

# GULF COAST DANCE ALLIANCE

## Company Member Contract — 2026–2027 Season

30752 Ember Lane, Spanish Fort, AL 36527 • (251) 621-9755 •

*Please read this contract carefully. Initial each section and sign the final page.*

### 1. Placement

Placement in The GCDA Dance Company is based on the following criteria: technique, potential, commitment level, enthusiasm, attitude, behavior in class, attendance, and stage presence. Company members are placed in a Company Class based on age and ability. Competition levels are assigned based on one or a combination of the following: age, ability, years of dance, and hours of dance per week. We place students together in dances that we feel will work best together in a performance.

Please understand that the number of classes taken, the age of the dancer, and the number of years competed are all factored in when placing students in categories. Competition rules vary by event. The director and instructors place students where they belong according to each competition's bylaws and rules.

### 2. Attendance & Time Commitment

A dance company is a team. Just as sports teams require all players to attend practices, dance companies require their dancers to attend all classes and rehearsals. Absences hold back not only the individual dancer but the company as a whole. Each dancer is allowed up to **6 absences total** from Company classes, rehearsals, and any dance class per dance year, after which the dancer may be removed from the Company.

Dance requires consistent ongoing training. Dancers who miss several classes for any reason other than severe illness, injury, or school-related activities pre-approved by Mrs. Melissa will not be able to compete at the same level as those who attend regularly. All Company members must be present in all classes and rehearsals the week prior to every performance and competition.

Company members are required to take at least **9 dance classes per week** to compete. All Company members are required to attend 2 Ballet Classes, Modern, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, Acro, Company, Stretch and Strength classes each week. Teachers will assign each student the classes they need. Additional classes may be chosen by the parent with owner/director approval.

Company Dancers will attend the following mandatory events:

- DESTRO Summer Choreography Week
- Fall Showcase
- Christmas Parade
- Joffrey Summer Intensive — 2 Auditions
- Alabama Dance Festival (Grades 6 & up)
- 4 Regional Competitions/Conventions throughout the year
- Recital Rehearsal and Recital

All competitions are held on weekends and may require a **FULL DAY** or **FULL WEEKEND COMMITMENT**. Competition schedules are typically released 5–7 days prior to the event, so families must be available for the entire weekend until scheduling is confirmed.

Extra rehearsals will be called during competition season (October–April). These will be held on Saturdays, Sundays, or at other times as the schedule permits. Students and parents will be notified at least one week in advance.

**Competition/Convention dates and Mandatory Rehearsal Weekends for the 2026–2027 Season will be released no later than 7/15/26.**

GCDA Company will participate in 2 Conventions and 2 Competitions starting Fall/Winter 2026 through March/April 2027.

*I agree to enroll in all required classes and to attend all Company classes, rehearsals, competitions, and performances. I understand that excess absences may result in my not being able to participate in an event or removal from the Company. I do not anticipate scheduling conflicts with sports or other activities.*

Parent & Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. Courtesy and Respect**

As representatives of GCDA, both dancers and parents are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct. This includes behavior in class, interactions with peers and instructors, social media presence, and overall conduct both in and outside the studio. Your actions reflect on the entire company, especially at competitions and conventions.

Any student or parent who exhibits repeated disrespectful behavior toward teachers or other students/families will be asked to leave the GCDA Dance Company. Any negative discussion, disparagement, or slander directed at GCDA and/or GCDA staff — whether verbal or in written/digital form — will result in immediate dismissal. Parents are asked to speak positively of all students and to direct all concerns to Melissa Covo privately.

*I agree to treat all GCDA teachers and students with courtesy and respect. I will bring any concerns directly to the instructor or director rather than discussing them publicly or on social media.*

Parent & Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### **4. Dress Code**

Company members must wear appropriate dancewear to every class. Forgetting dancewear, shoes, or hair being worn down or in inappropriate clothing will not be tolerated.

- Dance Tank/Top or Jazz pants/form-fitting shorts are optional for Jazz, Modern, Tap, Acro, Stretch and Strength. Hair must be pulled away from face.
- Black Leotard, Pink Tights, and Hair in a Bun for Ballet.

- NO T-shirts, sweatshirts, or baggy pants — except for Hip Hop.
- Hair must be securely pulled back for every class.
- Appropriate shoes are required for all classes.

*I agree to be prepared for every class as this dress code states: hair back, appropriate dancewear, and correct shoes for each class.*

Parent & Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5. Intellectual Property & Choreography**

All choreography created, taught, or arranged by GCDA instructors, guest choreographers engaged by GCDA, or any GCDA-affiliated personnel is and shall remain the exclusive intellectual property of **Gulf Coast Dance Alliance and/or the individual instructor**. This applies to all group routines, solos, duets, trios, and any other choreographic work developed within or for GCDA programs.

Company members and their families expressly agree that GCDA choreography may **NOT**:

- Be rehearsed, staged, performed, or taught at any other dance studio, organization, program, or competing entity without the prior written consent of GCDA.
- Be reproduced, recorded, distributed, uploaded, or publicly performed in any form without prior written consent of GCDA.
- Be used as the basis for any routine entered in a competition or performance outside of GCDA-sanctioned events.

Any violation of this section may result in immediate dismissal from the Company, forfeiture of all fees paid, and may subject the responsible party to legal action. GCDA reserves the right to seek injunctive relief and damages for any unauthorized use of its choreographic works.

*I understand that all choreography taught or created at GCDA is the exclusive property of GCDA. I will not rehearse, perform, teach, or share GCDA choreography at any other studio or organization without written permission from GCDA.*

Parent & Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6. Photo, Video & Social Media Policy**

### **Photo & Video Release**

I grant GCDA the right to photograph, film, or record my child during classes, rehearsals, performances, competitions, and all other GCDA activities. I authorize GCDA to use such images and recordings for promotional, educational, and marketing purposes, including on GCDA's website and social media channels, without compensation.

## Family Recording Policy

Parents and family members may record performances for personal use only. Posting recordings of GCDA routines — including group numbers, solos, and rehearsal footage — to public social media platforms is subject to the following guidelines:

- Routines that have not yet competed may NOT be posted publicly until after their competition season starts with approval from the studio director.
- GCDA reserves the right to request removal of any posted content that may compromise competition integrity or infringe on choreographic IP.

## Social Media Conduct

Students and parents agree to conduct themselves online in a manner consistent with Section 3 of this contract. This includes, but is not limited to:

- No posting of negative, disparaging, or defamatory content about GCDA, its staff, other studios, or other families.
- No public commentary regarding competition placements, judging, or GCDA programming decisions.

Violations of this policy may result in suspension or dismissal from the Company program.

*I have read and agree to the Photo, Video, and Social Media Policy above. I grant GCDA permission to use photos and videos of my child for promotional purposes, and I agree to the posting guidelines for family recordings.*

Parent & Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Financial

### Outstanding Balances

Outstanding balances for the 2025–2026 Season must be paid in full by **May 27, 2026**.

Company placement for the 2026–2027 season is contingent upon a zero balance from the prior season.

### Monthly Class Tuition

Tuition will be automatically debited from the card on file on the 1st of every month. Tuition will be loaded on the 27th of the prior month. Fall classes run **August 1, 2026 through May 1, 2027** at **\$365.00 per month**

### Summer Program Tuition (7-Week Session)

Summer tuition covers the full 7-week session and is due in full prior to the first day of summer classes. Summer tuition is **non-refundable** once the session begins.

Enrollment Type	Tuition Rate	Payment Due
Single Company Member	<b>\$599.00</b>	June 1, 2026
Family (2 or more Company Members)	<b>\$795.00</b>	June 1, 2026

*Family rate applies when two (2) or more immediate family members are enrolled as Company Members in the same summer session.*

### Company Fee

All Company Members are assessed an annual **Company Fee of \$600.00** per member (family discount applied where applicable). This fee covers competition entry administration, convention registration coordination, in-house weekend rehearsal expenses, and teacher travel costs at competitions and conventions. The Company Fee is **non-refundable**.

Extra group rehearsals are included in this rate; private lessons, solo choreography, and workshops are not and will be billed separately. Company members receive priority access to studio space ahead of non-company students.

The Company Fee is divided into three (3) equal installments of **\$200.00** each, automatically added to the monthly tuition invoice as follows:

Installment	Amount	Added To	Due Date	Notes
Company Fee — Installment 1 of 3	<b>\$200.00</b>	June Tuition Invoice	June 1, 2026	With monthly tuition
Company Fee — Installment 2 of 3	<b>\$200.00</b>	July Invoice	July 1, 2026	
Company Fee — Installment 3 of 3	<b>\$200.00</b>	August Tuition Invoice	August 1, 2026	With monthly tuition
<b>Total Company Fee</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>Paid in 3 equal installments of \$200.00</b>		

### Competition & Convention Entry Fees

A valid debit or credit card must be on file for all Competition/Convention fee processing. Entry fees (including Solos, Duets, and Trios) will be automatically debited **60 days before** the start date of each competition. Parents may pay balances in full or prepay at any time.

### DESTRO Summer Choreography Week

Dates: June 8–12, 2026. Fee: **\$400.00 - \$450.00 per piece**. Dancers will be placed in either 2 or 3 pieces based on instructor selection.

### In-House Choreography

In-house choreography for group dances is **\$150.00 per dancer**. This includes GCDA in-house teachers and any engaged guest choreographers.

## Costumes

Costume costs typically range from **\$75–\$250** per costume (solos may run higher). Costume selections are made by the instructor/choreographer based on the vision for each dance. Solos, duets, and trios are considered extra dances and will not be performed in the annual recital unless the dancer is a Graduating Senior.

## Late & Returned Payment Fees

A late fee of **\$20.00** will be assessed on any payment not received by the 5th of each month. A returned payment fee of **\$50.00** will be charged for any returned check or ACH. GCDA reserves the right to require cash or money order for future payments following a returned payment.

## Early Withdrawal Fee

An Early Withdrawal Fee of **\$500.00** will be assessed if a Company member voluntarily withdraws from the program after choreography for the 2026–2027 season has begun, or if any portion of this contract is violated. This fee represents a reasonable estimate of damages incurred by GCDA, including choreography costs, costume deposits, and competition entry commitments already made on the member's behalf. This fee will be charged immediately to the card on file.

*I understand all financial obligations set forth above, including tuition, Company Fee installments, competition fees, and the Early Withdrawal Fee. I also understand that I may not conduct any fundraising activities using the GCDA name without prior written approval from Melissa Covo.*

Parent & Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. Liability, Injury & Waiver

I acknowledge that dance, acrobatics, and related physical activities involve inherent risks of injury. I confirm that my child is covered under my own family health insurance policy, and that said policy is my sole source of reimbursement for any injury sustained during GCDA activities. GCDA is not responsible for injuries occurring on or off its premises during GCDA-affiliated activities.

I confirm that I have separately executed the **GCDA Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement**, which is incorporated herein by reference. Participation in the GCDA Company program is contingent upon execution of that agreement. In the event of a medical emergency and if I cannot be reached, I authorize GCDA staff to contact emergency services and consent to emergency medical treatment on my child's behalf.

*I confirm that I have read and signed the GCDA Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement. I understand GCDA is not responsible for injuries sustained during GCDA activities and that my family's own insurance is my sole source of reimbursement.*

Parent & Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## **9. Dispute Resolution & Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama. Any disputes arising out of or related to this Agreement shall be resolved first through good-faith discussion with GCDA's director. If a dispute cannot be resolved informally, the parties agree that venue shall be in Baldwin County, Alabama. If any provision of this Agreement is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

## **10. Acknowledgment & Agreement**

Both dancer and parent/guardian have read and fully understand all expectations and obligations of membership in The GCDA Dance Company. We understand that these standards are designed to ensure the best possible training experience and most positive environment for all members. We agree that failure to meet the conditions of this contract may result in suspension or dismissal from The GCDA Dance Company, forfeiture of fees, and/or assessment of the Early Withdrawal Fee.

By signing below, we affirm that we have read this contract in its entirety, that all sections have been initialed, and that we agree to be bound by its terms for the 2026–2027 season.

### **STUDENT INFORMATION**

**Student Printed Name:**

**Student Signature:**

**Date:**

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### **PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN**

**Parent / Guardian Printed Name:**

**Parent / Guardian Signature:**

**Date:**

**Relationship to Student:**

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