

Dear Parents and Students,

Thank you for choosing to become a member of the I've Got Rhythm Performance Team (IGRPT). The mission of IGRPT is to give back to our community while also sharing our love of dance. In seasons past, team members had the opportunity to perform at area nursing homes, community day centers, Dartmouth Pride and Disney World, as well as many other locations. We put together care packages for foster children and soldiers stationed overseas. Team members also held food drives, read to preschool children and participated in Dartmouth Green Up Day. The performance team is fun and very rewarding, but it requires your dedication if your goal is to become the best you can be. Our past seasons have been very successful and we would love you to help us do it again!

New for this upcoming year, we've decided to add a couple dance competitions to our list of performances. Competitions require even more dedication and the desire to improve and excel. We are confident that you are ready to accept the challenge.

Being a team player is an important responsibility. Hard work, discipline and commitment from every team member, makes the performance team a success. Participants must be motivated to work hard, stay focused and always be a team player. Those who do not take this opportunity seriously will limit the success of the entire team. We have prepared this handbook to help you better understand your commitment. It is important to read and comprehend what is expected of you both individually and as a team member.

The Performance Team Experience

All of us here at IGRDC consider participation on the performance team to be a reflection on our studio's reputation for education and quality. Not simply in the way we train our students to dance, but on how they are influenced as young adults. With the right focus, this experience can provide motivation and self-confidence. If the dancer feels good about their performance and understands they are improving each time, then they are truly growing from each performance. Progress is made when you look at each and every class as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Stretch a little further, turn out a little more, make sure every sound is clear and listen to every correction made by the teacher, whether it's made to you or the other dancers. Coming to each rehearsal and performance and doing the best you can is what it's all about.

Performance Team Etiquette

It is expected that all IGRPT members will attend rehearsal (and class) in proper dance clothes and appropriate shoes. Hair must be pulled away from the face (and stay there). You should have the utmost respect for all teachers/choreographers and make attendance at all classes and rehearsals a priority. Please remember to have an open attitude to any material presented and give 100% concentration and effort. During class, rehearsals, performances, community service and any other time, team members will be on their best behavior and act as a team player. Remember, you (parents included) are representing I've Got Rhythm Dance Center! Team members, you are role models for the younger dancers!

Community Service

Part of what makes the IGRPT unique is our commitment to community service. Giving back to the community and helping those less fortunate is a valuable lesson for everyone involved. Meetings will be held throughout the year to brainstorm ways to help others. Every performance team member is expected to be equally involved in each community service activity as they are with their performances and rehearsals.

Rehearsal Attendance

All IGRPT members must be available for rehearsals on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:45 or 7:45-9:00p.m. During that time, students will learn an entire performance show, as well as specific competition routines.

Because competition is a new experience for all students involved, the number of dances will be limited to no more than three routines per dancer. In our experience, competition can sometimes be overwhelming for a novice competitor. We have the students' best interest in mind, and want the experience to be positive, not stressful. Competition practice will be on Saturdays.

Team Members are required to attend every rehearsal, performance and community service event. Continued absence will result in a meeting with the Director, Teachers, Parent and Student to discuss their level of commitment to the team.

The Calendar

A calendar will be located by the team members' folders. Any date a team member knows she is not available (this includes arriving late or leaving early), must be posted on the calendar. Keeping an accurate calendar will help in successfully booking performances that are convenient for everyone. The student needs to record the absence two weeks prior to the missed date. If an emergency

situation arises, please notify the studio as soon as possible. Unforeseen circumstances will be taken into consideration.

You, as the IGRPT member, are solely responsible for posting your absence on the calendar. Not your parents, not your teachers. Team members are also expected to meet with their dance captain (*see Dance Captain section on page 3 for more information*) to learn any missed material during an absence.

Getting the Right Information

Information regarding rehearsals, performances, community service, etc will be placed in each team members' folder in the waiting area by the office as it becomes available. Team members are responsible for checking them on a regular basis.

Additional Rehearsals

As performances draw closer, team members may be asked to stay a bit later for extra rehearsal time. If a performance is scheduled over the summer, there will be at least one rehearsal held prior to the show. Team members are expected to attend any summer rehearsal(s) if they committed to the performance. Additional rehearsal fees will be charged.

Choreography

Team members are divided into many groups for choreography. Most times placement is decided based on the show order. The same dancers will not be together for every routine. We do this to allow enough time in between each dance to change shoes and/or costumes. It is encouraged that team members learn each other's dances (Understudy). That way, the understudy will be able to fill in, should another dancer not be able to attend a performance. ALL CHOREOGRAPHY DECISIONS MADE BY THE IGRDC FACULTY ARE FINAL.

Dance Captains

Choreographers will be assigning a dance captain for each routine. A captain is responsible for rehearsing and cleaning the routine when not working directly with a choreographer. They are also responsible for teaching any missed material to a member who was absent and writing detailed notes of the choreography. The dance captain's notes will be distributed to each member in the routine. Each team member will be assigned captain for at least one routine. Dance captains are also responsible for reporting any questions or problems to the choreographer.

Notebooks

Team members will need a notebook and must bring it to EVERY rehearsal. This notebook will be used to record choreography and notes, as well as tentative performance and rehearsal dates.

Costumes

Team members will be responsible for purchasing a specific tank style leotard, tights and appropriate shoes. Take the time to be sure your leotard is clean, your tights do not have any runs or pulls, and your shoes are in good shape prior to each performance. If you choose to wear a bra under your leotard, be sure that it is not visible in the front or back. Detailed information on costuming will be provided at a later date. Any additional costuming or props provided by the studio must be returned within the week following each performance.

For competition, it may be necessary to purchase a costume specifically for that routine. When possible, we may be able to reuse a costume if the style of choreography permits. Other times, we can't. Please keep that in mind before committing to a competition routine.

Competition Fees

Fees associated with each competition are based upon prices set by the competition itself. They generally run around \$30.00 per person per routine. Duos/Trios/Solos have slightly higher prices. Fees for competitions are due to IGRDC at least 2 months prior to each competition. Please note: competition fees are almost always non refundable. **NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IF FEES ARE NOT PAID.**

Parent Roles

IGRDC strives to be drama free! Parents are expected to be supportive, respectful and courteous to all team members and their families at all times. This studio will not tolerate rudeness, jealousy and disrespect to another team member, their family, a teacher, nor the director. .

Your role is the following:

- Lift up and support **all** of our team members
- Encourage your child to be concerned with improving their performance only and not compare themselves to others
- Encourage your child to support other team members always
- Stand firmly behind the teaching staff

Through our years of experience, the most successful children are those whose parents support their teachers 100%. These are the ones who do not bad-mouth or question a teacher in front of their children, and they are certainly the ones who are realistic about their children. We all want the children to succeed, but success is not measured by a trophy, or where they stand on stage, or by how many pirouettes they can do. Instead, it is measured by the effort they put forth, that they are trying to learn and improve every day.

Performances

EXCITING, THRILLING, MOTIVATING AND REWARDING!!! This is what it's all about! All of our hard work, dedication and rehearsing will be displayed through our performances. Extreme effort must be made to commit to performance dates. Making a commitment to the performance team is making a commitment to perform! No Exceptions!

The Day of the Performance

Typically, the IGRPT agrees to meet at the performance venue a half hour to an hour prior to the performance. For competition, you must be at the theater one hour before you are scheduled to perform. Competitions do not always run on time. Sometimes they are ahead of schedule, sometimes they are behind. Be prepared, arrive early.

Team members need to wear their **I've Got Rhythm Dance Center jackets** to each performance. Specific makeup is required. Not all venues are equipped with proper stage lighting. Be prepared to apply more makeup if needed. Please arrive with the correct hairstyle requested by the choreographers. Check to be sure all costumes, tights, accessories, props and shoes are clean, organized and ready for the show. Dancers are responsible for stretching and warming themselves up prior to the performance and cleaning up any mess after the performance. Most importantly, remain professional and courteous! You are representing IGRDC!

Final Word

Should either the team member or parent have any questions after reading over the I've Got Rhythm Performance Team Policies, please do not hesitate to ask. The purpose of this policy manual is to ensure everyone is clear on what is expected, the level of commitment they have made and that everyone is treated fairly.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of helping others and dancing our hearts out. We are always open to new ideas. If you have any thoughts on how to improve the team, please let us know.

On the following page is the I've Got Rhythm Performance Team Student Contract. Please sign (both student and a parent) after you have read and comprehended every part of the policy manual.

Thank you again for choosing to become a member of the I've Got Rhythm Performance Team. Let's all work together to make this the best team yet.

Sincerely,
Miss Sharon & Miss Jenn