



**2026-27**

# **ENCORE COMP TEAM**



**Rules, Regulations, Requirement +  
prelim calendar**



## How Does Competition Work?

Students on our competition team may compete in solos, duos, trios, and group dances. Each dance is taught during 2–3 choreography sessions in August or September (covered by a choreography fee). Once choreography is complete, students attend a 30–45 minute rehearsal per dance each week to refine their performance, in addition to their regularly scheduled classes.

Throughout the season, we attend 4 full team competitions. One is out of town, but the others are all local. We will offer 2–3 other competitions for solo, duo/trios, and 1 convention opportunity. In January, students will also perform their competition dances for family and friends at an informal showcase. Select group dances and senior solos may be featured in the annual recital.

## Competition Team Requirements

The Encore Competition Team is held to a high standard. Students must be in good financial standing and meet the following expectations to participate:

- **Class Enrollment:** Competition team dancers must be enrolled in one ballet class, one acro *and/or* leaps & turns class (jazz for Level 1), **plus** the style(s) in which they are competing.
- **Respect & Conduct:** Team members treat themselves, their teachers, and all fellow students with respect at all times.
- **Role Model Expectations:** Competition dancers are role models within our studio. They are expected to represent themselves, their teammates, and Encore respectfully—both in person and on social media. This includes speaking positively about themselves, other dancers, our team, our program, and all competitors.
- **Dress Code & Preparedness:** Team members arrive at class and rehearsal on time, in black dance attire (leotards required for ballet), wearing correct shoes, with hair pulled back and ready to dance.
- **Growth Mindset:** Dancers take critiques seriously and make a sincere effort to apply them. This team is focused on continual improvement.
- **Attendance & Commitment:** Team members respect the time of their teachers and the investment of their families. Rehearsals are not missed without good reason, and Miss Maggie must be notified in advance.
- **Team First Mentality:** Competition dancers understand they are part of a team. Each dancer brings unique strengths, and decisions are made with the best interest of the team in mind.
- **Competition Priority:** Competitions are the top priority. Dancers in group pieces may not miss a competition unless Miss Maggie is notified as soon as the competition schedule is released.
- **Competition Conduct:** Dancers understand the demands and excitement of competition weekends. **They stay for awards and manage disappointments privately.**
- **Communication:** Team members are responsible for open and timely communication with Miss Maggie. Schedules, rehearsal times, and reminders will be shared via the Band App. Teen dancers are expected to help communicate information with their families.
- **Tardiness & Absences:** All tardies are tracked. Two tardies equal one absence. Please refer to the absence policy for additional details.
- **Music & Costumes:** Dancers may offer input on music and costumes; however, Miss Maggie has final approval. Costumes may be customized for an additional fee and must be ordered by early August to ensure timely delivery. Families are responsible for rhinestoning and any associated costs.

## Auditions

Our auditions are designed to be **low-stress and encouraging**. The goal is for students to gain experience in an audition setting while learning to pick up choreography quickly under pressure—skills that will serve them well throughout their dance training.

Team placements will be shared via email. While full rosters will not be released, we ask dancers and families to trust our teachers' placement decisions. Teams are thoughtfully formed to be cohesive and to best support each choreographer's vision.

As invitations are sent, we will do our best to also include rehearsal and choreography schedules to help families stay organized.

### What to Wear:

Please have students attend auditions dressed in black and/or blue dancewear, with jazz shoes, lyrical shoes, ballet shoes, and tap shoes if they are interested in tap.

### 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, 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 solos. Miss Maggie prefers that students work up to a solo- starting with a team, then a duo or trio, followed by a solo.

**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, or Acro class. Students Level 3 & up.

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! **NEW! Any student participating in a solo will attend their awards ceremony unless they are unable to due to religious reasons.**

**Students who do not attend their awards ceremony will not receive their awards. No longer can we send someone in your place.**

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, and 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 2026-27

**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
- Chainé turns- working on correct arm placement, high releve, straight legs, first position
- working on splits
- cartwheel- strong side and working towards weak side.

### ***(1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 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 the lower age groups
- 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.
- Working towards our turns in second (2) clean- leg at 90\* and in second position, strong arms- pull to double.
- Right or left leg spits- 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 composure 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 composure 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 as an important part of our dancers' training. We believe competition not only shapes dancers technically but also influence who they become as people. When approached with the right mindset, competition can be an incredibly confidence-building experience. Students learn to feel proud of their performances, recognize their growth each time they step on stage, and understand that improvement—not awards—is the true goal.

For us, competition is about effort, growth, and education. Hitting the stage and doing your best is what matters most; whether you win—or which award you receive—is secondary. We intentionally attend competitions known for strong talent. Our goal is not to “beat” anyone, but to inspire our students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of dancers and choreography available. We truly believe **competition is an education.**

### Additional benefits of competition include:

- **More performance opportunities:** Students perform their dances multiple times in front of large audiences.
- **Stronger attention to detail:** Dancers learn to take and apply corrections, grow stronger throughout the season, and continue developing both dance technique and valuable life skills.
- **Increased exposure to dance:** With many studios competing, students are inspired by watching strong, diverse performances.
- **Skill refinement:** One-on-one coaching and focused rehearsals allow students to deepen their understanding and polish their skills.
- **Team unity:** Early mornings, weekend rehearsals, competitions, and shared experiences build strong bonds and a supportive community.

## Win Some, Learn Some

### Words of Wisdom from Tremaine

It is important for all dancers to understand that you don't win all of the time—and often, we learn the most when we don't. As long as dancers do the very best they can at that moment, they have succeeded. We love the saying, **“You win some, and you learn some.”** Be the best you can be, and you will always leave the stage with a sense of accomplishment.

### Competition helps dancers:

- Build confidence through performance
- Put their training and skills to the test

- Challenge themselves to be the best they can be
- Demonstrate growth and progress in their training

## Being a Member of the Team

- As we all know, there is no “I” in **team**. While dance competition does involve competing, we will not allow one dancer’s disappointment to take away from another dancer’s success. Awards can be emotional, and it’s natural to feel disappointed at times—but we ask all team members to *“save their tears for the car.”*
- Our team supports one another at all times, even when we are competing within the same division. A win for one dancer is a win for all of us, and every success makes our team stronger. We celebrate each other and lift one another up.
- Negative talk about teammates, instructors, or the studio will not be tolerated. If concerns arise, students will receive one warning and parents will be notified. Continued issues may result in the student being asked to leave the team.
- Being part of the Encore Competition Team means choosing positivity, respect, and unity—onstage and off.

## Attendance

Being a member of the Encore Competition Team is a **year-long commitment**. All competition pieces are choreographed in late summer (August/September), with rehearsals beginning in September. Competitions take place February through May.

We hold our competition dancers to a high standard and value studio time just as much as time spent with our families. Attendance is critical to the success of the team.

- **Team Rehearsal Absences:**  
Dancers are allowed a total of **6 team rehearsal absences** from October–May, with **no more than one absence per month**.
  - A warning will be issued after **4 absences**.
  - **6 absences** will result in removal from team dances and a **\$100 re-blocking fee per dance**.
- **Solos/Duos/Trios:**  
Solo, duo, and trio rehearsals may be rescheduled if conflicts arise.
  - If a solo dancer misses **more than one rehearsal per month (January–April)** and chooses not to reschedule, the solo will be pulled from competition.
  - We must respect both student and teacher time. Competition fees and series fees are **non-refundable**.
- **Private Lessons & Group Rehearsals:**  
A private lesson **cannot replace** team rehearsal.
  - If absences hinder the progress of a group routine, the dancer may be removed from the next competition or performance.
  - A **\$100 re-blocking fee per group dance** will be charged and deducted automatically.
  - Competition and performance fees are non-refundable if the dancer is unable to perform.
- **Pre-Competition Rehearsal:**  
Dancers **may not miss the rehearsal immediately before a competition or performance—no exceptions**.
  - Missing this rehearsal will result in the dancer being unable to compete or perform, **without refund**, and a **\$100 re-blocking fee per dance**.

- Any dancer who notifies Miss Maggie of a competition absence **after** that week's rehearsal, or who does not attend competition day of, will automatically be charged the \$100 re-blocking fee.

If a soloist will be absent, **Miss Maggie must be notified by email at least 24 hours in advance**, including the reason for the absence. Dancers will be charged for **no-shows** or absences communicated with less than 24 hours' notice.

Please remember studio time is time away from our families and personal lives. Be respectful, communicate clearly, and be considerate of your teammates and teachers.

## Scheduling & Shabbat

Competition scheduling is often intense and unpredictable. Schedules are sometimes released as little as one week before a competition, and solo performances may be scheduled early in the morning, late in the evening, or on Saturdays.

Dancers should plan to arrive at the competition **at least 1½ hours before** their scheduled performance time, as competitions may run ahead of schedule. *(Kinder and Level 1 teams are asked to arrive ready **1 hour before** their performance time.)*

**Miss Maggie will no longer be able to accommodate scheduling requests outside of Shabbat.** Most studios do not allow scheduling requests of any kind, and competition commitments are made months in advance. Families are asked to keep weekends open until the final competition schedule is released.

## 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 makeup 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:
  - \$70-\$175, depending on groups or solos
  - Due by October 1<sup>st</sup>- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **Preliminary dates to save:**

- *Choreography sessions*
- *August 9, 16, 23, 30*
- *September 6, 20, 27*
- *October 4- regular Sunday rehearsals begin*
- *December 6, 13- The Jewish Nutcracker*
- *December 20- last Sunday rehearsal of 2026*
- *January 3- back to rehearsal*
- *January 10- Hair/Make Up Tutorial, Comp Showcase*
- *January 29-31, Tremaine Dance Convention, (optional)*
- *Feb/March- competitions to come*
- *April 9-11- PAC KC at Music Hall*
- *April 16-18- ID Dance at Kansas City Convention Center*
- *May 7-9- PAC at Omaha, CHI Health Center*
- *May 16, Encore Recitals*

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): \$70 per group, per competition (duo/trio: \$80 per competition) <b><i>Solo information below</i></b>
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: \$150 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	\$70 per group, per comp
Duo/Trio	\$15 per month	\$80 per comp
Shared Solo	\$55 per month	\$150 per comp
<i>Solo</i>	<i>Sold in 10 packs- \$260 for 10</i>	\$150 per comp

# 2026–2027 Encore Competition Team Contract

Please initial each section, sign, and submit at auditions.

We, the dancer and parent/guardian listed below, confirm that we have read the Encore Competition Team Handbook in full and understand the expectations, commitments, and policies required to participate in the Encore Competition Team. By signing below, we agree to uphold the standards outlined in the handbook, including (but not limited to) attendance, scheduling, behavior, financial responsibility, and competition conduct.

---

## Attendance & Commitment

(Please read carefully)

- A dancer is permitted a maximum of 6 total team rehearsal absences from October–May, with no more than one absence per month.
- A warning will be issued after 4 absences.
- 6 absences will result in removal from team dances and a \$100 re-blocking fee per dance.
- Competition fees and series fees are non-refundable.
- Private lessons do not replace team rehearsals. If absences negatively impact a routine, the dancer may be removed from the next competition or performance and charged a \$100 re-blocking fee per group dance.
- Competition and performance fees are non-refundable if a dancer is unable to perform.
- Dancers may not miss the rehearsal immediately preceding a competition or performance—no exceptions. Doing so will result in removal from that competition or performance, without refund, and a \$100 re-blocking fee per dance.

Parent Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Dancer Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Scheduling Expectations & Shabbat

We understand that competition scheduling is intense and often released close to competition dates. Schedule accommodation requests will be considered only for extreme circumstances, such as a parent’s wedding, prom, or Shabbat observance.

We agree not to request schedule changes for reasons including (but not limited to) birthday parties, social events, or personal preferences. We understand competitions are a priority and that we are committing months in advance.

If this level of commitment does not align with our family, we understand we should not audition.

Parent Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Dancer Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Financial Responsibility

We understand that all payments must be up to date for our dancer to compete or perform. Failure to maintain a current account may result in removal from competition participation until the account is resolved.

We acknowledge that re-blocking fees and missed-rehearsal charges will be automatically billed to the card on file.

Parent Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Dancer Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Competition Day Expectations

We understand that dancers are required to arrive at competitions 1.5 hours prior to their scheduled performance time, fully ready with hair and makeup completed (Kinder & Level 1 exceptions as outlined in the handbook).

Failure to arrive on time will result in removal from that competition/performance and a \$100 re-blocking fee. A no-call/no-show at a competition will result in immediate dismissal from the Encore Competition Team.

Parent Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Dancer Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Conduct, Communication & Authority

We understand that Encore Competition Team members are held to a high standard of conduct on and off the stage, including at competitions and on social media. Respect for teammates, teachers, competitors, and the studio is required at all times. Repeated or serious violations may result in dismissal from the team.

We understand that open communication with Miss Maggie is required and that schedules and reminders will be sent via the Band App.

We acknowledge that Miss Maggie and the Encore faculty retain final authority regarding team placement, choreography, competition participation, and team membership.

Parent Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Dancer Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Agreement**

By signing below, we acknowledge and accept all terms of this contract and the Encore Competition Team Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please turn in at auditions)*