

NIAGARA DANCE CENTRE COMPETITION TEAM PLACEMENT GUIDELINES 2025–2026

As our competition program continues to grow, so has our ability to place dancers in class and team environments that will best support their development as artists and set them up for success. Thus, current and prospective competition team dancers will attend a placement session at the studio. During the session, they will be assessed on their skills through a combination of center and traveling exercises, choreography, and individual presentations. This year's placement sessions* will be:

AGES 6–11: Tuesday, June 10th • 5:00–8:00 PM

AGES 12 & UP: Wednesday, June 11th • 5:00–8:00 PM

OPTIONAL SESSIONS: Thursday, June 12th

HIP HOP: 5:00–6:00 PM • **CONTEMPORARY:** 6:00–7:00 PM

Registration for placement will cost \$30 and the session will operate largely like a class. The tentative schedule for each full session is as follows:

TIME	ACTIVITY
5:00–5:10	check-in; preview agenda
5:10–5:25	barre
5:25–5:45	dynamic warm-up & stretching
5:45–6:10	across-the-floor exercises (incl. tap)
6:10–6:45	learn short combination
6:45–6:55	independent practice
6:55–7:25	perform combination in small groups
7:25–7:45	individual "bonus skills" presentations
7:45–8:00	overflow time; debrief

Dancers will be notified of their placement by Friday, June 20th. While technique is one deciding factor of a dancer's placement on a team, we do take age into consideration, owing to the need to align social and emotional maturity levels as well as consider competition rules and regulations. We will also factor in the prior season's class performance and attendance.

At Niagara Dance Centre, we also prioritize a positive, team-oriented attitude. Competition team members are ambassadors of the studio's values:

- **resilience:** face challenges with grace, listen to and learn from feedback, and protect your joy;
- **integrity:** practice honesty, communicate transparently, behave respectfully, and take accountability;
- **leadership:** advocate for yourself and others, and represent yourself and the studio with poise;
- **excellence:** accept nothing less than your best, and seek opportunities to learn and grow;
- **dedication:** show up fully and consistently, be prepared, and commit to training in and out of class.

Accolades are nice, but winning is not our main priority. Rather, we are striving to grow as teammates and as artists.

It is important to note that while we are looking for proficiency in these skills, we can also recognize potential: a dancer may not necessarily have mastered every skill at a certain level, but if they have achieved most, as well as demonstrate that they're able to work hard and apply corrections well, their placement will reflect that. Dancers perform best when they feel confident, and appropriate placement engenders confidence. Remember, too: we will always try to find a place for anyone who wants to compete.

*If you are unable to make the placement session, please contact Miss Amy to schedule an individual session.