# 2026-2027 Tiny Tots / Tiny Team Policies & Procedures

## Team Mission Statement

It is a priority for dancers to become familiar with our team mission statement. We have high expectations for our dancers and expect them to always be a positive representation of the studio and our team. We expect all dancers to align with these core values.

*"Through our love of dance, a Miss Kim's Tiny Tots/Tiny Team Dancer embodies unwavering dedication, kindness, respect, and humility. We are committed to inspiring others with our hard work and upholding these values both inside and outside the studio, creating a supportive and inclusive community."*

## Dress Code

The following dress code must be adhered to during all studio classes:

**Leotards**: Dancers are permitted to wear a **black** leotard, or a Miss Kim's branded leotard
**Tights**: Tan or pink tights should be worn underneath leotards.
**Bottoms**: Black booty shorts or plain black leggings are permitted over tights. No other colors or patterns are allowed.
**Footwear**:

Tap: Tan mary jane tap shoe
Jazz/Lyrical/Technique: Tan Turners
Acro: Bare feet

Additional shoes may be required depending on specific routines & costumes. Any additional required shoes for performances will be communicated to parents. Shoes should be purchased at the studio for consistency and uniformity across the team.
**Hair**: Hair must be secured neatly and kept out of the dancer's face. It should be styled in either a bun or ponytail with all flyaway pieces secured.
**Jewelry:** For the safety of each dancer, jewelry is not permitted during class and must be removed before entering the studio. Please do not bring jewelry, especially valuable jewelry, into the studio.

General Notes:

- All dancers are expected to arrive to class fully dressed and prepared to dance.
- The dress code is designed to ensure safety, comfort, and uniformity across the team.

# Attendance

At Miss Kim's & Miss Kim's Next Step, we are committed to maintaining a high standard of discipline and dedication within our competitive dance program. Consistent attendance is essential for both individual progress and the overall success of the team. The following guidelines outline the expectations for attendance, as well as the process for excused absences.

**1. Attendance Expectations:**

- Dancers are expected to attend all scheduled classes, rehearsals, and events as part of the competitive dance program.
- Regular attendance and punctuality are vital for proper preparation.

**2. Excused Absences:**

Dancers are permitted a maximum of **3 excused absences** per season. These absences may be excused under the following circumstances:

- **Illness**
- **Medical appointments**
- **Family emergencies**

**3. Consequences for Excessive or Unexcused Absences:**

- Excessive absences, including more than 3 excused absences or unexcused absences, may result in the dancer being removed from specific routines or performances.
- The dancer may also lose eligibility for certain team events, competitions, or performances at the discretion of the faculty.

**4. Communication:**

If a dancer is unable to attend a class or rehearsal, please notify Miss Lilly or Miss Page at least **24 hours in advance** via email or phone. In case of sudden illness or emergencies, please notify us as soon as possible.

**5. Makeup Classes:**

While we understand that absences may occasionally occur, there will be no scheduled makeup classes for missed practices, except for weather-related cancellations. Dancers are encouraged to review class material and stay up to date with choreography on their own or with fellow teammates.

**6. Commitment to the Team:**

We emphasize the importance of individual accountability and commitment to the success of the team. Dancers are expected to honor their commitment to the program, and regular attendance is a key part of maintaining a positive and successful team environment.

# Class Etiquette

In order to maintain a professional, respectful, and focused environment, all dancers are expected to adhere to the following class etiquette guidelines. These guidelines help create a positive and productive atmosphere for everyone involved. By respecting the studio space, the instructors, and your fellow teammates, we ensure the best possible experience for all dancers.

1. Punctuality:

- Please be on time for class. Late arrivals disrupt the flow of the class and can affect your ability to learn the material. If you are late due to unavoidable circumstances, please inform the instructor beforehand and enter the studio quietly, without disrupting the class.

2. Preparedness:

- Be dressed according to the program's dress code and have all necessary dance shoes.
- Bring a water bottle to stay hydrated and avoid leaving the class unnecessarily.

3. Focus and Attention:

- Remain focused throughout the entire class. Avoid distractions such as excessive chatting during instruction time or engaging in side conversations while the instructor is teaching or demonstrating.
- When the instructor is speaking, listen attentively and ask questions only when appropriate. Remember, questions are encouraged, but they should not interrupt the flow of the class.

4. Respect for the Instructor:

- Please ensure you follow instructors' directions and guidance during class. Instructors should also be always spoken to respectfully.

5. Respect for Fellow Dancers:

- Treat your classmates with kindness and respect both in and out of the studio. Be supportive, and remember that we are all working together to improve and achieve common goals.
- Do not engage in negative behavior, such as gossiping, criticizing, or competing in an unhealthy manner.
- Make sure to leave ample space for other dancers to perform, especially during combinations, across the floor, and while rehearsing.
- There is a **zero-tolerance** policy for bullying. Bullying of any kind will result in immediate dismissal from the team. Any issues should be reported promptly to Miss Karla.

6. Positive Attitude:

- Approach each class with a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, and a commitment to improving your skills.
- Constructive criticism is part of the learning process—receive it with an open mind and use it to better yourself.
- Always show gratitude for the time, effort, and expertise your instructor provides.

7. Device Policy:

- Dancers should not bring ipads or smartwatches to class. If they bring them they must be powered off and stay inside their dancebag.

8. Clean-Up:

- Always clean up after yourself. Put away any props or equipment used during class and ensure the studio space is left tidy. We have worked very hard to give you a beautiful studio space. Please take care of it!
- Dispose of any trash, and make sure all your personal belongings are taken home with you at the end of the night.

## Tiny Tots/Tiny Team Demerit System – Behavior & Conduct

All Tiny Tots and Tiny Team dancers are expected to represent our program and studio with the highest level of professionalism, respect, and integrity. Being a member of the competitive team is both an honor and a responsibility. Dancers are ambassadors of our studio in rehearsals, classes, competitions, conventions, performances, and within the studio community.

To maintain a positive and productive training environment, we implement a **three-strike demerit system** for behavior and conduct. Demerits may be issued for unsatisfactory behavior including, but not limited to:

- Disrespectful behavior toward staff or teammates
- Not listening to or following staff instruction
- Back talking or argumentative responses
- Poor rehearsal etiquette
- Excessive or unexcused absences
- Conduct that disrupts our learning environment

Demerits will be handled as follows:

- **First Demerit:** Verbal warning and conversation with the dancer.
- **Second Demerit:** Meeting with a parent/guardian to address concerns and outline expectations for improvement.
- **Third Demerit:** Grounds for removal from specific routines and, if behavior does not improve, potential removal from the competitive team.

Our goal is always correction and growth, not punishment. We are committed to providing the highest quality instruction possible, while placing deep emphasis on character development, accountability, and respect. Technical excellence is important, but who a dancer becomes in the process matters even more. Maintaining the integrity of the team and fostering a positive, respectful environment for all dancers will always remain a top priority.

We maintain a strict zero-tolerance policy for bullying of any kind. This includes verbal, physical, social, or online behavior that intimidates, excludes, or harms another dancer. Any confirmed incident of bullying will result in immediate dismissal from this program.

# Competitive Program Parent Code of Ethics

Our competitive program is built on trust, professionalism, and a shared commitment to each dancer's growth. By choosing to participate in our program, families acknowledge and agree to uphold the following expectations:

**Placement Decisions & Casting**

All decisions for group placement, feature roles, solos, duos and trios are made at the discretion of the directing staff.

These decisions are:

- Carefully evaluated based on technique, performance quality, work ethic, commitment, team dynamics, choreography needs, and long-term development.
- Made with the dancer's best interest and growth in mind.
- **Final and not open for discussion or debate with teachers or staff.**

We firmly believe that families place their children in our program because they trust our training, experience, and expertise. Every placement decision is made with thoughtful consideration and with one primary goal: placing each dancer where we believe they will thrive, be challenged appropriately, and grow the most over the course of the season.

Not every decision will feel exciting in the moment, but growth is not always found in the spotlight — it is found in opportunity, refinement, resilience, and preparation.

**Respect & Professional Conduct**

We always expect all parents to model professionalism and integrity. Whether pleased or disappointed with a casting or placement decision, parents must:

- Respond respectfully.
- Refrain from questioning or challenging staff decisions.
- Avoid gossip, speculation, or negative discussion with other families or dancers.

Negative conversations undermine team morale and create an unhealthy environment for our dancers. We are committed to fostering a positive, united team culture, and parental behavior plays a significant role in maintaining that standard.

**Communication Boundaries**

We believe strongly in open communication and value respectful feedback from our families. That is something that will never change! We value the partnerships and relationships we form with our team parents and believe it is a key element of what makes this program a continued success. We are always willing to discuss:

- Your dancer's work ethic
- Areas for improvement
- Goal setting
- Training recommendations
- Performance growth

However, clear professional boundaries are in place. Casting decisions, role assignments, choreography, and group placements are not topics for discussion, negotiation, or reconsideration. Maintaining these boundaries allows our staff to focus on training, artistry, and creating the best possible experience for all dancers.

By remaining part of the competitive program, parents agree to uphold this Code of Ethics and support the integrity of the program and its leadership. Our shared goal is simple: to develop confident, disciplined, and resilient dancers in a healthy and inspiring environment.

## Solos, Duets & Trios

Solos, duets, and trios are awarded based on audition scores, which reflect each dancer's technique, performance quality, artistry, focus, and overall readiness for the added responsibility these opportunities require. While audition results are the primary factor in selection, scheduling availability, commitment level, and the overall needs of the team are also thoughtfully considered. Final decisions are made at the discretion of the staff to ensure each dancer is placed in an opportunity where they can thrive, grow, and successfully balance the commitment involved.

These dances represent the high standards and level of commitment within our program; however, they do not define a dancer's talent, potential, value, or worth. Being selected for a solo, duet, or trio is one of many ways a dancer can grow and contribute to the team, but it is not the sole measure of success. Our program is about long-term development, teamwork, resilience, and artistry — not simply earning a featured role.

If your dancer is awarded one of these routines, they will be expected to maintain their assigned weekly private lesson time. Due to the limited flexibility within our overall studio and team schedule, it is extremely important that families commit to this standing time. Reschedule requests will not be accommodated for the 2026-2027 season unless initiated by the instructor.

## Class Requirements

All team dancers will have one day of team classes and will come an additional day for their traditional ballet class to fulfill the ballet technique requirement. During team class they will train in the following genres: jazz, tap, lyrical, acro, and technique. All teams will compete with a lyrical and jazz dance. Dancers will learn a team tap dance for recital. They will perform their ballet dance with their traditional ballet class.

## Rehearsals

A mandatory dress rehearsal is held before the first competition of the season. Date, time and location will be provided a few months in advance after these details are confirmed with staff. Additional rehearsals may be added on at the instructors' discretion. If instructors call additional rehearsals, the cost of these practices will be $10 per dancer, per hour.

## Community Events

Performing in our community is something we love to do as a studio and as a team. Please expect participation in several community events including basketball halftime performances, holiday performances, the Burlington Christmas Parade, etc. These dates will be communicated as soon as they are received. Please expect heavy participation as we enter the holiday season. Events like these are not only fun for us and the dancers, but serve as great performance practice ahead of their competition season.

## Competitions

We will participate in 2 regional competitions (March - May). Attendance is required at all competitions. Schedules for each event are released the week prior to each competition.

## Tuition & Other Expenses

**Monthly Tuition** – Tiny Tots tuition is $100 per month. Tiny Team tuition is $140 per month. The required traditional ballet class tuition is $80 a month in addition to the team tuition. This is due the first day of each month starting in September and ending in May. The traditional ballet classes operate separately from the team and will follow the traditional class calendar for recital fees, costume fees, etc.

**Choreography Fees** – Choreography fees are paid prior to the start of the choreography intensives and vary based on individual choreographer fees. Solo/Duet/Trio choreography is done separately from group choreography and the fee is paid directly to the choreographer. In addition to the one-time choreography fee, studio time is billed at the normal hourly rate for privates. For duets/trios, this is split between each dancer.

**Solos/Duets/Trios** – If your dancer is selected for a solo, duet or trio, weekly private lessons are required (30 minutes). A fee of $130 per month will be added to monthly tuition to cover the cost of privates for solos, $65 per month for duets (per person), $45 per month for trios (per person). Entry fees for solos average $150 per competition and $75 per dancer for duets and trios. Please note this is just an average and can vary based on the competition.

**Privates** – Private lessons may be requested for specific, targeted needs such as refining a particular skill a dancer is working to achieve, receiving additional clarification on choreography if they are struggling to keep up, or addressing a clearly identified area that requires short-term focused attention. Private instruction is not intended for general technique progression. Adequate class time is thoughtfully built into the weekly schedule to support ongoing technical development, and dancers are expected to approach each scheduled class with focus, discipline, and full engagement. Consistent attendance and sustained effort in regular classes remain the most important drivers of a dancer's progress and long-term growth. Private lessons are available on a first come, first served basis. The cost is $35 per half hour. Dance/acrobatic/gymnastic instruction with anyone other than Miss Kim's instructors is prohibited.

**Competition Fees** – Competition fees are paid per dancer, per dance for each event. Group entry fees average $65-$75 per routine but can vary based on the competition. A fee schedule will be provided at the beginning of each season with the due date for these expenses.

**Costume Fees** – Costume fees are paid on a monthly basis starting in September and ending in November. $35 per month will be paid towards each costume for September, October and November. Any balance remaining after costumes are purchased, stoned, altered, etc., will be posted in December and due in January. Please note, one pair of performance tights will be provided at no charge. Any extra tights will be $12 each. Please do not wear performance tights to class. Please note ballet costume fees will also be due prior to recitals and are separate from team costume charges. Tiny Tots and Tiny Team dancers will have 3 team costumes for the 2026-2027 season (jazz, lyrical, and tap).

**Miscellaneous Fees** – Other things to be purchased throughout the season include team jewelry, competition makeup, Tiny Team specific swag items, team jackets, costume rental fees for parade/community events, and spring recital fees ($85 per dancer, per recital).