

Shining Stars School of Performing Arts

Eight Count Competition Program

2010-2011

Team
Handbook

Introduction and Welcome to 2010-1011 Competition Year

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the 2010-11 Competition Program! Our Eight Count Dance Team is composed of the Alpha, Beta, Delta, Sigma and Pi teams and competitive soloists. They are also part of SSSPA. First note to consider is that being a team member involves living up to certain responsibilities that are part of the privileges associated with representing SSSPA.

Being successful team members truly demands commitment to all classes, rehearsals and performances required to maintain strong competitive technique and artistry. To do this, we know from experience that it is vital for our dancers to make this their **priority “after school”** activity, Please takes this into great consideration. Your child may be extremely able to handle his or her busy life with many optional outside interests, but we do not want anyone over taxed, over stressed or in a place where hard choices have to be decided that will please no one! Your child’s “wanting” to be on a team is not enough reason to decide to be on ECDT alone should they qualify. Family schedules are critical to consider. You as a parent know that trying to juggle schedules to satisfy everyone can cause life to be tense and difficult. Think carefully about this. .ECDT will demand that it be the priority extracurricular activity of your child. This can mean you may need to car-pool, forego birthday parties at times and dedicate entire weekend plans for competitions. We want to be totally transparent in what is required before you decide. After Auditions there is a Mandatory Pre-Season Intensive, and with the fall start up of the dance year, a required Dance Program to follow, “Get It Right Nights” before competitions, some extra practices, the competitions themselves, other community events and the financial obligations.

Eight Count Competition Teams

Eight Count Dance Team members are placed on team(s) based on age, certain start up skill levels, technique, potential and artistry. All team members are guaranteed a minimum of one dance and a maximum of four dances for competitions. Dancers may audition for and participate concurrently in multiple teams provided they meet the requirements for all (i.e., a 12 year old dancer may audition for and participate in Alpha, Sigma and Delta teams provided they are placed on those team).

Alphas

An auditioned group of Hip-Hop/Jazz/Lyrical dancers 11 and up.

Betas

An auditioned group of Hip-Hop/Jazz/Lyrical dancers 8 to 10.

Deltas

An auditioned group of intermediate/ advanced tap dancers.

Sigmas

An auditioned group of ballet dancers.

Pi

By invitation only group for very young dancers

Auditions

Tryouts are open for our 2010/11 teams to dancers that match age, skills, artistry and potential required by the teams. Candidates are recommended to have dance experience as tryouts are highly competitive. Former Eight Count Team Members must also tryout every year. There is no guarantee that dancers on the previous year's team will be placed on the next year's team with the exception of the Captains and Co-Captains of the prior year. Nonetheless, they must audition and receive adjudication. Please note that candidates will be evaluated by a panel of judges who are not SSSPA Coaches .with expertise in dance and performing arts

Times and Dates for 2010-11(See Addendum 1)

Tryouts are on June 6, 2010 for Alpha, Beta, Delta, Sigma and Soloist Competition Team. The Pi Competition Team is created by invitation only and has no tryouts. Since there is no Parent Observation during auditions and once you sign your child in with the audition fee of \$5, you are welcomed to go to the parent waiting area, provided behind Studio I or feel free to shop or do other errands. We will call you if you are needed! For the June 6, 2010 audition schedule, please see Addendum One. There is a nonrefundable \$5 audition fee at the time you sign your child in.

Outcome of Auditions

Notification of Audition Outcomes will be emailed individually to each participant on June 8th. The deadline for acceptance is Midnight June 10th with a \$25 nonrefundable deposit for the Mandatory Preseason Intensives for Alphas, Betas, Deltas and Sigmas. This will be applied towards the Mandatory Preseason Intensive fee with the balance deadline of June 20th at recital. If mailing the balance of the fee to our post office address, it must be postmarked no later than June 20th. At recital there will be a designated staffer at the ECDT desk for fee drop off at recital. A \$5 late fee per day will be accessed each day after deadline for 5 days. After that, the offer to be on the team will be withdrawn.

Mandatory Pre-season Intensive Schedule for 2010-11 (See Addendum 2)

There is a mandatory pre-season intensive for all team members. This allows a head start upgrade in dance technique, stamina, team building and artistry and readiness for the competition year.

School Year Competition Dance Program for 2010-11 (See Addendum 3)

Practice days and times for the school term will be available by July 15, 2010. All teams will dance for SSSPA events, community events and competitions, typically on weekends. Our goal is towards winter performances and spring competitions.

Tuition Costs for 2010-11

Based on the number of Team Members, the kind of required school year Dance Program for each team, the choices each member may make on the level of participation (one team or multiple teams and /or solos), the monthly school year tuition

costs can show varying range of fees. As an example these fees could range from \$175 a month for 5.2 hours of dance time to as much as \$330 dollars a month on the ECDT Alphas/Betas (lyrical, hip hop and jazz team) as an example.

Other Fees and Expenses

\$50 SSSPA Recital Fee

\$50 to \$100 for Each Competition Costume

\$75 for Team Warm-up Suits, T-shirt and Bag (if new member)

\$35 per group dance for Competition Fees

Soloist Fees may vary depending on the competition

Outstanding Balances

A \$25.00 late fee will be charged to all outstanding balances on the 15th of the month. Students with outstanding balances will not be allowed to compete.

SSSPA Organizational Structure

SSSPA Board of Directors
 Director of the School
 Director of Eight Count Competition Program
 Coaches and Technique Class Teachers
 Team Captain
 Team Co-Captain
 Team Lieutenants
 Parent Liaison- Team Coordinators

Our Commitment

Our teachers, coaches and directors are all highly qualified and experienced. SSSPA employees act in the best interest of the team. We promise not show favoritism and to treat all students equally.

The Eight Count Dance Team Competition Program at SSSPA will:

1. Provide equal opportunities to maximize the educational experience for all.
2. Maintain safe dance conditions to avoid injuries.
3. Provide discipline when needed.
4. Schedule practices, performances and team events with ample notice as much as possible.
5. Delegate as necessary to promote the forward movement of the team
6. Make final decisions regarding costuming, choreography, discipline, picking of new team, performance dates, rehearsal schedules, community events, team bonding events, buddy assignments, training camps and team member dance assignments.
7. Act as the link between the Eight Count Competition Team and the Boosters Club
8. Run and organize team meetings and attend Booster Club meetings.

ECDT Parents

Being on a selective competitive team is an honor. It requires dedication and putting the team first, particularly when there are time conflicts. Your child would not have been invited to join the Eight Count Competition Program unless we believed that your child would be a contributing team member. We at SSSPA believe that a child's success depends on the support of his or her parents or guardians. Therefore, we ask that you recognize that each student develops at his or her individual rate. Additionally, please do not compare your child to other dancers – either favorably or unfavorably.

Children react to those acting as role models around them. Just as we commit to a high level of professionalism, cooperation and respect to all, we ask that you show respect for and cooperate with our faculty, staff and other parents.

There may be times when you don't agree with the director's or coaches' decision. If you ever have questions about your child's dance education, please come to us first before discussing it with others, including your child. This will prevent misinformation and hurt feelings. We suggest making an appointment with the front desk to meet with your child's teacher or coach so she can spend this important time with you without interruption. Please do not approach our faculty while class is in session because it takes away from your child's dance time.

Parents are expected to be active members of the Eight Count Boosters Club. For more information, please refer to the "Boosters Club" section of the handbook.

Finally, we ask that you check your e-mail regularly (at least once a day) as it is our primary method of communication.

Team Communication

Calendar

Be sure to check your e-mails and the ECDT website for updates and news.

E-mail for Competitions and Performances

Often the lineups for competitions come the week of the competition so that weekend (Friday evening to Sunday evening) needs to be dedicated and available. In addition, we may very occasionally need to schedule extra practices.

The week of each competition a "Get It Right" night will be scheduled. The dates for the competition weekend and "Get It Right" night will be scheduled as much as possible in advance so you can have best opportunity to plan your time. Other community performances will depend on the nature of the event, location and suitability. We will try to have information as early as possible for you. Our primary method of communication is e-mail.

Team Member Guidelines

Respect Your Directors and Coaches

Listen to every correction given, whether it is directed to you or other dancers. A correction is an honor that shows you that the teacher cares about your progress.

Respect Your Team Mates

We do not expect that everyone on the team is going to be best friends. However, team members must be confident with one another. A good group can play off of each other on stage. Never let personal feelings get in the way of the strength of your team.

Respect Your Parents or Guardians

At no time is any team member allowed to show any disrespect towards their families or the families of other team members.

Eight Count Team Members Code of Conduct –See Addendum 3

Being on selective competitive team is an honor. It requires dedication and putting the team first when there are time conflicts. We are proud of and respect your abilities and skills. You have also been chosen for your cooperation and positive attitude.

Classroom Rules

- Minimal talking in class
- No chewing gum, eating or cell phones on the dance floor
- Coaches and other teachers may from time to time have food in the dance area due to tight schedules and no breaks, but tables are provided outside the dance area for students. Clean up after eating!
- Water bottles are allowed inside the dance area.
- Team members cannot correct others (leave that to the Coaches and Directors)
- Cover-ups must be worn going in or out of the studio
- Only team members, directors, coaches, and parents may wear official team attire
- No bullying is allowed that is physical or verbal ever. No team member is allowed to belittle anyone by facial expressions or by rude manners or remarks.

Attendance

We do not allow absences from the competition classes and practices unless there is illness. We do not usually have a maximum number of absences from regular dance classes; however it is apparent in your technique when you do not progress with the rest of your team. In the event that your technique falls noticeably behind the rest of your team, you will be taken out of dances.

We expect everyone to attend all competition classes for the whole practice time. It will be frowned upon should a team member leave early or arrive late to class. Team members must be on time, dressed and prepared for all classes.

Absenteeism

If you are ill, please call or e-mail SSSPA at (301) 865-8788 or gosspa@gosspa.com. It is your responsibility to catch up on any missed choreography prior to the next class or rehearsal by (1) scheduling a private lesson with the coach or director (at additional cost) or (2) finding a team member to help you catch up before the next competition class. You must have a legitimate excuse for missing competition class. For example, if you are “under the weather,” we expect you to attend class, even just to sit out, so as not to miss any new choreography or placing.

Dress code

Team members must follow all dress code requirements in regular classes and competition team classes.

Appearance

Appearance will be considered at all times. Hair must be pulled back (in bun for ballet classes). Body piercings (other than small stud earrings in ears) are not acceptable. Necklaces, bracelets and rings (other than wedding and engagement rings) will not be permitted at any time. Tattoos for performances (if any) must not be visible.

Team Class Attire

All practice clothes, practice and performance shoes, practice and performance tights, and practice and performance hair accessories will be supplied by the parents for the students.

Alphas

Black jazz pants, capris or shorts (form fitting)
Black leotard
Team tank top when available or black tank top
Tan tights
Black jazz shoes and Tan/Flesh Foot Undeez /dance paws

Betas

Black Jazz pants, capris or shorts (form fitting)
Black leotard
Team tank top when available or white tank top
Tan tights
Black jazz shoes and Tan/Flesh Foot Undeez (tap shoes as needed)

Deltas

Black Jazz pants, capris or shorts (form fitting)
Black leotard
Tan Tights (optional for practice)
Team tank top when available or any color tank top
Black tap shoes

Sigmas

Ballet Pink Tights (non-seamed preferred, convertible recommended)
Black Leotard
Ballet Skirt (optional)
Pink canvas split sole ballet shoes, demi or pointe shoes

Pi

Tan Tights (optional for practice)
Black Leotard
Ballet Skirt, Jazz pants, capris or shorts (form fitting)
Pink ballet shoes and black tap shoes

Competition and Performance Guidelines

When you are onstage, it is your opportunity to show the world the results of your hard work and dedication. Team members are expected to:

- Arrive one hour before performance (unless directed otherwise by coach or director)
- Properly warm up before dancing
- Present yourself professionally (costumes, shoes, all accessories, makeup, behavior)
- Wear assigned team attire to event
- Never speak negatively about anyone or create conflict with others.
- Note that only the ECDDT Director speaks to event coordinators or judges
- Focus on staying inside their performance window. .

Team Leader Positions

New Policy for 2010-11 Competition Year

Three team leader positions are offered for each team. They are not designated this year by popular vote, but rather positions will be appointed by the coaches and rotated 3 times during the school year. This is to promote leadership and responsibility for all members to learn and enjoy. Please review the job descriptions below for each team. Note while soloists are part of our competition team as a whole, soloists will not receive a team leadership position unless on an actual team though they are still part of our ECDDT.

Captain

The Captain serves as the student leader of the team. The Captain assists and supports the director and coaches when needed. She may lead warm ups as directed by and under the watchful eye of the Director and Coaches.

Co-Captain

The Co-Captain knows all choreography for her team. In the absence of the Captain, the Co-Captain acts as Captain.

Lieutenant

The Lieutenant serves as third in command and is responsible for supporting proper behavior and adherence to rules of the classroom.

Soloists, Pairs and Trios

Those wishing to compete in categories other than team or in addition to team must make arrangements through the SSSPA office. Such additional competition opportunities are subject to studio guidelines for private lessons.

Team Member Dismissal

In the event that a team member has not lived up to their team standard, SSSPA has the right to dismiss such a person from the team. No refunds will be given to such team members. Dismissal consists of three steps:

1. **FIRST WARNING:** Conference between parent/guardian and SSSPA staff.
2. **ON PROBATION:** Conference between parent/guardian and SSSPA staff.
3. **DISMISSAL:** If behavior is not corrected, final conference to announce dismissal.

Eight Count Booster Club

The Booster Club is an organization that helps assist the team and director to function smoothly. It consists of all parents, legal guardians and family and friends of the dancers when were chosen and accepted as a member of the Eight Count Competition Team. It is highly encouraged that all parents and or legal guardians be active .volunteers at events when needed, and to help the Team coordinators organize events and participate in fundraisers and field trips. One primary goal is to raise funds for team activities, competitions, travel expenses and costuming. .

ECDT Team Coordinators

This position requires a returning Eight Count team membership. The Team coordinators organize, coordinates, or delegate ECDT Booster functions. They can act as a liaison between the Parents, the Eight Count Director and the School Director We do encourage all parents to feel free to talk directly to each other, the coaches and the SSSPA School Director if they have any concerns to questions as well. We have an open-door communication line at all times. The Team Coordinators are also responsible for coordinating costume orders, web site management, fundraising events, and transportation arrangements, These things can be delegated when needed but reviewed and approval still rests with the Team Coordinators. Fundraisers have to be approved by the Director of the School. Should meetings be held a secretary will be appointed from the attendees to keep notes and publish them.

Other helpful roles for ECDT Parents could be:

Wardrobe Chairperson

This position is responsible for organizing costuming, attire and other wardrobe or accessory needs. This position also will provide organizational methods and oversight of team members for costuming and other performance needs.

Fundraising Chairperson

This position is responsible for the organization, coordination and creation of team fundraising. Reports will be duplicated to the Director of the School and Booster President. All activities must be cleared by the Director of the School for issues including liability coverage, insurance riders and accounting.

Transportation Chairperson

This position is responsible for the arrangements of all team transportation. This includes organizing carpools to local/regional competitions and other transportation needs (which could include train or air transport, hotels for competitions, educational opportunities and camps). Carpool arrangements need to be reported to the Eight Count Director and Booster President prior to competitions. This position also makes arrangements for support equipment, props, and clothing racks for the team.

Addendum 1

ECDT Audition/Tryout Schedule

Beta Team (Ages 8 to11)

9:15 AM to 9:30 AM	Open for warm ups- Studio II
9:30 to 10:30 AM	Learn jazz/lyrical/hip-hop routines
10:30 to 11:00 AM	Audition Performances
11:00 to 11:15 AM	May need to extend Audition Time
Parent Pick Up 11:15AM	At Conclusion of Auditions

Alphas (Ages 12 and above)

10:45 AM to 11:00 Am	Open for warm ups – Studio II
11:00 AM to 12:15 PM	Learn jazz/lyrical/hip-hop routines
12:15 PM to 1:00 PM	Audition Performances
1:00 PM to 1:15 PM	May need to extend Audition Time
Parent Pick Up 1:15 PM	And Come to Tastefully Simple Fundraiser- Studio II.

Deltas (Tap)

4:15 PM to 4:30 PM	Open for Warm Ups- Studio II
4:30 PM to 5:00 PM	Learn Tap Routine
5:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Audition Performance
Parent Pick up 5:30 PM	At Conclusion of Audition

Sigma (Ballet)

5:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Open for Warm Ups –Studio 2
5:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Learn Ballet Variation
6:00 PM to 6:30 PM	Audition Performance
6:30 PM to 6:45 PM	May need to extend Audition Time
Parent Pick up 6:45 PM	

Soloists

6:15 PM to 6:30 PM	Open for Warm Ups – Studio II
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Interview and Technical Audition
7:30 PM to 7:45 PM	May Need to extend Audition Timer
Parent Pick up 7:45pm	

Notification of outcomes will be by e-mail June 8th

Audition Fee

Audition Fee (non refundable; due at audition) - \$5.00 per dancer

Addendum 2

ECDT Mandatory Pre-Season Intensives

We recommend that all ECDT members continue with regular ballet class during the summer in addition to the intensives required below.

Beta Team Intensive
\$160
9am -12 noon
August 9-13 with Performance

Alpha Team
\$160
1pm – 4pm
August 9-13 with Performance

Delta Team
\$35 for one or \$70 for two
One Tap Intensive with Katie Ketchum
July 10 (9am 12noon) or July 17 (9am to 12noon) highly recommended to take both but only one required.

Sigma Team
\$100
One Contemporary Intensive with Jamie Doughty
July 8-10 (9am to noon) or July 22-24 (9am to noon). It is highly recommended to attend regular ballet class during the summer as well.

SEE SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR REGULAR CLASSES ON OUR WEBSITE
[www. GOSSSPA.com](http://www.GOSSSPA.com)

Addendum 3

Code of Conduct - ECDT 2010-11

You have reached a pinnacle of dance honors when becoming a member of the SSSPA-ECDT. The SSSPA Board of Directors and our ECDT Director and Coaches congratulate you and want you to know we have the highest regard for your talents and your dedication to the art of dance.

Along with this great honor, come responsibilities and duties that you must understand and meet. With this in mind, we have drafted the following document to ensure that you have no doubt of our expectations.

*An ECDT member, regardless of age, remains under the supervision of SSSPA and ECDT. An ECDT member will be expected to be a role model for other dancers at all times and are expected to conduct his or herself in a professional manner in both actions and words at all time.

*An ECDT Member agrees to participate in all Official SSSPA-ECDT activities which can include training camps, intensives, rehearsals, performances, fundraising activities and community events, and for all such activities to be on time and come prepared with all equipment, costumes and supplies needed.

*An ECDT member agrees and understands that at all activities and practices his or her attitude is one of "team" and not of individuals. This should manifest itself in the following ways: genuine concern and goodwill toward all team members, a willing participation in social events, and being supportive of all other team members' performances.

*An ECDT member agrees and recognizes that the SSSPA-ECDT Officials for 2010-11 are: Cheryl O'Hara, Director of SSSPA, Camille Abramson, Director of ECDT, Sarah Ekelman, ECDT Coach, Cheryl Huston and Kathy Rieland, ECDT Team Coordinators, Kathy Rieland, ECDT Web Site Manager, and any other officially designated person who works with ECDT Competitions and Teams. An ECDT member understands and agrees that these persons are the authority figures of ECDT and will follow all instructions and abide by all decision made by this group.

*An ECDT member agrees to meet all financial obligations as previously outlined and Payments must adhere to due dates.

*An ECDT member will show respect for all Officials, all coaches and other dancers not only on their team but other teams as well from other areas. Failure to comply with this rule is grounds for immediate removal from the team at any point, regardless of financial investment.

*An ECDT member understands the Official that will be in charge of the dancers the majority of time, is the ECDT Director, Camille Abramson, and Coach Sarah Ekelman. The ECDT member agrees to show them the utmost respect, behave with decorum and obey their instructions at all times.

*An ECDT member understands she can approach the Director of the School or ECDT Director and any Coach with any problems or concerns she or he may have.

*The ECDT member represents with his or her signature below that this contract is understood by him or her, and that his or her parent or guardian so witnesses and agrees to this contract as well by signing with their signatures below.