"Gotta Dance" 2014/2015 Competition Team rules and policies

"Gotta Dance" prides ourselves on providing all dancers and parents with expert dance training and a positive learning experience for all involved. Our structured rules and policies will result in a positive and successful competitive dance education experience. The following outline has been created to clearly explain all expectations that are put forth for all dancers and parents involved in this program.

**Dancers**, Congratulations on being selected to be a part of our competition program. Be proud of your accomplishments. Always stay committed to your classes, dance full-out, and pay attention to your teachers. Those who listen to every correction and apply themselves in every class and rehearsals shall succeed. Remember to show respect to all faculty members, your parents, and all students at the studio. We are all in this together.

**Parents**, Our competitive program requires a positive atmosphere from all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected at all times. Please show respect for faculty members, other parents and all dancers. A positive and enthusiastic outlook on this program extends to your child. Negative comments and feedback can be harmful to your child’s progress and education.

Most communication among the studio and parents shall be conducted via email. Please be sure to check your email regularly for information and any updates. If you do not have access to email, please be sure to inform the studio. For any specific inquiries and questions, please contact the office manager Heather Dinsmore.

The rules and policies listed in this handbook are subject to change at any time. Failure to comply with any of the rules, policies, and procedures of "Gotta Dance" will result in immediate removal from the competition program.

**A: Mandatory Components**

The "Gotta Dance" Competition season will run from November through April. Parents and students are expected to give a 100% Dance commitment during this time. More than 3 absences in ANY competition or required class during our season will result in termination. Serious injuries, illness, or family emergencies are the only exceptions. Our performance/competition calendar listing all specific dates and locations is included in your dance team handbook. Some dates and locations are tentative. Competition students will be expected to attend some performances throughout the year.

*All dates and locations are subject to change annually and are at the discretion of the studio directors.*

- We will attend 2-3 competitions this year. Each member of the Competition Team will compete in 1-2 numbers or more. Some students may be asked to compete in and extra "specialty number". This will be by invite only and at the discretion of the choreographer depending on age, level, ability, or a certain look they may need to fulfill a part in their routine. It is not appropriate to ask to be included in extra numbers.

- Last minute withdrawals from any competition will not be tolerated. Serious injuries or family tragedies are the only exceptions. All entry fees are non-refundable due to each competition’s policies.

- All competition scheduling is set by the competition itself; not our studio. Any requests to alter specific days and times of performances cannot be accommodated and will not be accepted.

- Parents are not allowed to contact the offices of competitions. This is prohibited by the competitions. All questions are to be addressed through the studio.
• Competition Team warm-up suits are the mandatory uniform for all dancers at all competitions. Team uniforms are to be worn for all "Gotta Dance" events and performances. Warm-up suits will be ordered in early November for all newly enrolled competition dancers as well as any existing students who may need one.

• All dancers may be required to purchase competition jewelry or other accessories as part of costuming. A list of mandatory items will be distributed to all parents at the start of the performance/competition season. The studio reserves the right to change and/or update styles at any time.

• During the competition season dancers are prohibited from altering their hair color involving any color that is not natural such as bold streaks, blue, red, green etc., permanent hair accessories such as feathers, colored extensions etc. are not allowed. No body piercings or tattoos are allowed while competing. Absolutely no nail polish allowed while competing. No jewelry allowed unless otherwise specified.

• All dancers are required to purchase competition team make-up. Specific color information will be decided at a later date. All dancers are expected to follow the specific guidelines for the application of their make-up. Make-up that is unsatisfactory will not be tolerated. The studio reserves the right to change and/or update colors and styles of make-up at any time. Parents will be required and responsible to help your child with their hair and makeup prior to each event.

• All teachers reserve the right to do a “group alteration” to any costume. Group alterations will be done by our studio staff members. Group alterations consist of reconstructing a costume, rhinestoning, creating a different style fit for the costume etc. All individual sizing alterations are the responsibility of the parent and must be professionally altered. It is mandatory for all alterations to be 100% completed prior to the first performance.

• Level placement, music selection, choreography, costuming and spacing of all group routines are at the choreographer’s discretion and are not up for discussion. These decisions are made from many years of teaching experience. All staff members are passionate about our competition program. We take pride in every student and every dance routine. All decisions are made in the best interests of the dancers. Inappropriate and demeaning parent and/or student comments will not be tolerated.

• All dancers are required to attend their group photo session with our recital photographer.

• All dancers are required to enroll in at least one ballet class and one jazz class from September through June (Dance Team is NOT considered a jazz class).

B: Attendance Policy: Proper attendance is an essential component of the dancer’s education and progress. All classes are dedicated to technique and/or choreography. A dancer who misses class and/or rehearsal may hold back the progress of the entire team. When a dancer is absent from a choreography class, they are expected to learn the choreography prior to returning to the next class. All dancers are allowed no more than 3 absences in each class October through April. Although dancers are allowed 3 absences, we encourage perfect attendance. Dancers should only be absent if it is absolutely necessary. Attendance will be monitored closely in all classes. There are no "make up" classes for any absence. However, should a dancer be absent, we encourage he/she to attend an additional technique class for the purpose of keeping up with the technique. Attending an additional class does not delete nor give credit for an absence.

• With the growing trend in social media, we ask that all dancers and parents refrain from negative Facebook or other social network postings regarding the studio, its staff members and its students.

• You are part of a team and are expected to support, help, and work together with all of your peers. Each class may vary in ages, levels and abilities. Poor attitudes, poor conduct, or any unnecessary drama toward other students or instructors will not be tolerated within our Competition Team or anywhere in the studio. These behaviors will result in warnings that could result in termination.

• Dress Codes MUST be followed by Dance Competition members. NO EXCUSES. You are a role model and it's your job to represent your studio and set good examples for others. It is disrespectful to come to dance class in anything other than dance attire. Students not following dress codes will not be allowed to dance. They will be asked to sit out or sent home. This will be marked as an absence which may result in termination.

• All pictures and videography of students in classes, at competition, at performances, or at any studio related event may be used for marketing purposes.
C: Financial Obligations

- Monthly tuition is due on the first class of each month (September–June). Your tuition is based on an annual fee that is broken up into 10 payments. You will not receive a monthly bill. All payments received after the 15th of each month will result in a $15.00 late fee.

- All Competition and Dance Team Members are entitled to enroll in unlimited classes for the monthly tuition price of $130.00. This excludes Dance Team and Competition class tuition. Dance Team is $135.00-$180.00 per yr. (depending on length of team rehearsal) for the year and Competition Team is $350.00 for the season. This includes one costume and competition class tuition from November to April. These fees are encouraged to be paid in full at the beginning of the season. Competition entry fees, travel expenses, shoes, accessories, and make up will be your responsibility. Competition entry fees will be due 8 weeks prior to competitions and range from $35-$65 per dance and are non refundable.

- Regular class tuition and costumes are completely separate from competition. All general rules apply to regular classes. Costume deposits ($40 per class) are due by the end of November and costume balances are due by the end of February.

- Anya holding an overdue balance will be ineligible for any discounts.

- The child of anyone holding an overdue balance at the time of the competition or recital will not be allowed to perform.

D: Competitor’s Obligations

All competitors will be required to rehearse during their scheduled time slot as well as practicing throughout the week on their own time. Dancers should have a copy of all competition music. If a student is selected for a second competitive number there will be extra practices involved. When competition team members sign up, it is with the understanding that their being a member of the competitive team comes before all other activities in which they may be involved. We suggest that dance be their only activity as competition can be time-consuming especially as competition dates get closer. Committing to outside activities has a strong effect on the student as well as the other team members, when a student is absent. Remember the team is judged as a TEAM when competing, and one student with bad attendance hurts the entire team. Occasionally there are required school events that may interfere with rehearsals, if this is the case, bring a copy of the school calendar and other arrangements will be made. Of course classes may be missed due to illness, injuries etc.. If any student or parent feels they cannot see this commitment through, we suggest they bow out of competition before the season begins.

E: Competition Code of Conduct

All Competition teams students and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectable manner at all times. Gossiping by a student or a parent about other students, parents, staff members or other studios is not tolerated. Disrespecting a faculty member or another student or being discourteous to a fellow student is grounds for disciplinary action that may result in probation, suspension or being asked to leave the studio permanently. In the event that you are asked not to return to the studio there will be no reimbursement for any classes, collected fees for the revue, collected choreography fees or any other fees collected by the studio. In the event that a student is excessively talking during class, being disrespectful, or is just not focusing, they may be dismissed from class. If this behavior continues their position on the team will be re-evaluated and may result in termination. All Competition Students and their parents will be expected to both read and sign the Competition Guidelines.
F: Competition Guidelines

1. Everyone is expected to work as a team player and help in the growth of their fellow students.
2. Gossiping will not be tolerated amongst the students and Parents, or about other students or parents within "Gotta Dance".
3. Gossiping will not be tolerated amongst the students or parents about other dance studios.
4. Gossiping will not be tolerated amongst the students or parents about other competitors during competition as well as conventions.
5. While representing "Gotta Dance", students and parents are expected to display good sportsmanship conduct to everyone they are in contact with.
6. During competition, whether we win or lose, we are expected to have a winning attitude.
7. It is mandatory for all students to come to all rehearsals, unless approved 48 hours prior to the choreographer with the permission from the choreographer.
8. All competition dues must be paid on time; otherwise we will not attend the competition.
9. It is mandatory for all competitors to wear "Gotta Dance" warm up suit or cover-up for all competitions and conventions.
10. All students are to respect the teachers and to do what is asked of them.
11. All students and Parents must abide by the Code of Conduct.
"Gotta Dance" Competitor's Contract 2014/2015

Name:_________________________________________ Age:________

Grade:_________________________________________ D.O.B.________________________________

Parent's Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: (emergency)_________________ Email:____________________________

I, (parent)________________________________________________________________________

and I, (student) __________________________________________________________________

have read, understand, and agree to comply with the 2014/2015 Competition Team Rules and Policies including:

A: Mandatory Components

B: Attendance Policies

C: Financial Obligations

D: Competitor's Obligations

E: Competition Team Code of Conduct

F: Competition Guidelines

Signature: (parent) ___________________________ Date: __________

Signature: (student) ___________________________ Date: __________