



Elite Company Handbook 2025-2026

OVERVIEW

This program requires strong commitment from both students and their parents. Our Elite Company dancers require a passion for dance, hard work, dedication, and a drive for self-improvement. Dancers must have a supportive family base and show respect and support for the studio, instructors and fellow dancers. Dancers in this program are required to take a set number of technique classes per week and participate in a set number of group routines. Placement in the program is by audition only. Auditions allow us to ensure dancers are placed in the level that allows them the opportunity to reach their full potential based on previous dance experience as well as current physical, emotional and mental readiness and commitment. Being part of this exciting and award-winning team is a self-esteem building, fun, energetic, and rewarding experience. You will be amazed by how much your dancer will learn and accomplish in this program. An emphasis will be placed on teamwork and sportsmanship as well as aiming to reach our highest potential at the competitions we attend. Being part of our Elite Company helps a dancer build their confidence while becoming a well-rounded team member and performer.

COMMITMENT

Dancers will attend five-six mandatory competitions from March-May and the competition schedule for the season will be announced in September. A minimum of one and a maximum of two competitions will be out of town while the other competitions will be local. Dancers must attend all mandatory competitions and cannot pick and choose which competitions to attend. Students who miss a competition will be removed from the team. Dancers on the Elite Company teams are required to attend one dance convention per season. We will participate in a convention as a team in the months from September-December however dancers are not required to attend the convention chosen by BDC. Dancers may attend another convention of their choosing if the name and details of this convention are submitted to BDC. All dancers are required to attend Bianca's Dance Company's summer intensive. Dancers will also perform at our annual year end recital in June. Both you and your dancer should be very confident about the desire to be a part of our Elite Company. Please talk to your dancer about the importance of honoring commitments. Dancers are expected to fulfill these commitments and both parent and dancer will be required to sign a letter of commitment.

PARENT ROLE

A dancer's behavior, as well as the behaviour of their parents can have both positive and negative effects on the team. Parents are expected to be supportive, respectful and courteous to all staff as well as team members and their families at all times. Rudeness, jealousy, resentment, or disrespect to staff, team members or their families will not be tolerated.

All concerns should be voiced directly to Bianca Brady, and not to the general public, especially through social media. Anyone needing to speak with Bianca Brady, or any other instructor must make an appointment. This will ensure that proper time for hearing concerns will be made available and that no time is taken away from class instruction to address concerns.

If a parent's actions, at any time, shed a negative light upon the studio or bring negativity to the studio, they will be asked to leave the team. This includes negative and anything deemed inappropriate written about Bianca's Dance Company on any social media platform.

Parents roles are the following:

- Lift up and support all of our dancers.
- Help to teach your dancer there is always going to be someone stronger than they are in varying aspects of dance.
- Help to teach your dancer to be happy and supportive of others.
- Stand behind and support our instructors.
- Work with our instructors, showing your dancer you are support their mentors.
- Volunteer your time for one task per season.

When all parents lend a hand to volunteer, they improve our sense of community and the studio as a whole. During the season we put out a sign-up form which outlines various areas where parents can volunteer. Families are expected to sign up for at least one task per season. If you are NOT able to volunteer, a fee of \$50.00 per student will apply to allow us a small budget to manage the remaining tasks. Students age 14+ may take their parents place as a volunteer.

We have found that the most successful dancers are those who's parents support them and their instructors 100%. Speaking negatively about instructors or other team members in front of your dancer will never have a positive impact. We all want our dancers to succeed however, success is not measured by the trophy a dancer brings home, in which row they stand on stage, or how fabulous a technician they are. Instead, it is measured by the effort they put forth, their personal triumphs and individual growth.

STUDENT ROLE

What we expect from our dancers:

Discipline & Focus

Understand the need to work the entire class time. The focus should always be on the instructor.

Positive Attitude

Be part of the solution, not the problem. We all have our off days; however, negativity never improves a situation.

Honesty

Be willing to admit when you've made a mistake. Be honest with yourself and with others. Lying, cheating and stealing will not be tolerated.

Respect

Treat one another, instructors, parents and all studio guests with kindness and respect.

Responsibility

Take care of yourself and your dance space. Take full responsibility for your actions and attitudes. You are responsible for making sure you have all necessary materials for each class, rehearsals and performances. This includes proper attire for each class.

Good Behaviour

Follow instructions and all studio rules and policies. Inappropriate language and behaviour will not be tolerated.

Patience

Understand that becoming a great dancer is a process and takes time. Have patience with yourself and with others.

Punctuality

Always be on time for class, rehearsals, competitions and performances. Being on time for class means ready and waiting outside the studio door, not in the change room.

Commitment

Fulfill all your commitments. This includes attending all technique classes on a weekly basis as well as rehearsals, competitions and performances.

Time Management

Manage your school time, dance and any other extra-curricular activities. Time management is expected and we believe that all athletes are capable of performing well in school, while still keeping their commitment to their team. Although school is the number one priority, homework/tests and studying are not valid excuses to miss classes and rehearsals. School and other commitments should be managed outside of dance in the hours spent away from the studio.

Maturity

Think before you act and take ownership of your choices. Be willing to apologize when you've made a mistake. Be open to seeing other points of view.

Pride

Place all garbage in the garbage can, clean up any spills and keep a neat and clean space for everyone. Take pride in yourself, your work and in your studio!

INSTRUCTOR ROLE

What you can expect from our instructors:

Consistency

We are consistent in our training methods.

Commitment

We are committed to helping each student reach their full potential.

Fairness

We are fair in enforcing policies and procedures. We hold the same expectations for all students.

Honesty

We are honest in our feedback regarding performance and behaviour.

Individual Attention

We are interested in our dancers and enjoy getting to know them and their families. You are not just another number at BDC!

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for all technique classes, rehearsals and events listed below. When it comes to school and family activities you will find Bianca's Dance Company to be flexible and accommodating. However, by accepting placement onto the Elite Company dancers and parents have agreed that dance is a priority in the family schedule. Absences due to vacations must be submitted to the studio in writing one month prior to the vacation and must not interfere with the events listed below. All student absences will be recorded, and any missed technique classes must be made up as best as possible. Being a well-rounded individual is important, and we support students pursuing other activities. However, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught so students must be present!

Students are required to attend the following mandatory events:

- Group Choreography Week in January
- Dress Rehearsal in February
- All Competitions (typically March – May)
- Year End Show in June
- Picture Day in June

Students who do not regularly attend their weekly technique classes risk expulsion from the program. Students will be given a warning for poor attendance and if the behavior does not improve may be asked to leave the Elite Company team. Missing any of the above listed events may result in expulsion from the program.

Students are permitted to miss a maximum of two group choreography rehearsals per season per routine. Missing more than two group rehearsals may result in expulsion from that specific routine or the program unless the absences are due to injury or illness.

Dancers will not be allowed to come in "to watch" if ill. Dancers are only required to come in "to watch" if they are injured. Dancers are not allowed to come into the studio while sick, and if a teacher believes they are ill they will be sent home.

If a dancer is absent for any reason a parent or guardian must inform Bianca's Dance Company of the absence through the absentee form on our website. The reason for the absence must be included.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

It is important that parents understand a competitive program requires a certain financial commitment.

Lesson Fees

Registration for fall classes requires payment of the first month's tuition and a \$30 per student or \$50.00 per family registration fee. Payment of tuition must be made by automatic withdrawal through the studio software or by monthly e-transfer. All e-transfers must be sent on the 15th of each month (September 2025-June 2026) or will be subject to late penalties.

Tuition is due by the 15th of every month. Parents are responsible for all fees invoiced in their Jackrabbit accounts and failure to pay fees in accordance with their due dates will result in a 10% late fee. If lesson fees are outstanding more than two months the dancer will not be permitted to attend dance classes until the balance is paid.

Group Choreography Fees & Guest Choreographers

Group choreography fees are \$110 +gst per group routine. These fees are due to the studio in three installments on November 30th, December 30th, and January 30th. Missing an assigned due date will result in a 10% late fee. Dancers may be invited into routines that are choreographed by an outside guest choreographer. This will be at the discretion of Bianca's Dance Company and additional varying fees will apply.

Competition/Convention Fees

Fees associated with each competition/convention are based upon prices set by the competition/convention itself. These generally cost \$65 per person per group routine, \$75 per person per duo/trio routine and solos are typically \$110 per competition per routine. Convention participation fees generally run between \$250-\$350 per dancer. Fees for competitions/conventions are due to the studio in three installments on November 15th, December 15th, and January 15th. Missing an assigned due date will result in a 10% late fee. NO STUDENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO COMPETE IF FEES ARE NOT PAID AND IF YOU ARE NOT UP TO DATE ON TUITION.

Year End Recital

A fee of \$15 per dancer will apply and will include a commemorative gift for each student as well as a copy of the show video. All Company members are required to pay the fee when due.

Accessories & Make-Up

Specific hair accessories, jewelry and make-up is required and will be discussed at our hair and make-up workshop in January. All dancers must wear makeup and have their hair in the studio hairstyle(s) for competitions and any additional performances. Parents are responsible for purchasing all necessary make-up and accessories and must do their child's hair and makeup exactly as discussed at the hair and makeup workshop in January. All parents are required to attend the hair and makeup work shop.

Costumes

A separate costume will be chosen for each group routine that a dancer participates in. All costume and music selections for group routines will be at the discretion of the instructors of Bianca's Dance Company. We try to keep the cost of group costumes between \$110-\$170 per costume. A costume deposit of \$110 per routine is due by October 30th. PLEASE NOTE that these are costume DEPOSITS. The additional cost per costume will be billed at a later date. Dancers will not receive a costume until paid in full. Missing an assigned due date will result in a 10% late fee.

Soloists are responsible for acquiring their own costume. Options include buying or renting from other dancers, ordering through a costume company or custom-made costumes through a freelance seamstress. Please note when ordering through a costume catalogue the estimated cost will not include shipping, duty, or conversion at the time of purchase and any additional taxes and fees. All custom costume designs must be approved by the choreographer before being made. Parents are welcome to add additional embellishments such as rhinestones to their dancer's solo, duo or trio costumes. Rhinestones are available for purchase through the studio or they may be purchased elsewhere.

A standardized measurement chart is used to select a costume size for each dancer and every effort is made to allow room for growth. Should a new costume need to be ordered because a parent or dancer is unhappy with the fit, the cost will be invoiced to the dancer. Parents may have to add additional embellishments to the costume or perform simple alterations such as hemming or sewing straps.

Prop Fees

If your dancer is in a routine with a prop, you will be billed a prop fee. This fee will be in the range of \$10-\$75.

Team Jacket

All Company members are required to purchase a team jacket. This fee will be in the range of \$120-\$140.

Ankle Weights & Stretch Bands

All Junior and higher-level Elite Company dancers are required to purchase ankle weights and stretch bands. We recommend 1, 1.5 or 2 lbs weights. Please contact the studio for recommendations on where to purchase these items.

Additional Fees

Along with the above-mentioned fees parents can expect additional costs for travel, dance shoes, tights and body glue. It is the responsibility of the parents to pay these fees when invoiced to avoid late charges.

ELITE COMPANY TEAM STRUCTURE

Please note that the ages are just a guideline and directors may move students as they see fit.

Petite Elite Ages 5-6 \$101 Monthly

- 3.5 hours per week
- Includes classes in ballet, jazz, acro, stretch
- Optional classes can be added in tap & hip hop

Mini Elite Ages 7-8 \$159 Monthly

- 5.5 hours per week
- Includes classes in ballet, jazz, jumps & turns, acro, stretch
- Optional classes can be added in tap & hip hop

Junior Elite Ages 9-10 \$217 Monthly

- 7.5 hours per week
- Includes classes in ballet, jazz, jumps & turns, acro, stretch
- Optional classes can be added tap, hip hop, ballet, jazz, jumps & turns, acro, stretch

Intermediate Elite Ages 11-12 \$289 Monthly

- 10 hours per week
- Includes classes in ballet, jazz, jumps & turns, acro, stretch
- Optional classes can be added in tap, hip hop, ballet, pointe/pre point, jazz, jumps & turns, skills/progressions, acro, stretch

Teen Elite Ages 13-14 \$318 Monthly

- 11 hours per week
- Includes classes in ballet, jazz, jumps & turns, skills/progressions, acro, stretch
- Optional classes can be added in tap, hip hop, ballet, pointe, acro, stretch

Senior Elite Ages 15+ \$318 Monthly

- 11 hours per week
- Includes classes in ballet, jazz, jumps & turns, skills/progressions, acro, stretch
- Optional classes can be added in tap, hip hop, ballet, pointe, acro, stretch

A dancer's total number of group routines must be double than the total amount of solos they choose to compete. Duos and trios may be used to count towards total number of group routines.

1 solo = minimum 2 group routines

2 solos = minimum 4 group routines

3 solos = minimum 6 group routines

4+ solos = minimum 8 group routines

All dancers are required to participate in a minimum of two group routines. All group choreography will be done on weekends outside of the weekly technique/class schedule. A schedule for weekend choreography will be released on a monthly basis. A flexible choreography schedule allows us to work around dancer's other commitments, family obligations and extra curriculums through school. On occasion we may find it important to add additional mandatory rehearsals before a competition during the week in place of regular classes. We make every effort to give enough notice so families are able to coordinate their schedules. These rehearsals are a benefit to the dancers. We all want them to be comfortable and prepared to dance their best.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Additional Training/Competing Outside of Bianca's Dance Company

Any additional training or competing outside of the Elite Company must be approved by Bianca and must not interfere with weekly technique classes. Should training schedules conflict, dancers will be required to make up any missed weekly hours from their Elite Company schedule. Any make up classes or substitutions within the Elite Company schedule must be approved by Bianca.

Every effort will be made to work around a dancer's schedule outside of Bianca's Dance Company to accommodate additional training. However, dancers with limited weekend availability or limited availability during the competition season (March-May) may only be placed in large groups at Bianca's Dance Company. This will be at the discretion of the Elite Company directors.

If a dancer is planning to compete in a dance discipline offered at Bianca's Dance Company, they must participate in the group routine offered at Bianca's Dance Company. For example, if a dancer wishes to compete in an acro routine outside of Bianca's Dance Company they must first be part of the acro routine at Bianca's Dance Company.

We believe all additional training and competition opportunities should be in addition to, rather than instead of training and competing at Bianca's Dance Company.

Individual Opportunities

Opportunities may arise to further a student's dance education. These include a convention, competition (enter as a soloist), workshop, or additional performance opportunities. Dancers are encouraged to pursue these opportunities as long as they do not conflict with mandatory rehearsals or important studio events such as dress rehearsal, competition, winter show, and year end show.

SOLOS & DUO/TRIOS

Dancers have the opportunity to participate in solos or duo/trios. Students may choose the solo discipline(s) they would like to do or ask the advice of an instructor. Music/costumes suggestions are encouraged from the students for solos only. However, all final decisions will be made by the instructors. All duos and trios are chosen by the instructors in both the discipline and partners. **Solo fees are: \$300 per solo +gst; Duo fees are: \$360.00 per duo +gst (\$180 each duo dancer); trio fees are: \$420.00 per trio +gst (\$140 each trio dancer.)** All fees must be paid prior to the start of the routine choreography—no exceptions! This fee covers as many rehearsals as the student needs to learn the solo or duo/trio which is typically three, one-hour rehearsals. Any cheques must be payable to the individual choreographer and not Bianca's Dance Company.

Bianca has final approval of solo and duo/trio choreography. You are only permitted to receive choreography from an outside source (not a current member of the Bianca's Dance Company Elite faculty) if it is approved and if the choreographer resides outside of Alberta.

THE COMPETITION EXPERIENCE

Important reminder from our friend and mental skills educator Lauren Ritchie:

"Dance competitions aren't fair. It can be tough to accept but it's critical to understand. We participate in a subjectively adjudicated sport. We can recognize and appreciate the following:

- The feedback from adjudicators is incredible for our growth.
- The chance to perform and share our heart and hard work is exhilarating.
- The opportunity to feel nervous and practice courage as we step on stage is invaluable.

What dancers and parents can do to support the competition process:

- Establish, measure and celebrate personal wins.
- Be clear on personal successes and important efforts, independent of an external outcome."

Bianca's Dance Company approaches competition with a few things in mind:

- Competition against the finest teams allows us the opportunity to see other styles and grow and learn from watching others.
- Dancers who wish to pursue a professional career in dance have an opportunity to develop their performance skills through competition.
- Students learn team-building skills, develop self-confidence, and make so many special memories that will last a lifetime.

Overall, competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and your dancer's growth should not be measured solely by their scores or achievements at competitions. It is important to keep your competition experience positive and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within each dancer. We do not foster competition within our studio, and all we ask from our students is that each dancer works to their full ability. Every effort is made to select competitions that provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. Any issue with a competition or convention needs to be brought to the attention of Bianca's Dance Company. Dancers, parents, or family members are not permitted to contact or complain to the competition, convention staff, or management.

COMPETITION AWARDS

Our company dancers consistently achieve overall high score rankings and awards at prestigious dance competitions. We have competed alongside top-ranking studios and have earned numerous titles, overall high scoring group awards as well as many overall high scoring awards in the duo/trio and solo categories. We also had the privilege to travel to Las Vegas in 2012 to attend the Dance Power Championships, Whistler BC in 2015 to attend 5678 Showtime Nationals and the prestigious Dance World Cup, California in 2017 to attend Mather Dance Company's Trans4m as well as Dancerpalooza, Las Vegas in 2018 to attend Star Power Nationals and Niagara Falls in 2019 to attend Candance Nationals. Many of our students have also received scholarships to train at various workshops around the country, circus schools, and even the Paris, Barcelona, Greece, and Hawaii Dance Tours for a week of intensive training.

The company dancers of BDC have also received monetary prizes at the competitions we have attended. The purpose of the winnings is to reward the hard work of both the dancers and the studio. Therefore, any winnings received are split 50/50 between the dancers and the studio. We feel that the winnings can be used in the studio to assist with general maintenance and fun activities for the students such as the Christmas party, pizza parties, cake parties, studio bingo prizes, etc. The other 50% is credited directly into each dancer's account who were part of the winning routine.

If a dancer receives a cash award for a solo, 100% of the award goes to them. If they receive a gift certificate, credit or scholarship, they are responsible for notifying the studio to ensure it is applied for the next season. Gift certificates, credits or scholarships won with BDC can only be used if the dancer is still a member the following season. They can not be transferred or released in the event that a dancer is no longer a student of Bianca's Dance Company.

MANDATED CLOSURES

In the event Bianca's Dance Company is mandated to close the facility, we will provide online virtual classes. Monthly lesson fees will be kept at the same rate as in studio classes and no discounts, credits or refunds will be provided. Students may see an adjustment to their schedule and an adjustment in hours. This will remain at the discretion of Bianca's Dance Company.

In the event that restrictions are put in place which prohibit competitions or conventions from operating, Bianca's Dance Company would like to state the following: All competition fees, that are collected by Bianca's Dance Company on behalf of participants, and remitted to a third party are collected by Bianca's Dance Company acting in its capacity as agent. The terms and conditions set by the third party apply to the extent that they relate to the collection, use and refund of fees. In the case of a refund from a third party for any reason, Bianca's Dance Company will, in its capacity as agent, forward the fees received back to the individuals they were collected from and remitted on behalf of. Bianca's Dance Company shall determine, in its sole discretion, the method by which any fees shall be disbursed back to the individuals. Bianca's Dance Company shall have no liability to participants to refund fees back to participants after the fees have been collected and remitted to third parties in accordance with the stated purpose for collection of the fees.

In the event that restrictions are put in place which prohibit competitions or performances from operating, Bianca's Dance Company will not provide discounts, credits or refunds for costumes ordered even if costumes go unworn and/or unused.

TEAMWORK

We cannot stress enough the amount of teamwork that is necessary to be on a competition team. Parents and dancers must be willing to go the extra mile in order to make the team the best it can be.

Dancers who do not meet the expectations outlined in the handbook will be removed from the team. No refunds will be given and any money in their fundraising account will be distributed among the other team members.

In the event that a team member becomes injured, or departs from the studio mid season, it will be at Bianca's Dance Company's sole discretion if an understudy will be used. All company team members may be required to learn adjustments to their choreography. Every effort will be made to keep choreography unchanged. Any injured, ill or departed dancers will loan their costume to the understudy.

By reading the handbook dancers and their parents are acknowledging the rules, requirements and responsibilities of being on the Elite Company team.

ENDNOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Miss Bianca is the director and primary instructor for the Elite Company.

Teaching and choreographing are my passions and I can't imagine doing anything else. Thank you for allowing me to teach your children and share my passion for dance with them. Please know that the many tough decisions regarding dancer's placement, group routines, solos, etc, is a long and well-thought-out process that I do not take lightly. I always have each dancer's best interest at heart. Helping your child reach their full potential as a dancer is my top priority. I pride myself on developing each dancers' skills to the best of their ability and creating a special bond as a mentor that will extend past their time at Bianca's Dance Company.