DANCE ABERDEEN

PARENT INFORMATION HANDBOOOK

2026 - 2027

WELCOME TO DANCE ABERDEEN!

A SMALL-TOWN CLUB WITH BIG POSSIBILITIES

Dance Aberdeen is a **competitive**, non-profit, community club run by a volunteer board of parents. Our objective is to provide quality dance instruction at a reasonable cost to the members of the community and surrounding areas. The studio is located on the second floor of the Aberdeen Recreation Complex. It is fully equipped with a sprung floor and mirrored wall. The club has been in operation for over 20 years. Dance Aberdeen offers: Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Modern, Tap, Musical Theatre, and Acro. It has also offered Song and Dance (Singing and interpreting a song) in the past.

The Dance Board is a group of volunteers that meet monthly to make decisions regarding the operations of Dance Aberdeen. **(Please remember the executive is a group of volunteers. No one is paid for the time they spend volunteering for Dance Aberdeen)**

Board Positions

- *President (2yr term)* - danceaberdeenboard@gmail.com
- *Vice President (2yr term)*
- *Treasurer (2yr term)* - danceaberdeentreasurer@gmail.com
- *Secretary (1yr term)*
- *Costume Coordinator (1yr term)* - danceaberdeencostume@gmail.com
- *Festival Chair (2yr term)* - aberdeendancefestival@gmail.com
- *Member's at Large (3)*

Please refer to our website at www.danceaberdeen.ca for detailed/up to date information!

DANCE CLASS ETIQUETTE

Dance Aberdeen has a ZERO tolerance for bullying. This includes parents, board members, instructors, and dancers. No verbal/physical/written abuse towards other dancers, parents, teachers, board members, or other clubs will be tolerated. The club **DOES NOT** support negative communication through social media, email, written documentation, or verbally from dancers, dancer parents, and/or family members.* Negative behavior of the dancer or parents may result in the **IMMEDIATE REMOVAL** of a dancer from competition and/or class for the remainder of the season with no refund being given.

3 Strike Rule

We have an expectation of proper behavior and etiquette in the dance room. Just like a classroom, dancers are expected to listen, respect the teachers as well as the other students and support, not critique, each other. We have implemented a three-strike rule for classroom behavior that will be implemented as need. *Parents may be contacted at any point during the 3 Strike Process to let them know what is going on.*

STRIKE 1 – **WARNING** - A verbal warning will be given. The dancer may continue to dance.

STRIKE 2 – **REFLECTION** - Dancer will be take a 5 minute break on the bench to regroup. Student may return to class after.

STRIKE 3 – **REMOVAL FROM CLASS** – Parent or guardian is called to pick up their child. The dancer will wait on the bench until a parent arrives. **This will count as half an absence**.

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

It is very important that your child does not miss too many classes. The dance teacher will use class time to teach to majority, and not to catch dancers up, regardless of attendance. At each class new techniques, skills, and choreography are taught. If a dancer falls too far behind it is very difficult for them to catch up.

Please contact the instructor if your child will be absent from class. This can be done the following ways:

1. Contact your instructor:
   - Miss Carolyn: misscarolynaberdeen@gmail.com
   - Miss Kadie: kadiemansiere@gmail.com
2. Utilize the Band App to indicate attendance in that specific group.

The following are some important rules regarding attendance:

1. **Attendance is mandatory for all competitive classes as well as classes taken as a prerequisite. Technique advancement classes are the only classes omitted from this policy.**
2. **<u>3 Day Policy</u>: All missed classes—regardless of the reason, including illness—will be counted as a missed class. If a dancer misses 3 days *(per class)* and the instructor feels the dancer has fallen too far behind, a private lesson will be required to catch them up.**
   - Private lessons must be taught by the instructor assigned to that specific genre/class. Dancers **may not** substitute another instructor within the club to teach the lesson in place of the assigned instructor and consider the private lesson fulfilled.
   - The length of the private lesson will be determined at the discretion of the dance teacher and board president, based on the content missed and the dancer's individual needs. Parents/guardians will be notified of any missed classes.
   - A heads-up email will be sent after a dancer reaches their 2nd missed class so appropriate steps can be taken in advance. If the dancer falls too far behind, the dancer may be removed from competition.
   - Dancers will be required to arrange makeup times with the instructor at the cost of the dancer. If you require financial assistance for private make up lessons, please contact the board. *Make up lengths will be at the discretion of the teacher.*
   - Private lesson rates will coincide with the instructor's hourly wage; rates are as follows:
     - **Miss Carolyn**

     - $38.50 for 60 minutes
     - $36 for 45 minutes
     - $23 for 30 minutes
     - $13 for 15 minutes

     - **Miss Kadie**

     - $21 for 60 minutes
     - $18 for 45 minutes
     - $14 for 30 minutes
     - $10 for 15 minutes

   - Private lesson rates may differ outside of the regular dance season.

3. **Remember participation is crucial to proficiency. If the dancer attends class but does not participate this will count as ½ an absence. If a dancer is more than 10 minutes late to class, this will count as ½ an absence.**

If a dancer requires to be caught up and/or is having challenges with choreography, a private lesson will be required, **and it will be at the dance teacher's discretion if they are able to compete at all competitions**. There will be open communication from the dance teacher to the board if this happens; it can then be communicated to the parents as soon as possible how progress is being made and what the plan will look like so there are no surprises. Dancers will always be able to perform at the recital.

PRIVATE LESSONS WILL BE ARRANGED WITH THE PARENT AND TEACHER. ANY COST INCURRED HAS TO BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE INSTRUCTOR AND IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE ADDED TO DANCE ACCOUNTS. Payment for private classes must be made prior to the lesson starting. If you need to cancel or reschedule, please notify the dance teacher by 12:00PM (noon) on the day of the lesson. Failure to provide notice by this time will result in full payment still being required.

****The removal of a dancer from competition DOES NOT exclude the dancer from continuing to attend classes and learn the techniques of the class.****

** If a dancer is removed by the instructor from competition and/or class, there will be no refunds on dance fees, costumes or competitions.

NEW GENRE PLACEMENT & COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY POLICY

If dancers who have danced for less than 2 years register with our club - or if current dancers wish to try a new genre - and are aiming to join at an age level that attends three or more competitions, they must complete at least one year of private lessons for that specific genre. An assessment will need to be done prior to the season starting to determine how many private lessons will be needed. The assessment will be done by our dance teacher; the cost of the assessment is the responsibility of the dancer and will be paid directly to the dance teacher. This applies whether they are entirely new to the studio or simply new to the genre.

Participation in competitions is not guaranteed and is at the teacher's discretion. A dancer's readiness, commitment, and overall performance will be considered before allowing them to compete in competitions and will be approached on a competition-by-competition basis. Dancers will always be able to participate in Recital.

ADDITIONAL DANCE CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Dress Code – Dancers must wear appropriate dance attire, such as a body suit and shorts. All shoe and dress requirements will be updated and maintained on the DANCE ABERDEEN WEBSITE: www.danceaberdeen.ca

Washroom Breaks – Since bathroom breaks are a frequent part of classes, we ask that each dancer has a parent available IF their child will need assistance to and from the bathroom (i.e.. Learn to Dance and other dancers that need assistance.) Instructors are not able to leave children unattended to take a dancer to the bathroom. Not only is it unsuitable use of the instructor's and students' time but this is also for safety purposes as well.

Class Cancellation – On occasion classes may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. When possible, any missed classes will be rescheduled as a make-up class within **one month** of the missed class**. Missing a makeup class is not considered an absence in the 3-absence rule.**

Technique Advancement Classes – In order to register for a technique advancement class, you must be registered in that specific genre (i.e. The student must be registered in Jazz for a Jazz Advancement Class)

Severe Weather or Road Closures – The procedures are that the teacher and president will make the choice of whether to cancel classes. In as many cases as possible, a post will be made on the BAND App and parents will be contacted privately if necessary. Please do not assume classes are cancelled just because busses are cancelled. Please direct any questions to the president via email; they will answer your question as soon as they can.

Practice – Dancers are encouraged to practice at home. They will receive a copy of their music prior to Christmas break. If requested the students can use the studio for practicing. (A fee may be required to book studio).

Concerns – All concerns from parents must be submitted to the board via email or letter. This eliminates misinformation. All emails go to danceaberdeenboard@gmail.com and letters can be given to any board member**. It is not permitted to address concerns during class time and /or in front of students**. Failure to comply may result in parent and/or student dismissal with no refund.

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Our club attends 3 competitions each year:

- **Dance Aberdeen Festival** (March 31 – April 3, 2027) **–** includes all competitive dance classes.
- **Second competition** – all competitive levels except for Learn to Dance/Hip Hop.
- **Third competition** - includes only the Grande, Demi, and Petit levels.
- **Solos/Duets/Trios** outside of regular classes will attend all three competitions.

- Competitions are typically decided at the beginning of the season and will be communicated to club members as soon as possible. For each competition, dancers will be given a schedule with estimated arrival and dance times. (*The estimated arrival time is the time you are expected to be ready, in costume, make-up on, and ready to practice.)*
- If a dancer personally withdraws from competition after registration has been submitted, or chooses to attend another event or competition during one of our scheduled competition weekends, the family will be responsible for all fees incurred.
- Travel is left up to the parents. We recommend that you book accommodation early as rooms are limited. The club will block off rooms at a group rate whenever possible.

Hair and Make-up Requirements for Competitions and Recital

Hair and Makeup are a requirement for all competitions and recital. A hair and makeup requirement sheet will be handed out around the time costumes are distributed. Please contact the board if you have any questions or concerns.

The exception to this will be the Learn to Dance classes. They are expected to have a similar hairstyle as required on the hair and make up sheet. In addition, they are asked to wear as much make up as a parent

can place on them, based on the make up sheet. However, it is understood that sometimes that is difficult and may not be able to match things exactly.

COSTUMES

- ***IMPORTANT*** Costumes and their accessories, once given to the dancer/family, are the responsibility of that dancer/family. In the event, that a costume or it's accessories is lost or missing, the Dancer/Family will be held accountable for any reordering fees/costs associated with obtaining a replacement.
- Please do not remove the tags from costumes by ripping them out because it can ruin the costume, please cut out the tags.
- Please do NOT arrive at competitions in costumes as much as possible, change areas are provided for both girls and boys at competition. Costumes are the property of Dance Aberdeen until the end of season.
- Alterations are the responsibility of the families. Before costumes are ordered we ask that you sign off on the sizes that you feel your child wears. If that size is wrong the club is not responsible for the alterations. There may be exceptions, and you will be informed prior to ordering if there is an exception.

FUNDRAISING

Dance Aberdeen Festival:

Our Festival is our cornerstone of fundraising to ensure the viability of our club. It is run by a committee of volunteers that plan and organize. It allows us to keep our fees low, helps fund improvements to the dance room, and supplements our costume costs and dance fees. Please note:

- It is mandatory that each family works the festival in the form of Shifts
- Depending on the layout of each year, at MAXIMUM each family has to work 1-2 shifts per dance/dancer.
- For the last 2 years there has been 2-3 shifts per day, plus set up/take down.
- Each day runs approximately from 8 am to 9 pm. With the 3 shifts split per day for a total of 9 shift time plus an additional set up/take down shift (10 shift times in total).
- For each dancer the families are required to work at a MINIMUM 1 shift per dance for each dance they have children in (ie. If you have 2 dancers and each dance in 3 dances you would be expected to work 6 shifts.)
- You will only be required to work the maximum number of shifts available(ie. 10) per family no matter how many children/dances your family has(ie. If you have 3 children and each are in 4 dances = 12 shifts total, if there are only 10 shifts, that is the maximum you will work)
- Shifts can be "bought out" at the designated cost directly to the club. That cost will be determined closer to the festival date

Additional Fundraising:

There are times that we may do additional fundraising (such as raffles) for items such as club gear or equipment upgrades. Dance Aberdeen will ensure that communication about any additional fundraising is clear and concise as to the use of the funds.

SPRING RECITAL

- Every year we strive to host a Spring Recital. This is an opportunity for everyone to sit back and watch their children perform their competition pieces! Dates will be announced via BAND and via Facebook
- All Competitive Groups/Solos/Duets/Trios are expected to be in attendance
- Location is at Lakeview Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

1. **MANDATORY** - Download and sign up on the **BAND App**. This will be how classes and cancellations will be communicated. Please ensure you are checking regularly.
2. **All parent-board communication is to be done via email to: *aberdeendanceboard@gmail.com***.
3. Attend our Annual General Meeting held every year in June unless otherwise posted.
4. Dance class attendance is mandatory. If attendance continues to be a problem the board may mediate to help come to a solution.
5. Help your child succeed by encouraging your child to practice at home. Practice music will be provided through digital copy once cutting is completed by the teacher. Usually through DROPBOX
6. Currently our main fundraiser is a Dance Festival that we host, always the week after Easter Weekend**. EVERY FAMILY IS REQUIRED TO WORK** at the festival whether their child is in competitive or non-competitive classes as it benefits the whole club. If you are unable to work, your account will be charged the cost of hiring out your shift and must be paid before your child will be allowed to dance at competition. Everyone will be able to select the timeslot they work at the festival.
7. All parents and guardians are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at competitions, classes, and studio events. A strong emphasis should be placed on good sportsmanship, respect, and maintaining a positive attitude regardless of results or placements.
8. We discourage bribing or rewarding dancers solely based on achieving high marks or placements. Instead, we encourage celebrating hard work, growth, effort, and all accomplishments throughout the season.
9. Parents are required to follow the Parent Code of Conduct signed off on at the beginning of the year.

SOLOS, DUETS, TRIOS

- Solos, Duets, and Trios must be preapproved by the dance instructor.
  - The instructor has the right to refuse registrations of the solo, duet, or trio
  - The instructor has the right to remove solos/duets/trios from competition if the participants are not practicing, not showing up to pre-requisite classes
- You must be registered in the genre that you are doing the solo/duet/trio in (ie. If you wish to do a Jazz solo, you must be registered in the Jazz class). Some exceptions do apply and are looked at upon a case-by-case basis (i.e. The class is not offered in the age category/skill category of the dancer). These requests must be direct to our dance board via written email.
- Fees includes 5 hours of private dance instruction, typically 4 hours of lesson time and 1 hour of cleaning time. Prior to your first practice, half of your solo/duet/trio fee needs to be paid. If you are doing a payment plan, the remaining portion of the solo/duet/trio fees will be added to your payment plan invoice.

- Extra solos/duets/trios practice may not be taught during regular class time.
- Any additional instruction time is to be requested from the instructor with the knowledge there may be additional charges.
- ***Costumes are NOT included in the price of solo, duet or trio and are the parent's responsibility.***
- All additional solos/duets/trios are expected to perform at the Festival and the 2 additional competitions. And fees are charged as such. If you do not want to attend additional competitions, there will NOT be a refund of money for this as it is a base fee.
- *The dance board reserves the right to waive, on a yearly basis, the entry fees only for Dance Aberdeen's Festival for all solos/duets/trios attending. They also may decide on a yearly basis to waive the cost of room rent for solos/duets/trios.
- The board also reserves the right to require all solos/duets/trios to work a shift at the dance festival.
- *Solo/Duet/Trio forms, approved by the instructor, must be filled out on jot form and are due the first Monday in October.
- Solos/Duet/Trios must be choreographed by the instructor which is teaching the genre of the solo.
- Guest Choreographers are allowed for students doing multiple solos. However, at least ½ of their solos must be choreographed by the instructor contracted by Dance Aberdeen before sourcing outside the studio.
- **Competitive Students** solos/duets/trios - Must be requested and approved by our qualified instructors. Self-choreography is accepted for our intermediate and senior students if desired. All of these can attend any competition that our club is attending. Any additional competitions wanting to be attended separate from the rest of the club must be requested in writing to the board.
- **Non-Competitive Students** solos/duets/trios – Must be taught by one of our instructors. If a non-competitive student would like to do a duet or trio with a competitive student, this may be allowed if the qualified instructor agrees to it. These will not be performed at competition unless the instructor agrees. Non-competitive students may be allowed to do a solo through a qualified instructor, but these will not be allowed to attend competitions.

CLASS PRICES FOR 2026-2027

- **BALLET IS A MANDATORY PRE-REQUISITE FOR ALL CLASS EXCEPT FOR HIP HOP AND TAP.**
- **JAZZ IS A MANDATORY PRE-REQUISITE FOR ACRO AND MUSICAL THEATRE.**
- **Please register your child with their birth year. Final placements will be made according to EXPERIENCE/ABILITY/AGE/CLASS SIZE which may be different from age guidelines. Please contact the danceaberdeenboard@gmail.com if you have any questions about your child's placement.**
- **Prices for competitive classes include: Dance Fees, Costume Fees, and Competition Fees. If you are asked to provide your own costume for competitive classes, your account will be credited accordingly.**
- **Solos/Duets/Trios prices (outside of regular classes) DO NOT include Costumes. These are at your own cost.**

September 21st, 2026, is the deadline to drop classes without penalty.

CLASSES:	PRICE (per class)	ATTEND RECITAL	ATTEND FESTIVAL ONLY	ATTEND FESTIVAL AND 1 ADDITIONAL COMPETITION	ATTEND FESTIVAL AND 2 ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS
Learn to Dance/Tap (2022-2023)	$260	✓	✓		
Learn to Hip Hop (2022-2023)	$260	✓	✓		
Prima Acro - Recital Only (2020-2021)	$240	✓			
Prima (2020-2021)	$340 - $345	✓		✓	
Adagio (2018-2019)	$340 - $345	✓		✓	
Petit (2016-2017)	$380 - $395	✓			✓
Demi (2013-2015)	$380 - $395	✓			✓
Grand (2009-2012)	$380 - $395	✓			✓
Solos *no costume*	$310/dancer	✓			✓
Duets/Trios *no costume*	$210/dancer	✓			✓
Technique Advancement (NON PRE-REQUISITE)	$70				

PAYMENT PLANS

- **ALL ACCOUNTS WILL REQUIRE A PAYMENT PLAN!**
- **THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS ON CLASSES AFTER THE ABOVE DEADLINES HAVE PASSED.**

OPTION #1: PAYMENT IN FULL PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 30

- If you pay your fees in full prior to September 30th you will receive a 5% discount on your fees.

OPTION #2: POST DATED CHEQUES

- 8 post dated cheques made out for the first of every month as follows:
  - September
  - October
  - November
  - December
  - January
  - February
  - March
  - April

NOTE: if at any time cheques are NSF or no longer valid and no alternate arrangements have been made, your child may be required to sit out of

OPTION #3: MONTHLY E-TRANSFERS

- Each account must have a minimum of $50/class (not including technique classes) paid by October 1st.
- **All *MONTHLY* e-transfers are to be sent to danceaberdeentreasurer@gmail.com**
- Failure to make your monthly payment without communicating alternate payment arrangements with the Treasurer may result in your child having to sit out of dance class. Please contact danceaberdeentreasurer@gmail.com to make payment arrangements.

NOTE: If you wish to use Bingos as payment or to help with payment for option #2 or #3, you must let the dance treasurer know via email. Once you have your dates set with the bingo group, you must notify the treasurer of those dates and approximate values, or we will cash your cheques. Bingo money is not distributed immediately, and there is an approximate 1-4 month waiting period for the club depending on which bingo you are working. Cheques are issued quarterly from Aberdeen Parks and Rec. For more information or to sign up for Bingos, ***contact aberdeen.bingo@sasktel.net***.

If you need assistance with dance fees, we encourage you to apply to *Creative Kids* prior to mid-August. Please see the *Creative Kids* website for more details.