



## Competition Team FAQs

2023-2024 Season

### Why should my dancer join?

If your dancer loves the spotlight and is interested in additional performance opportunities, then our competition team might be the perfect fit! Our faculty strives to create strong, passionate, hard-working, and kind dancers that will work together to reach their highest potential. From an early age, our dancers are learning the joy of being on-stage and discovering how hard work in and outside of class can push a dancer to their fullest potential.

### Why HeartBeat Dance Academy?

HeartBeat is a nationally ranked competitive studio in the Bay Area, placing first in the Elite level at regional competitions during our 2022-2023 season and were recognized as an ADCC Studio of Excellence winner. But, that's not all we're about. At HeartBeat, we want every dancer to feel like a part of our HeartBeat family, knowing that they are making new friends and gaining important lifelong skills along the way.

### When & where do I audition?

#### Jazz/Musical Theatre & Lyrical/Contemporary

**Ages 8-12** - Saturday, June 3rd

4:00-7:00pm @ HBDA MUR

**Ages 13+** - Saturday, June 3rd

11:00am-3:00pm @ HBDA MUR

#### Hip Hop

**Ages 8-12** - Sunday, June 4th

11:00-11:45am @ Room A

**Ages 13+** - Sunday, June 4th

12:00-12:45pm @ Room A

#### Tap

**Ages 7-11** - Sunday, June 4th

1:00-1:45pm @ Room A

**Ages 12+** - Sunday, June 4th

2:00-2:45pm @ Room A

#### Solo Auditions

Sunday, June 4th

3:00-7:00pm @ Room A

(Dancers must sign up for a 5-minute time slot)

#### Ballet & Acro

**Class Evaluation-ONLY**

(Private evaluations available if the dancer is not currently @ HBDA)



### My dancer is age 7 or under, how do we audition?

We are searching for some Mini superstars out there, and we would love to have a Mini Hip Hop, Mini Ballet, Tiny Tap, and/or Junior Jazz/Lyrical competition group! These dancers should register through the [Parent Portal](#) to audition and sign up for the "Ages 7 and Under" class. After registering, we will send an email confirmation that an HBDA Competition staff member will be going into the dancers' class to determine readiness/placement.

**Please Note: For Tap dancers age 7 - these dancers must audition. The age range for Tap ONLY is ages 7-11.**

## How do I register for auditions?

Dancers must first log into their account on our [Parent Portal](#), click "Register for Classes", and then click the Competition Team Auditions 2023-2024 tab. Next, choose the correct age/style that your dancer will audition in. There is a \$40 Audition Fee for any style, and if dancers would like to audition for a solo, there is an additional \$10 Solo Audition fee. After registering on the Parent Portal, families will receive a confirmation email with a link to the audition form that we must receive filled out no later than Friday, June 2nd.

## How do I prepare for the audition?

Dancers will need to learn and perform the audition combination(s) that will be posted in the Parent Portal on Friday, May 5th. Once you click on "Shared Files" in the [Parent Portal](#), YouTube video links as well as audition music will be found here. Each style of dance requires a different audition combination to learn and perform. Dancers wanting to compete in either Jazz or Musical Theatre will learn the same combination, and there is also one combination for both Lyrical and Contemporary.

For Jazz/Musical Theatre & Lyrical/Contemporary auditions, dancers must wear bright-colored fitted dance wear, have hair securely tied back, and step their way in with jazz/lyrical shoes. Tap and Hip Hop dancers should bring the correct shoes for their audition, but there is no apparel or hair requirement. All dancers should also bring a full water bottle.

## Why are Acro auditions evaluation-only now?

We have decided to switch to evaluating Acro dancers in their current Acro class for multiple reasons. Not only do we get to see the technical Acro skills that are usually executed in their audition, but we also get the chance to see the dancer execute choreography and perform expressively.

If a dancer indicates on the audition form that they are interested in competing in Acro, we will send an email confirmation that an HBDA Competition staff member will be going into the dancer's Acro class to determine readiness/placement.

## What are solo auditions?

Any dancer that is interested in having a competitive solo for the 2023-2024 season must sign up for a 5-minute audition time slot on Sunday, June 4th between 3:00pm-7:00pm. Once a dancer is registered in the "Solo Audition" class on the [Parent Portal](#), there will be a link listed for dancers to sign up for their audition time slot.

Dancers will have Room B available to warm up and prepare before being called individually into Room A during their 5-minute window. Dancers must be fully stretched and ready to perform when their time window occurs. During this audition, dancers must perform a 45 second - 1 minute solo of ANY routine, and this choreography can be the dancer's own, an audition combination, or any previous class/competition choreography. Dancers must perform a solo of the style in which they would like to compete.

Dancers will need to bring a music device that we can plug into our sound system via an auxiliary cord or lightning cable. The device can be an iPhone, laptop, etc. Alternatively, we can access the song if it is on Apple Music, Spotify, or YouTube - dancers just need to have the link or exact search terms ready to find the correct song.



# What is the team commitment?

Last year, the requirements for competition teams were as follows:

Style/Age	Ages 5-7	Ages 8-11	Ages 12+
<b>Acro</b>	1 Acro class 1 Acro Conditioning class	1 Acro class 1 Acro Conditioning class 1 Additional Technique class	1 Acro class 1 Acro Conditioning class 2 Additional Technique classes
<b>Hip Hop</b>	1 Hip Hop class	1 Hip Hop class	1 Hip Hop class
<b>Tap</b>	1 Tap class	1 Tap class	1 Tap class
<b>Ballet</b>	1 Ballet class	2 Ballet classes	2 Ballet classes
<b>Lyrical/ Contemporary</b>	1 Lyrical class 1 Ballet class	1 Lyrical class 2 Ballet classes 1 Additional Technique class	1 Lyrical class 2 Ballet classes 2 Additional Technique classes
<b>Jazz/ Musical Theatre</b>	1 Jazz class 1 Ballet class	1 Jazz class 2 Ballet classes 1 Additional Technique class	1 Jazz class 2 Ballet classes 2 Additional Technique classes

The chart above is an EXAMPLE of each age group & style's requirements for classes. **CLASS REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DIFFERENT FOR THE 2023-2024 SEASON.** We will be announcing the official class requirements to be on our competition team in June using our Fall 2023 schedule.

We attend **FOUR** regional competitions and **ONE** convention within the Bay Area every year. Dancers must be free the entire weekends of the scheduled events – these mandatory dates will be listed in the competition team acceptance contract. The four competitions are usually during the months of February-April.

We will also be attending one Nationals event in Anaheim, CA at the Disneyland Hotel in July 2024. Although this event is optional, families will need to notify us of a dancer's decision to participate or not on the acceptance contract. This event, Showstoppers West Coast Nationals, usually falls in the middle of July from a Tuesday through the next Sunday. There are two weeks of rehearsals prior, or as we call it, "Boot Camp", where dancers rehearse their routines in preparation. A certain number of these rehearsals will be mandatory in order for dancers to participate.

## How much does the team cost?



The amount differs for every dancer, depending on how many routines they participate in. Fees for a new dancer joining the 2023-2024 season who participates in one competition routine are likely to average around \$200/month.

We announce ALL competition fees upfront at the beginning of the year so that there are no additional fees or surprises (excluding optional events). These competition fees cover weekly rehearsals, choreography, competition entry fees, convention fees, costumes, rhinestones, tights, accessories, jewelry, warm-up jackets, props, team bonding events, holiday parties, and much more. The only costs not covered by this competition fee are weekly technique classes.

There are 3 options for payments: full payment up front in September, two payments in September and January, or an automatic monthly payment plan (9 months, from August through April). Your selection of payment plan will be established before the competition season begins. As well, since we are attending Nationals at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, CA in July 2024, those fees will be charged in May, June, and July of 2024 for registration and Boot Camp.

## **Is my dancer ready for the team?**

There are a few different factors that determine a dancer's readiness for our competition team, and these factors vary between the different styles of dance. First and foremost, we want dancers on our team who love to perform and are willing to work hard inside and especially outside of class to elevate their skills.

For more technical styles of dance such as jazz and lyrical, dancers should have good flexibility (full splits), applied ballet technique, and strong spotting coordination for turns such as pirouettes. Even if a dancer feels like they might not make the team, auditioning is always a great learning experience, and you never know until you try!

## **I have more questions - whom do I contact?**

If you have any further questions about the competition team, please don't hesitate to email our Competition Director Mollie Nash at [HeartBeatMollie@gmail.com](mailto:HeartBeatMollie@gmail.com).