

ENCORE 2025-2026



COMP HANDBOOK HANDBOOK HANDBOOK HANDBOOK

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How does competition work?

The students on our competition team compete in solos, duos, trios & groups. Students learn their dance in 2-3 sessions, in August or September (for the choreography fee) and have ½ hour rehearsals once a week to perfect their dance (per dance) along with attending classes during the week. We will attend 4-7 local competitions and the students will perform their dances for family and friends at an informal showcase in January. Some groups and our senior solos may be performed at the annual recital.

NEW! Shared Solos:

We have several students interested in doing solos this season, and we would like to try something a little different- Shared Solos. Shared Solos are only available for students in Level 1 & 2. Each student will learn their own solo in 2-3 one hour sessions, their teacher will provide them with a YouTube or google drive link to their dance and their cut music. After learning the dance, students will be divided into a group of 2-3 students for their weekly rehearsal time. This will help to keep costs down for parents & students will get over performing in front of others very quickly. They will have a set rehearsal time (just like a class) for the season. Shared solos are \$55/month and are set up on an auto-draft basis, running October-April. No refunds for missed lessons. It is the student's responsibility to know their dances for their lessons. Students may purchase additional private lessons for no school days, and optional private lessons.

Competition Team Requirements:

The Encore Competition Team is held to a high standard. Students must be in good standing financially and must meet the following requirements.

- Competition team dancers must be enrolled in 1 ballet, 1 acro and/or leaps & turns (or jazz for level 1) class & the emphasis in which they are competing.
- Team members treat themselves, their teachers, and all other students with respect.
- Team members remember that they are role models to all our students. They handle themselves respectfully and are responsible with what they say/do on social media. They speak respectfully about themselves, other dancers, our team, our program, and ALL other dancers at competition.
- Team members come to class on time, wearing black dance attire (LEOTARDS REQUIRED FOR BALLET), correct shoes, with hair pulled up, ready to dance.
- Team members take critiques seriously and do their best to apply critiques. This team is focused on continuing to improve.
- Team members respect the time of their teachers and the investment of their parents. They do not miss rehearsal without good reason and notifying Ms. Maggie.
- Competition Team members realize that they are part of a team. They understand that each dancer has their own talent, and that we put what is best for the team first.
- Team members put competitions FIRST. They understand that they are on a team and that they are not allowed to let their team down. Students in group pieces WILL NOT miss competition unless they have given Maggie notice as soon as the competition schedule is released.
- Team members are responsible for having open communication with Miss Maggie. Maggie will send schedules, rehearsal times, and additional reminders directly to students via the Band App. Teen students are responsible for helping to communicate information to their families/Miss Maggie.
- Every time a student is late it will be noted. 2 tardies will equal 1 absence. See absence policy below.
- Music/ costumes: All dancers can make suggestions to music and costumes, but in the end Miss Maggie has the final decision. Costumes have the option to be customized for an extra fee- these must be ordered in early August to insure they will arrive on time. Parents/students will be responsible for all rhinestoning and costs associated with it.

Auditions:

Our auditions are meant to be "low stress" for students. We want them to learn how to be in an audition and learn quickly under pressure to prepare them for dance in the future. All teams will be sent via email- these teams do not give full rosters- we want dancers and families to trust the teachers in placement for the teams that will be the most cohesive and will match the choreographer's vision. As we send out invites, we will also try to send out rehearsal times & choreography times to keep everyone as organized as possible. Please send students in black and/or blue, with jazz shoes, lyrical shoes, ballet shoes (and tap shoes, if they are interested in tapping!)

Team Requirements:

Kinder-Level 2 students must be enrolled in at least 2 other Encore dance classes (in the emphasis they are competing in- usually Lyrical or Jazz PLUS ballet or acro) during the week. Students must show dedication to the team, have outstanding attendance, and understand that they are committed to a team. They will work hard & push themselves! Students in Level 1 & 2 are eligible for Shared Solos.

Our Level 3-4 students must be enrolled in ballet & the category they are competing in during the week, as well as either Strength/Stretch & Flex, Leaps & Turns, Acro or Team class. Students Level 3 & up cannot do Shared Solos.

All members must be enrolled in the category they are competing in and available for additional group rehearsals during the week (Sept-May) and plan on attending 4 weekend competitions in the Spring. Students must show dedication to the team, have outstanding attendance, and be willing to take critiques. They will work hard & push themselves!

All new team members will have a \$100 enrollment team fee to cover the cost of team events, the required make-up, 1 team T-shirt, earrings. Additional items will be available for order. All current competition team members \$35.

Additional items will be available for order in October and again in February.

Comp Team Skill Requirements, Audition 2025-2026

All students must be able to jazz walk, chasse on the ball of feet, perform a correct pirouette prep to be considered for the team. These are the bare minimum requirements. Students unable to meet those requirements will be encouraged to try again next season.

(Kinder)

- *Chasse- on the balls of the feet, hands on hips, working towards correct arms*
- *Jazz walks- on toes, crossing only in front*
- *progressing towards leaps- chasse, step leap*
- *Needles from floor- straight leg, pointed toes*
- *Pirouette prep- correct arms and passe*
- *Battement- heel down, strong arms, straight legs, stretched through ankle & toe*
- *Triple lindy (chasse ball change)- straight arms, on releve*
- *Chaine turns- working on correct arm placement, high releve, straight legs, first position*
- *working on splits*
- *cartwheel- strong side and working towards weak side.*

(1st-3rd grade)

- *Must have a growth mindset and be goal oriented.*
- *Single Pirouette on right, working left. Clean passé and proper arm placement & spot. Working towards doubles.*

- *Strong battements- brushing, with legs straight & pointing through ankles- heel glued to the floor. Correct posture and alignment, strong arms, 90 degrees.*
- *Leg hold- over 90* with leg straight, pointing through ankle and toes. Bottom leg glued to ground and tight tummy*
- *Illusion- straight legs and pointed toes, control in the leg, opposition in the body and leg*
- *Splits- down all the way on strong side, working towards "weak side" and center*
- *Stage presence- emotion and energy when dancing! Dancers should be able to perform confidently to an audience without looking at other dancers or for a teacher in the wing.*

4th-6th grade

- *Must have a growth mindset and be goal oriented.*
- *Mastered all requirements listed in mini mins and demis.*
- *Must be adaptable- we will make a lot of changes throughout the year, and dancers need to be able to adjust and also be able to take corrections*
- *Double Pirouette on right, single left. Clean passé and proper arm placement & spot. Clean single on left.*
- *Turns in second (2) clean- leg at 90* and in second position, strong arms- pull to clean double.*
- *Right or left leg splits- working on over splits in your needle. Progress on center splits.*
- *Leg holds with strong core, heel pushing forward- turned out in lower and upper leg.*
- *Strong leaps, including center leap*
- *Working on capezio/calypsos*
- *Developpé the leg to at least 90 degrees with proper turn out, strong base leg and tight core*
- *Stage presence! Performance quality- Dancer should be able to adapt with corrections and maintain a positive attitude through awards*

7th-8th grade

- *Must have a growth mindset and be goal oriented.*
- *Mastered all requirements listed in lower levels.*
- *Double Pirouette- right & left. Quick passe, strong spot.*
- *Turns in second (3), clean- leg at 90 and in true second position, strong arms- pull to clean double- finish in releve.*
- *Right and left leg splits- working over-splits in needed.*
- *Leg holds on right and left- straight legs and pointed toes Center leaps with thighs wrapped, heels pulled forward and legs stretched.*
- *Clean capezio/calypsos*
- *Developpé the leg to at least 90 degrees with correct turn out, strong supporting leg, hips stacked*
- *The ability to take and maintain corrections. The ability to maintain composer through awards*

High School

- *Must have a growth mindset and be goal-oriented with great attendance.*
- *Must be able and willing to make dance their priority.*
- *Must be adaptable- The ability to take and maintain corrections. The ability to maintain composer through awards.*
- *triple on the right side, double on the left*
- *4 turns in second, with a clean triple at the end.*
- *Strong developpe to tilt, with hips stacked and arms matching the line*
- *Switch leap*
- *Leg holds to the front, thigh to chest*
- *Dancer arrives to class and rehearsals on time, student brings all needed items to each class (shoes, proper dance clothes)*
- *Dancer must be able to impress us with their performance quality, their technique, their story telling and their presentation when dancing*

Benefits of competition:

Encore is proud to offer the competition experience to our dancers. We consider participation in competitions a part of our student's training as dancers and influence them as people. For students who participate with the right focus, the experience gained in competition can boost their self-confidence. Students who feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go onstage, grow as dancers through the competition experience. Hitting the stage and doing the best you can, that's what it's all about; whether you win – or which award you win – is secondary. We attend competitions with strong talent. Our goal is not to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both our students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. For us, competition is an education! If you need some more positive notes about competition...

- More performances- dances are performed in front of large audiences at competition
- Students develop attention to detail, the ability to take/apply corrections, students grow stronger throughout the year working on comp dances, and they further develop their strengths in dancing and other life skills
- Opportunity to be exposed to more dancing- a LOT of studios compete, and students are inspired by strong dancing.
- Perfect more skills- having the opportunity to work one on one with a teacher provides students with more insight.
- Team unity- being around other dancers super early in the morning/on the weekends/in rehearsal/at competitions/in front of large crowds, etc. only builds our community!

Win Some, Learn Some:

- Words of Wisdom from Tremaine- PLEASE NOTE: It is important for all dancers to understand that you don't win all of the time. We often learn the most when we do not win. As long as we do the best that we can at that moment in time, that is all we can ask of ourselves. We love the saying ... You win some and you learn some. Be the best you can be and you will leave the stage with a feeling of accomplishment. Some of the benefits include:
 - ■ building confidence by performing
 - ■ putting their skills to the test
 - ■ CHALLENGING THEMSELVES TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE
 - ■ SHOWING GROWTH AND PROGRESS IN THEIR TRAINING

Attendance:

Being a member of Encore Competition Team is a year commitment. We set all our pieces in the summer (August/September), and we start rehearsals in September. Competitions are in February, March, April, & May. We hold our competition students to a high standard, and we value our time in the studios as much as we value our time with our families.

- A dancer may have 6 team rehearsal absences TOTAL from October-May. No more than 1 absence per month. Students will receive a warning after they have missed 4 rehearsals. 6 absences will result in removal from team dances & a re-blocking fee of \$100 per dance.
- Solo/Duo/Trios may reschedule lesson times if there is a conflict. If a solo dancer misses more than 1 rehearsal (and chooses not to reschedule) per month from January-April, their solo will be pulled from competition. We need to value the time of both the student and the teacher. *Competition fees and series sales will not be refunded.*
- A private lesson cannot replace team practice. If a dancer hinders the progress of the routine due to absences, the dancer will not be able to compete in the next upcoming competition/performance. They will also be charged a re-blocking fee that will be deducted automatically of \$100 per group dance. The competition/performance fee is non-refundable if the dancer is not able to perform.
- Dancers cannot miss the practice before a competition or performance. NO EXCEPTIONS. Doing so will result in her inability to compete or perform without a refund and a re-blocking fee of \$100 per dance.

If a soloist will be absent from practice, please notify Ms. Maggie by email with the reason for absence, at least 24 hours in advance. Please make sure you are respectful of your teammates and your teacher's time. Dancers will be

charged for "no shows" or for giving the teacher less than a 24-hour notice. Remember, the time at the studio is time away from our families and lives, too! Be considerate.

Scheduling/the Shabbat:

Scheduling for competition is intense- they are sent out sometimes a week before a competition, and solo can compete early in the morning, late at night, or on Saturdays. Students are asked to be at competition at least an hour and a half before they are scheduled to dance just in case the comp is running ahead of schedule. They do not allow people who are late to be squeezed in. Sometimes, competitions get so full that they start solos on Thursday mornings (AKA during school time). However, we can make some requests. If a student is scheduled to dance on say, a Saturday, we could request that they are moved to Sunday or Friday instead. It is not promised we can reschedule every dance, so we want to only make requests for religious reasons. In that case, they will not be able to be scored overall, but their dance would be adjudicated. Please let me know if you would like to discuss more.

Cost & Due Dates:

There are a lot of expenses that go along with competition, so I want to draw those out here. *Please note, these are estimates and there may be additional costs. Some scholarships MAY BE available. Please ask Ms. Maggie for an application if you are interested!

- Registration Fee: (covering required make-up, 1 team t-shirt, team events, earrings).
 - New members: \$100
 - Current members: \$35
- Cost of choreography (solo, duo, trio):
 - \$250 (Three 1.0 hr lessons to learn dance)
 - Due at time of first choreography lesson
- Private lessons:
 - meet once a week= \$260/10 pack of lessons, roughly three 10 packs per year for soloists.
 - Due before first private lesson, Maggie or Leigh will notify families when their 10 packs are finished to purchase more
- "Shared Solos":
 - meet once a week= \$55 per month per soloist
 - only available for Level 1 & 2 dancers
- Costume:
 - \$120-500 for solo costumes, group costumes vary from \$60-200 per costume
 - Due October 1
 - Custom Costumes are available for an additional fees (**see below)
- Dance Shoes:
 - \$34-120, depending on group dance (most students already have the appropriate shoes)
 - Due before first rehearsal
- Make Up:
 - New members will receive their make up kit with their costumes. (Students provide their own foundation or powder, mascara, blush/bronzer). Replacement earrings, blush, eyeshadow palettes and lipstick are available for purchase.
- Team Gear:
 - An order form for Team Gear will go out at the beginning of the season
- Entry fee per competitions:
 - \$75-\$175, depending on groups or solos
 - Due by October 1st- either paid in full or set up by payment plan
- Group Rehearsal fees:

Groups, duo/trios have a choreography fee (\$200 per dancer) and \$10/month per group and \$15/month per duo/trio dance that covers their weekly rehearsal, team class.

- Choreography fee due at time of 1st Choreography session.

Costumes:

****Ms. Maggie has final say on all costumes.**

However, soloists may make suggestions on what they envision. Parents need to let Miss Maggie know their soloist's budget when paying for the choreography fee. Any costumes that need to be replaced due to damage or growth spurts will be charged to the parent account. Miss Maggie will include shoe orders (if specific to the team dance) with costume fees when collecting payments.

Custom Costumes must be ordered by early August.

Refunds:

Once families have submitted their RSVP to the season, we are not able to give any refunds.

Additional Dance Opportunities/classes at other studios:

We do our best to bring in guest artists, offer conventions and to promote workshops that will benefit our students and their love for dance. However, if students are taking a weekly class or classes at another studio, we ask families to be honest and to disclose this information with Miss Maggie.

Payments:

Competition payments will be set up by October 1st to collect costume fees & entry fee payment plans.

Band App:

We ask that all students and parents add the "Band" App and turn on notifications. "Band" App is used to relay information quickly and all in one place. If you have not received an invite, please let Maggie know.

A look into competition day:

Students arrive at competition ON TIME (at least an hour and a half before your first dance), with full hair and makeup done, wearing their first costume.

The team will find a spot backstage where dancers can lay out their costumes and shoes. Parents are then welcome to find a seat and leave the Encore instructors in charge.

Dancers will begin warming up and running their routine.

If this is a warmup for a solo, it is the dancer's responsibility to warm themselves up and run their dance.

If the team is warming up for a group dance, team captain will lead a stretch and warm up. When it is time to dance, your teacher will take you backstage. (Dancers, please do not bring phones backstage, unless you are using it to warmup).

There are awards throughout the weekend- dancers may have a break between dancing and awards where they can leave and come back, or they may be quick after they dance.

Dancers will wear Encore gear during awards. Dancers will sit on stage with other studios for the presentation of awards. Encore dancers will pay attention during award (keeping phones put away), be respectful of other studios and clap/cheer for others. Instructors will assign team members to get adjudication awards or judges choice awards or overall awards.

2025-2026 Competition Team Contract

Please initial, sign and turn in at your audition.

My dancer and I have read through the competition handbook and we understand the commitment to the team, as well as the information provided.

We agree to the standard that has been put in place, including the attendance requirement.

(Please read again)

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- *Competition fees and series sales will not be refunded.*
- A private lesson cannot replace team practice. If a dancer hinders the progress of the routine due to absences, the dancer will not be able to compete in the next upcoming competition/performance. They will also be charged a re-blocking fee that will be deducted automatically of \$100 per group dance. The competition/performance fee is non-refundable.
- Dancers cannot miss the practice before a competition or performance. NO EXCEPTIONS. Doing so will result in her inability to compete or perform without a refund and a re-blocking fee of \$100 per dance.

We also understand that schedule request for competitions are only for EXTREME reasons, (i.e., parent's wedding, prom, Shabbat). We will not ask Miss Maggie for additional requests like birthday parties, special events, "we like to sleep in". We understand the commitment we have made to the team. (If this is not something you agree to, please recycle this page and don't come to auditions).

We understand that payments must be collected before my dancer is allowed to perform. Failure to pay your bills will result in your dancer not being able to compete.

We understand that it is a requirement to arrive 1.5 hrs before you are scheduled to perform at each competition with hair and make up done. Failure to do so will result in removal from that competition and \$100 reblocking fee. We understand showing up late puts additional pressure on the team, the teachers and the individual performing. No call/no show from a competition will result in dismissal from the competition team.

We understand that our card will be automatically charged if we miss the last rehearsal before the competition.

Parent signature:

Dancer Signature:

Date:_____

(please turn in at your audition).

What is Comp Team?	Comp Team is made up of our advanced dancers, excited to take their dancing to the next level. Students Kinder & up.
Which classes are required for Comp Team?	All students in comp team dance A LOT- most students take unlimited classes, but at minimum dancers are required to take ballet, the style they are competing in, acro and/or leaps & turns.
What are their requirements for the year?	2-3 choreography sessions in the fall, weekly team rehearsals.
When do they perform?	Comp Showcase in January, and then in 4-5 competitions Jan-May, plus our annual recital. We also offer 2-3 optional competitions & a convention.
What fees are associated?	Choreography/Team fee: \$200 per dance Member fee: \$35 New Member fee: \$100 Costume fee: \$120 Monthly rehearsal fee: \$10/month per group \$15/month per duo/trio Competition Entry fee (4): \$65 per group, per competition (duo/trio: \$80 per competition) <i>Solo information below</i>
What about conventions?	We offer a convention in the fall, and then we offer limited spots to out of town conventions. Nationals (if we attend) also includes 2 days of conventions. Our studio also brings in guest teachers for our summer intensive.
How do I get a solo?	Solos are a mutual selection process. Students need to demonstrate their work ethic, talent and dedication to earn a solo/duo or trio.
What are those prices?	Solos are a \$250 choreography fee (3 x 1 hr sessions), weekly rehearsals at \$26 per week (lessons are purchased in a 10-pack, roughly 30 lessons per year) \$120 per solo costume (custom costumes are more) Entry fees: \$155 per competition
When will their rehearsal be?	Most of our group rehearsals happen in the late evening (8:15-9 pm) or Sundays 9-5 pm.
What additional fees are there?	We have optional competitions, gear, conventions and Nationals that are all "add ons".

Comp Team Pricing- in addition to regular class fees (October-April)

	Rehearsal Fee (October-April)	Entry Fees (can be divided from Oct-April or paid in 1 payment)
Group Dance, per dance	\$10 per month per dance	\$75 per group, per comp
Duo/Trio	\$15 per month	\$85 per comp

Shared Solo	\$55 per month	\$155 per comp
<i>Solo</i>	<i>Sold in 10 packs- \$260 for 10</i>	\$155 per comp