

DANCE TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Dance Team at Harrison Jr/Sr High School is to provide students with an opportunity to participate in an activity and develop sportsmanship, character, and competitiveness. Participation on the Dance Team, as well as other extra-curricular activities, is a privilege, not a right. As a member of the Dance Team you represent our school; and your conduct and actions in the classroom, on the court/field, and in the community should not deviate from the regulations and code of conduct set by our school and the Athletic Department. Team members must show determination, dedication, and desire to be a productive member of this team.

CONDUCT RULES: The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or drugs **ON** or **OFF** school premises will not be tolerated. Use of any of these will result in removal from the Dance Team for the remainder of the school year. Any student who engages in a criminal activity will be denied participation on the Dance Team. Any civil infraction (whether or not pursued by civil law authorities) or conduct by a team member that is determined by the coach and/or school administration to be detrimental to the program, school, or school district will result in dismissal from the team. Other rules of conduct will be the same as those listed in the student handbook for all school activities. Any violation or deviation from the student code of conduct lists in the student handbook will also be reason for removal or denial of participation on the Dance Team. It is **YOUR** responsibility to take the initiative to read your student handbook and know what the rules are and abide by them. **BE APPROPRIATE.** We expect for our dancers to uphold appropriate behavior at all times. If your actions are not deemed appropriate and do not coincide with this organization's guidelines you will be denied participation on this Dance Team.

DEDICATION: There is a level of commitment required to be a part of the Dance Team. You must have a desired level of commitment not just for yourself, but for your ENTIRE team. Being on this team you depend on all of your other team mates to be at practice consistently and do their part in having the knowledge of their routine. If at anytime you are not doing your part as a productive member of this team you will be suspended from the Dance Team.

PROBLEMS: There have been problems in the past as far as gossip and turmoil are concerned. We understand that this is junior high and high school and these situations will come up, **HOWEVER**, if you are gossiping, instigating turmoil, or in any way causing conflict among members on the Dance Team your participation on the Dance Team will be suspended. Attitude is a major factor in whether or not we will allow you to dance! Remember, being a member of the Dance Team is a privilege. We expect your attitude to be positive and uplifting. **If you do have a problem we need to know in order to help resolve the situation.**

UNIFORMS/PRACTICE ATTIRE: Dancewear is required at **ALL** practices. Loose fitting clothing and proper dance shoes. **No jeans.** Kneepads are required and **HIGHLY** recommended. If proper attire is not worn you will be sat out of practice! Uniforms/warm-ups must be kept clean and in good repair. Members may not wear

jewelry or nail polish during a performance. This is a team so we need to look like a uniformed team.

PERFORMANCES: On your performance schedule there is an arrival time listed and an estimated performance time. Dancers must be at the performance by the ARRIVAL TIME! Dancers must arrive dressed in full uniform, hair and makeup complete and ready to perform. If the Dancer fails to show up performance ready at the arrival time, the dancer WILL NOT PERFORM.

COMPETITIONS: Being selected to compete and perform with the team is a privilege, not a right. The purpose of this team is not to compete, but to learn the art of dance. If you are cut from a competition please refer to the reasons listed below under the heading **NON-PERFORMERS**. When choosing the dancers to take to competition I carefully review all of these factors. **Your dancer must have a sharp knowledge of all routines in order to even be considered for this opportunity.**

- **Dancers may be selected to perform/compete one or all of the routines. Dancers are required to learn and practice ALL routines. It is solely at the discretion of the coach as to which dancers will perform/compete which routines. There is absolutely no guarantees when it comes to which dancers will perform which routines.**
- Team members must stay with the team during all practices, performances, and competitions unless given permission by the coach to do otherwise!

FUNDRAISERS: We try to alleviate cost on the parents by doing fundraisers for competition fees, uniforms, makeup and accessories. In order to do this we need the support of not only the dancer's but also the parents to make fund raising a success. **It is mandatory that all dancers attend fundraisers.** Each dancer will have their time logged as if "clocking in" for a job. If a dancer does not work her fair share then she does not get credit for the funds that are raised. **If there is a remaining balance due in your dancer's account after fundraising and after the initial \$200 fee, it is then the responsibility of the parent to make payment. We will notify you one month before payment is due as to where your dancer's account stands. You can opt to pay out your dancer's account if they choose not to participate in fundraising.**

- **It is required that each dancer has at least 2 adult volunteer workers for our annual Dance Team Invitational held at Harrison High School. Dancers will not be allowed to continue with competition season if the required amount of workers are not provided.**
- **There will be a drawing of names for required workers for State/National competition. We are required to provide parent workers for this event. We will randomly draw names to submit for this. Dancers who have parents selected to work this event that do not fulfill their duties will NOT participate in State/Nationals.**

******Please be advised that fundraising is not a guarantee! We TRY to fundraise as much as possible but you may still have a balance at the end. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE \$200 DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN DANCE.**

FRIENDS/BOYFRIENDS: Friends and boyfriends have absolutely **NO PLACE** being at practice, before performances, behind the scenes at competition, etc. Make it clear to them ahead of time. Also, there is to be **NO** public displays of affection while you are representing the team. This rule applies to any time or place, in or out of school, and at practices and performances.

We have a **CLOSED DOOR POLICY at ALL practices**. It is our experience that students are better focused without the distraction of parents, siblings, and friends.

PARENTS/RIDES: It is important that rides for dancers are prompt. Students are to be dropped off for practice **NO EARLIER** than 20 minutes before practice time. They are to be picked up **NO LATER** than 10 minutes after practice is over. Students are not permitted on school grounds before or after these times.

Rides are the responsibility of the parents! **Not the coaches** or other members of the Dance Team! Please make sure your dancer is taken care of!

GRADE POLICY: Members must be grade eligible. School class work is the most important facet of your education. To be eligible to participate on the Dance Team, you must maintain passing grades in subjects that earn a minimum of five credits during the quarter before and all quarters during the dance season. School comes first. If a dancer is having trouble maintaining academic quality, the Dance Team will be dropped for the dancer or they may take an academic leave of absence. Dancers will not be permitted to join their team until grades are brought back up to the minimum requirements!

PRACTICE ETIQUETTE AND BEHAVIOR: One verbal warning will be given for any unruly behavior in practice. This includes talking, non-participation or any behavior disruptive to the team. A dancer will be asked to leave practice in lieu of any other warning.

No cell phones during practice.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION: Failure to follow the Harrison Jr/Sr High School Dance Team Code of Conduct may result in **but is not limited to** the following actions:

- Extra practice time / conditioning
- Sitting out a practice, performance or competition
- Suspension/Probation from team
- Removal from team

******Depending on the infraction, we reserve the right to immediately dismiss the dancer from the team!**

ATTENDANCE: Only the reasons listed below are excused from any practice or activity.

- 1.) Personal illness or accident verified by a doctor's note or school absence list.
- 2.) Funeral
- 3.) Special school activity - Must be *discussed* and *approved* by the coach *in advance*
- 4.) Vacation - with parent's note ahead of time.

- Please note that even an excused absence could cost you a performance depending on the date and length of the absence. A team member who is excused from a practice or event will not be permitted to perform with the team until he/she knows the routine to the coach's satisfaction.
- A Dancer CANNOT miss more than 4 practices throughout the year!
- **It is required that each dancer and a parent/guardian be present for all parent meetings.**

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Work - you have plenty of notice to rearrange work schedules!
- Doctor's Appointment - please schedule these on off days.
- Couldn't get a ride, was grounded, had homework, didn't know about it, etc.
- Or anything else not listed under excused absences

These excuses all come down to one word, **RESPONSIBILITY**.

If a member knows in advance that they will be late or will be missing a practice/performance, they are to advise the coach immediately. If you are going to miss practice, you must call ahead of time. If leaving a message, please speak slowly and clearly. Remember to treat practice as you would a job. You wouldn't just not show up.....same thing with practice! Scheduled practices are **MANDATORY!** Attendance is a factor in whether or not you are able to perform. Tardiness is also a consideration. **Team members must be present at every mandatory practice for the entire practice time in order to be eligible to participate in upcoming events.**

If you miss a practice you must make up the material you missed **BEFORE** the next practice. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CATCH UP!** We will not hold up practice to catch you up on material missed. Unfortunately, when you miss a practice, it affects the rest of the team more than it affects you because they are the ones who have to go back and relearn/refix the things you missed.

At times parents do not realize the extreme commitment that we require. Nails, hair, birthday parties, etc. are **NOT** legitimate reasons to miss practice. If we want to be considered in the same way a sport is we must act in accordance. A football player would not tell his coach he was missing practice for a birthday party!

NON-PERFORMERS: The following reasons determine whether or not a dancer will be allowed to perform. There will be **NO exceptions** to these factors, so please read carefully.

- Lack of knowledge of a routine.
- Lack of ability to perform at required skill level for said routine.
- Attitude not promoting teamwork/sportsmanship.
- Lack of dedication/commitment being shown toward Dance Team.
- Lack of improvement shown over time in a given routine.
- Disregard for the code of conduct and the rules and guidelines governing this organization.
- Absences the week prior to a performance. Tardiness is also a factor.
- Missing more than the allotted 4 practices.
- Gossiping, instigating turmoil, or in any way causing conflict among members on the Dance Team.
- Not being grade eligible.
- Dancer's that are on suspension/probation.
- Not being in proper uniform to perform and performance ready by the arrival time listed on the performance sheet.
- Not being in attendance for required parent meetings/information sessions.
- Not providing the required amount of volunteer workers for the annual Dance Team Invitational.
- A dancer will not be allowed to practice/perform if an injury occurs for which that dancer is unable to perform at their normal level. Dancers will not be allowed to participate until written clearance is obtained from a doctor.

*****All Members Are Required To Attend All Dance Team Functions Whether They Are Dancing Or Not!**

Bottom Line: If a dancer works hard, comes to practice, behaves themselves and achieves the performance level required, **THEY WILL DANCE.**

Just like parents need a discipline system if their child misses curfew or doesn't take out the trash.....we need a system to insure that dancers carry their weight and strive to improve. Each time we compete/perform we will re-access skills and make a determination of who will perform. At times dancers may be temporarily "benched." Parents are expected to be supportive of our "cut" system as it has allowed us to achieve the high level of excellence which has become standard for our program. Dancers must **EARN** their way onto the performance floor. The Coach is always up front with dancers as to where they stand. Parents are welcome to discuss concerns with the Coach.

REFUNDS: Please be advised that any deposits/money put toward fees, uniforms, warm-ups, t-shirts, registration fees, or any other item is **NON-REFUNDABLE. This is regardless of whether a Dance Team member is suspended from the team or not!**

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE PARENT
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YOUR RECORDS AND TURN IN THE
FOLLOWING SIGNATURE PAGE**

Team Member's Name _____

I, the parent/guardian of the above named, have read the Harrison JR/SR High School Dance Team Code of Conduct and understand all of the requirements in order for my dancer to continue team participation as well as the ramifications if this contract is broken. I fully comply with all rules and regulations within this Dance Team Code of Conduct. I also realize this is a team effort and I will be called upon to help in some way throughout the year with things that are within my capacity to help. I will make every effort to do my share of assisting on behalf of my daughter. I understand I am required to be present for parent meetings or have someone present on my behalf.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

As a member of the Harrison JR/SR High School Dance Team, I have fully read the Code of Conduct and understand what is expected of me to remain a member in good standing. I will keep myself knowledgeable and informed of all rules, and realize the consequences of poor behavior or inappropriate actions may be severe. I will do all I can to uphold the honor and tradition of the HHS/HJS Dance Team and respect my team members, school, and coaches at all times. I understand that my Character matters.

Dance Team Member Signature

Date

Should I _____ (Dancer's name) choose to participate in another sport during the dance season, I will notify the coach of the Dance Team and the coach of the sport I have signed up for. An agreement must be reached by both coaches, my parents and I, acknowledging that there is dual participation, and that any conflicts in practice times or events must be discussed with all parties involved - resolution agreed upon in writing or I understand that suspension from the Dance Team will be deemed necessary. If I am selected to compete with the Dance Team I understand that there will be no exceptions made and I MUST be present for ALL practices in their entirety in the few weeks leading up to a competition.

Dance Team Member Signature