

Competition Team Handbook & Source of Truth

SELECT | ADVANCED | ELITE

PROGRAM MODEL

One team. One full year. More training. Competition Team is an August–June training commitment with at least one required competition event and a required Year-End Competition Showcase.

Version 1.0 · Effective for the August 2026–June 2027 season

This handbook supersedes prior Competition Team / Company / Troupe handbook language, including the former Act 1 / Act 2 semester model and winter re-audition structure.

Policy Authority

This document is the Competition Team source of truth for program structure, training expectations, attendance, participation, conduct, competition philosophy, and team-specific financial policies. Studio-wide tuition, billing, withdrawal, safety, and enrollment policies continue to apply. Event-specific registration packets control event dates, hotel/travel logistics, and outside organizer fees when those details vary by event.

2026–2027 At a Glance

Item	Current Policy
Season	August 2026–June 2027; year-round commitment
Team Levels	Select · Advanced · Elite
À la carte team tuition	\$189/month
Competition Package	\$575/month: All-In Training + approved Competition Team participation
Required competitions	At least ONE: February MTCA Festival or May MTC Triple Threat Competition; families may attend both
Year-end showcase	Required Competition Team Showcase in June
Placement	Summer audition/placement for the full season; no scheduled January Act 2 re-audition
Attendance	Up to 3 excused Competition Team absences per semester, subject to lockout periods and event obligations

1. Philosophy, Mission & Values

The purpose of Born to Perform Studio Competition Team is not simply to attend competitions. It is to create a committed training community where young performers grow as artists, teammates, and humans.

Through weekly training, performance opportunities, showcases, competitions, conventions, and community events, students learn to support one another, challenge one another, communicate through conflict, take responsibility for their work, and contribute to something larger than themselves.

- Teamwork
- Discipline
- Communication
- Empathy
- Kindness
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Trust
- Professionalism
- Resilience

BTPS commits to providing developmentally appropriate training and material, qualified instructors who align with our values and curriculum, and an environment that supports the whole artist — in and out of the studio.

TRAINING FIRST

Competition is a performance laboratory, not the purpose of the program. We use external events for feedback, pressure-testing, community, and growth. Winning is never the curriculum.

2. Program Structure & Season Commitment

A Year-Round Team

Beginning in 2026–2027, Competition Team operates as one full-year program from August through June. The former Act 1 / Act 2 model has been retired.

Students audition for placement into Select, Advanced, or Elite and accept a season-long training commitment. The year-round structure gives teams more time to build technique, ensemble chemistry, performance quality, repertoire, and professional habits without repeatedly stopping and restarting the process.

The Season Has Three Performance Anchors

1. February: MTCA Festival — available as a competition/convention option.
2. May: MTC Triple Threat Competition — available as a second competition option.
3. June: Annual BTPS Competition Team Showcase — required for all Competition Team members.

Each student must attend at least ONE of the two competition events. Families may select February, May, or both, subject to registration deadlines and team-entry requirements.

Additional Community Performances

BTPS is occasionally invited to perform at community or studio events, especially during the holiday season. These opportunities are generally optional unless specifically published as required. Participation may require learning additional event-specific material.

3. Team Levels & Required Training

Competition Team is a performance application of the broader BTPS training pathway. Team rehearsal does not replace the technical training required for a performer's placement level.

Team	Weekly Team Training	Required Co-Requisite Training
SELECT	1-hour Competition Team class	\$189/month à la carte. Must also be enrolled in the appropriate Open MTF pathway. BTP Day Conservatory may satisfy the Open MTF requirement when approved.
ADVANCED	1.5-hour Competition Team class	\$189/month à la carte. Advanced MTF + at least one additional approved elective, or a written pre-approved alternate training pathway. Day Conservatory may satisfy one open-level additional-class requirement when approved, but does not replace Advanced MTF.
ELITE	1.5-hour Competition Team class	\$189/month à la carte. Advanced MTF or higher + two approved electives/additional training classes, or a written pre-approved alternate training pathway.

Approved Alternate Training Pathways

BTPS leadership may approve an alternate training pathway for exceptional schedule conflicts, significant outside training, homeschool/Day Conservatory structures, or other circumstances. Alternate plans must be approved in writing and may be reviewed during the season.

Home Preparation

Team members are expected to review rehearsal material outside of class. Depending on assignment, this may include vocal practice, choreography review, stretching, conditioning, memorization, script/song study, or preparing individual-category material. Dedication to training does not begin and end at the studio door.

4. Auditions, Placement & Roster Decisions

Competition Team placement is determined through the annual summer audition process and staff assessment. Placement is based on the whole performer and the needs of the team — not a single score or one skill area.

- Technical readiness
- Performance ability and storytelling
- Musicality and movement
- Vocal/acting integration
- Work ethic and preparation
- Coachability and response to feedback
- Maturity and professionalism
- Attendance/reliability history
- Team chemistry and balance
- Age and developmental readiness

Placement decisions are made for the full August–June season. There is no standard January Act 2 re-audition. BTPS may adjust casting, material, featured responsibilities, or team use during the season when artistically or operationally necessary.

Advanced and Elite performers may occasionally be asked to perform with Select Team material or another approved team grouping when appropriate for a routine or event.

PLACEMENT IS NOT RANK

A team level describes the training environment and current responsibilities we believe will best develop the performer. The only performer a student should compare themselves to is the performer they used to be.

Family Partnership

A Competition Team placement is a family commitment. Serious or repeated parent behavior that violates BTPS conduct, communication, safety, or community standards may affect a student's continued team participation.

5. Competition Participation

One Required Competition Minimum

Every Competition Team member must participate in at least one approved competition event during the season. For 2026–2027, BTPS plans to attend the February MTCA Festival and the May MTC Triple Threat Competition. A student may participate in one or both.

Families will select their intended event(s) by the published commitment deadline. Once BTPS has registered a performer or committed fees on the performer's behalf, applicable outside event costs become non-refundable and remain the family's responsibility.

Group Material

Students attending an event are expected to perform the team/group material assigned to them for that event. Final entries, casting, spacing, featured moments, and routine assignments remain at the discretion of BTPS directors and coaches.

Individual Categories

Individual categories are limited and are selected or approved by audition/director assignment. Advanced and Elite performers receive priority for individual-category opportunities and may be expected to prepare an individual category when assigned. Competition entry in an individual category is not guaranteed solely because of team level.

Any student preparing an approved individual competition entry must complete a minimum of two private coaching sessions with an approved BTPS coach unless the director waives or modifies that requirement in writing.

Approved Entry Type	Current BTPS Entry Fee
Solo / Individual category (song, dance, monologue, design, etc.)	\$100 per entry
Duet / Duo	\$50 per performer, per entry

These BTPS entry fees are separate from private coaching and any outside organizer registration, convention, travel, costume, prop, or lodging costs.

6. Annual Year-End Competition Showcase

The Competition Team season culminates in a required Year-End Competition Showcase in June. The showcase is both a celebration for friends and family and an additional performance-development opportunity after the competition calendar.

BTPS may invite casting professionals, agents/managers, educators, directors, college representatives, or other industry guests to observe and provide feedback when available. Guest attendance is not guaranteed, and participation does not guarantee representation, employment, casting, admission, or professional connection.

Showcase Participation by Level

Level	Showcase Commitment
Select	Guaranteed participation with Select Team/group material. Individual material may be added when programming capacity allows.
Advanced	Guaranteed participation with team material and a place in the individual-category portion of the showcase for approved material. Format, cut length, or number of individual pieces may be adjusted based on total program capacity.
Elite	Guaranteed participation with team material and a place in the individual-category portion of the showcase for approved material. Format, cut length, or number of individual pieces may be adjusted based on total program capacity.

Showcase programming is curated by BTPS. The exact routine list may change based on total entries, running time, safety, technical needs, and artistic balance.

7. Attendance, Conflicts & Readiness

Attendance Standard

Competition Team members are expected to attend their scheduled weekly Competition Team class for the full August–June season and maintain regular good attendance in all required co-requisite training.

Students may use up to three excused Competition Team absences per semester: August–February and February–June. Studio-wide attendance policies apply separately to other enrolled classes.

How to Report an Absence

- Log the absence in the Student/Parent Portal or notify BTPS by email before class whenever possible.
- Pre-planned vacations or conflicts affecting a required event should be communicated as early as possible; 30 days' notice is requested when the conflict is known in advance.
- A parent/guardian should communicate absences for minors. Students should not rely on informal messages to classmates or personal texts to instructors.
- BTPS may request medical documentation when an illness/injury substantially affects participation or event readiness.

Competition Lockout Period

No conflicts are permitted during the two weeks leading into a competition event the student has committed to attend. Students auditioning for outside productions should list Competition Team rehearsals and all published lockout dates as existing conflicts.

Outside Productions, School & Athletics

BTPS supports students performing and participating outside the studio. The correct way to make both commitments work is to protect Competition Team rehearsal as a standing conflict for the outside activity and use excused absences strategically for unavoidable tech/performance obligations.

Illness & Injury

Students with fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or other contagious illness should stay home. An injured performer should attend and actively observe when it is safe and reasonable to do so, unless a parent/guardian or medical professional advises otherwise.

When Attendance Affects Material

If absences prevent a student from safely or reliably performing assigned material, BTPS may adjust choreography, replace featured moments, use an alternate, remove an individual entry, or remove the performer from part or all of an event. This is a readiness and team-safety decision, not a punishment.

Repeated attendance concerns may lead to a parent meeting, written attendance plan, or removal from Competition Team. All published mandatory Year-End Showcase rehearsals and call times are also required; absences may affect individual-category or featured participation when readiness is compromised.

8. Communication

Clear communication keeps the team healthy. Competition Team families are expected to use the official channels below rather than relying on informal texts, hallway conversations, or messages through other families.

Channel	Use
BAND	Primary team coordination, rehearsal videos, reminders, schedules, celebration, and event updates.
Email	Policy questions, individual concerns, financial/administrative matters, conflicts, and communication that requires a private response.
Student/Parent Portal	Enrollment, account information, attendance reporting, and other available administrative functions.
Studio phone/text	General studio communication when published. Do not use staff members' personal cell numbers unless a staff member has specifically authorized that method.

Families are responsible for reviewing BAND and email regularly. Rehearsal videos and posted material should be used for home review.

What BAND Is Not For

BAND is not the place to litigate policy, complain about placements, organize pressure campaigns, debate staff decisions, or discuss another student. Bring individual concerns directly to BTPS leadership.

9. Conflict Resolution, Conduct & Social Media

People working closely together will sometimes disagree. Our expectation is not that conflict never happens; it is that students and adults handle it directly, respectfully, and without creating a larger social problem.

When There Is a Concern

1. Contact the appropriate Team Coordinator or BTPS Director privately.
2. State the relevant facts without attacking another student, parent, or staff member.
3. Explain the impact of the concern and what resolution you are requesting.
4. Allow BTPS leadership to gather information and determine the appropriate response.

Gossip, bullying, threats, abusive communication, harassment, coordinated parent pressure, public shaming, or retaliation are inconsistent with Competition Team values and may result in consequences up to removal from the program.

Social Media

BTPS cannot control every student's private social activity, but when online conduct materially affects studio safety, relationships, harassment, bullying, team trust, or the learning environment, BTPS may intervene. A useful rule: post what is true, helpful, inspiring, necessary, or kind.

Families should not post confidential casting/placement information, another student's private information, or internal conflicts without permission.

10. Team Gear & Performance Etiquette

Required Team Gear

Competition Team performers are required to have the current team T-shirt and team jacket. Prior-year jackets may be reused when they remain in the current approved style and condition. Gear prices are published annually and are not included in monthly tuition.

At Performances & Community Events

- Arrive by the published call time; "on time" means ready to begin at call.
- Wear required team gear, costume, footwear, hair, and makeup as communicated.
- Warm up body and voice appropriately before performing.
- Respect staff, venue personnel, families, other performers, and other studios.
- Watch performances respectfully and avoid side conversations during instruction or performance.
- Cheer for teammates and other performers with excellent sportsmanship.
- No trash-talking, snide comments, or public criticism of another performer/studio.
- Keep personal items organized, secured, and out of performance/teaching spaces.

11. Competition & Convention Etiquette

When a student attends an approved competition/convention with BTPS, participation in the scheduled team responsibilities and event programming is part of the educational experience.

- Arrive early and fully prepared for each call, class, audition, rehearsal, and performance.
- Wear the required team jacket/gear between events when requested.
- Wear appropriate shoes and follow event-specific attire/hair expectations.
- Participate actively in required workshops and convention classes unless BTPS staff directs otherwise.
- If injured or needing a break, communicate with staff and actively observe rather than disengaging on a phone.
- Respect instructors, adjudicators, venue staff, other studios, and all performers.
- Stay focused on team responsibilities even while enjoying the event.
- Keep costumes, shoes, props, music, and personal items organized and triple-check before leaving for the venue.

Parents/chaperones are expected to support the same standards of kindness, punctuality, preparedness, and sportsmanship.

12. Competition Philosophy

Performing arts are meant to be shared with an audience. BTPS attends competitions because they provide performance reps, outside feedback, convention training, and an opportunity to practice delivering work under pressure.

We do not build our culture around placements, trophies, or comparison with other studios. Awards can be fun, but they are not the measurement of whether the training was successful.

We choose events based on the quality of the educational experience, atmosphere, adjudication, and appropriateness for our students. We prioritize developmentally appropriate technique and storytelling over tricks, unsafe hyper-flexibility, or choreography designed only to score points.

OUR STANDARD

We want audiences to feel something. Competition material should be technically prepared, theatrically specific, honest, and connected — not simply a collection of impressive moments.

Competitions are expensive and are not a reliable path to “being discovered.” Feedback, growth, resilience, and performance experience are the return on the investment. The focus is improvement.

13. Tuition, Competition Costs & Budgeting

Monthly Training Tuition

Option	2026–2027 Rate	Includes
Competition Team — à la carte	\$189/month	Approved weekly Competition Team class. Does not receive Multi-Class Discount.
Competition Package	\$575/month	All-In Training Package (\$450 value) + approved Competition Team participation. Package does not guarantee placement.

The Competition Package may cover approved participation on more than one team for students specifically placed on multiple teams, without a second full à la carte team charge. Approval is required.

Not Included in Monthly Tuition

- Outside competition/convention registration fees
- Costumes and accessories
- Team T-shirt/jacket
- Travel, hotel, meals, parking, and transportation
- Chaperone/event packages when applicable
- Private lessons/coaching
- Optional extra rehearsals or special choreography sessions when published
- Props or special materials when published
- Production fees for separate BTPS productions

Event Fees

Each competition publishes different registration and convention costs. BTPS will issue event-specific fee schedules and payment deadlines. Payment plans may be offered when feasible. Once BTPS has committed or paid outside fees on a performer’s behalf, those fees are non-refundable and remain due even if the performer later withdraws or cannot attend, except where the outside organizer provides a refund or credit.

Charter / Homeschool Billing

When needed for charter or homeschool reimbursement clarity, Competition Team tuition/add-ons should remain a separate line item from curriculum or Day Conservatory charges. Many charter programs do not permit competition-based tuition; families remain responsible for any parent-paid Competition Team portion.

14. Goals, Feedback & Development

Competition Team students should receive specific growth goals during the season. Goals may be technical, performance-based, behavioral, or professional — for example vocal stamina, harmony, storytelling, dance clarity, audition confidence, preparation, leadership, or consistency.

Coaches may communicate goals through class feedback, written notes, placement conversations, conferences, or season reviews. Not every student will progress at the same rate or in the same skill areas. Team level, individual categories, featured moments, and future placement are earned through demonstrated readiness over time.

15. Withdrawal, Removal & Financial Responsibility

Voluntary Withdrawal

Competition Team is accepted as an August–June commitment. If a family needs to withdraw, the studio-wide enrollment-change policy governs future monthly tuition. Tuition already paid is non-refundable.

Withdrawal does not erase expenses BTPS has already committed on the performer's behalf. The family remains responsible for non-refundable competition registrations, convention packages, costumes, choreography/material fees, special orders, or other committed costs associated with the student.

Required Training

A student who drops below the minimum required co-requisite training for their team may lose Competition Team eligibility unless BTPS leadership approves an alternate training pathway in writing.

Removal by BTPS

BTPS may place a student on a performance/attendance plan, suspend participation, adjust material, or remove a student from Competition Team for significant or repeated attendance issues, unsafe conduct, harassment/bullying, refusal to follow staff direction, serious family conduct violations, failure to maintain required training, nonpayment, or other behavior materially affecting the team.

Removal does not create a refund for tuition or outside expenses already paid/committed. Future monthly tuition follows the studio-wide enrollment policy.

Re-Entry

A student who leaves Competition Team normally re-enters through the next annual summer audition/placement process. There is no guaranteed winter re-entry or return to the same team level. BTPS leadership may make an exception when program needs and circumstances support it.

16. 2026–2027 Season Commitment Agreement

By signing below, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have reviewed the Competition Team Handbook and agree to the following:

- Competition Team is a year-round August 2026–June 2027 training commitment.
- The student will maintain the required Competition Team class and co-requisite training for their placement or an approved alternate pathway.
- The student will attend at least one approved competition event during the season and will honor all published lockout dates for the event(s) selected.
- The student will participate in the required Year-End Competition Showcase in June.
- The family will communicate absences/conflicts through official channels and follow attendance expectations.
- The student and family will follow BTPS conduct, communication, sportsmanship, social media, and event standards.
- The family understands that monthly tuition does not include outside event fees, costumes, gear, travel, lodging, coaching, or other published special expenses.
- Once outside fees or special costs have been committed on the student's behalf, those non-refundable costs remain the family's responsibility.
- Competition placement, individual entries, featured roles, awards, industry attendance, representation, casting, and professional opportunities are never guaranteed.
- BTPS directors retain final artistic, placement, safety, and roster discretion consistent with this handbook.

Student Name

Date _____

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Appendix A. Season-Specific Information

This appendix may be updated administratively as event organizers publish dates, rates, hotels, deadlines, and logistics. Updating an event detail here does not change the year-round handbook policies above.

2026–2027 Item	Current Detail
Open Call self-tape deadline	Monday, August 3, 2026
Callbacks	Saturday, August 8, 2026
February event	MTCA Festival — exact dates/fees published separately
May event	MTC Triple Threat Competition — exact dates/fees published separately
Year-End Competition Showcase	June 2027 — date and call times published separately
Team gear	Team T-shirt + Team Jacket required; current season price published separately