any reoccurring offence can result in ejection from the company.

- 6.) Represent our organization well outside of the studio.** Dancers must possess conduct becoming a young lady and a gentleman at all times. We expect professionalism whether on stage, back stage during performances, at all fundraisers and outings or even during a break in the Recreation lobby. Dancers must behave as models of courteous and helpful citizens to each other, young dancers whose eyes are always upon them, instructors, Recreation staff, and all parents (Yes, dancers, even your own). Please limit conversations outside of class to ones that are positive and encouraging to all. Please be respectful of other Recreation patrons and keep voices low in the lobby, this is a common area for all to use not a dancer locker room. Finally, be respectful of other dancers who are not in ZYDC/ZDC. Questions about company should not be addressed during regular class.
- 7.) Dancers must commit to respecting themselves** by making healthy lifestyle choices, like eating a balanced diet, going to bed on time, studying in order to maintain good grades and refraining from peer pressure if friends are making bad choices. Dancers should refrain from use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal drugs.
- 8.) Dancers should participate in occasional group fundraisers.** These events allow ZYDC to afford costuming and props, gain valuable community exposure, and almost as importantly, allow the members to bond by working together for a common goal. A “buy-out” option is available for dancers who cannot attend a fundraising event because of a scheduling conflict. This fee could range from \$30 - \$50 dollars depending on the fundraiser. Individual fundraisers are also offered, allowing dancers to raise money for their individual accounts to help offset tuition. A complete outline of the individual fundraising policy will be available at the parent information meeting.
- 9.) Dancers are responsible for a large number of costume pieces, props, and accessories.** Dancers must agree to be responsible for caring for these items so that they are returned in the same condition as they are issued. Individuals are responsible for replacing misplaced or damaged items. Costumes must be turned in on time. Costume check-in is often done on Monday nights with exact dates given in newsletters. If you will be missing a costume check in date, please make arrangements with wardrobe before hand. For your convenience, a labeled bin is often left in the studio to collect items for a week or so after major performances. If a director or wardrobe volunteer has to track down missing items after this grace period, a late penalty of up to \$10 per item may apply.
- 10.) Other miscellaneous studio rules:**
- A.) No gum or food allowed.
  - B.) No drinks in the studio besides water. Water bottles are allowed, but not necessarily encouraged as a fountain is readily available and bottles can be quite distracting, especially for younger dancers. Dancers should limit using their water bottle to once per hour or better yet wait for designated break times.
  - C.) Remove street shoes before entering the dance studio.
  - D.) Pick up after yourself and leave the studio and lobby the way you found them.
- 11.) Communication comes in the form of newsletters.** Dancers should take the time to read these newsletters so they do not make the mistake of asking a question that has

already been answered. Instructors do take the time to highlight important information, but many exact details are outlined in newsletters. Do not leave the studio without checking for handouts.

**12.) Dancers should make the directors aware of injury right away.** If pain does not resolve within several days to a week, we recommend seeking advice from a family physician sooner rather than later. Cases of injury are dealt with on an individual basis, but as a general rule, dancers missing or sitting down at rehearsal due to injury should be cleared to dance by a medical health professional 7-10 days prior to major performances. The dancer should be able participate fully in blocking and technical rehearsals leading up to a production. This is to be fair to the rest of the ensemble and any understudies put in place. Directors must also determine that the student knows her role. Factors such as when the injury occurred, how long the dancer was off her feet, age, ability, and the demands of the particular performance all weigh in when determining if a dancer is able to perform even after being medically cleared.

**13.) Conflict:** Occasionally, dancers have a conflict with other dancers or a concern about their placement or a correction given. We encourage dancers to handle challenges head on and speak with us before or after a class. If a dancer would like a more confidential conversation, instructors will make arrangements. Your directors and choreographers care about the physical and mental/emotional well-being of students, so keep us informed of concerns or situations when necessary. Don't wait until after the fact to talk with us if you are facing a challenge for any reason, even those outside of dance. Know that the door is always open for communication.

**14.) Probation:** Failure to comply with the above policies on a repeated basis may lead to dancers being placed on probationary status. Probation is a temporary status where it is up to the discretion of the directors to determine if participation in performances needs to be limited or if any additional measures must be taken. Probation can be lifted after four weeks or at the end of a semester if corrections are made. Please be aware that being placed on a probationary status may jeopardize future involvement with the company.

I have read the policies stated in the 2017-18 contract and understand the consequences of disregarding these rules. As well as adhering to this contract, I agree to work as hard as I can during all rehearsals and classes, giving my utmost effort at all times. I will treat every dancer and instructor with respect to the very best of my abilities.

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Dancer's Signature

Date

**Parent Agreement:**

- 1.) I have also read the above policies and discussed them with my child. I understand and agree to reinforce the rules and ramifications of this contract. I commit to helping my daughter meet her agreement but also recognize she should be taught and encouraged to be as self-sufficient as possible for her age.
- 2.) Parents must pay dues on or before the beginning of each quarterly term. Dancers cannot rehearse if dues are not paid.
- 3.) Parents should refrain from talking about other dancers and maintain a supportive environment not only for their dancer but all dancers, Company or recreation level. All dancers are valued members of our dance family.
- 4.) Parents should encourage dancers to speak with instructors of all concerns. After that, directors are willing to meet with parents and student together. Please encourage other parents who come to you with concerns to speak with directors directly.

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Parent Signature

Date

(Please keep the contract for your records. Payment of dues denotes your agreement.)

**Zeeland Youth Dance Company Absentee Form**

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Absence \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_ Performance \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Absence \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you make up for your absence or what is your plan to do so? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have obtained missed information or newsletter, if applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dancer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_