



SJMSAA

Dance Team Bylaws

Dear Parents and Prospective Dancers,

Thank you for your interest in the SJMSAA Dance Program. Being chosen as an SJMSAA Dancer should be seen as both an honor and a commitment. Team membership is a privilege and will focus on excellence in academics, leadership, and character in game-day performances and competitions.

SJMSAA Dance Teams were founded in 2021 for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade middle school residents. Teams perform a variety of dance styles that include pom, jazz, hip-hop, kick, and modern contemporary. Dance teams perform at all football games as well as a few soccer games, basketball games, and community events. Dance teams will focus on their sideline dance events starting in August, and each team will then follow their own competitive event schedule that will take them into the following year.

The *purpose* of the SJMSAA Dance Teams is to promote school spirit, provide entertainment at athletic events, and represent the school and community in a positive and honorable way. The SJMSAA dance teams also introduce middle school students to the training, technique, and dedication needed for High School dance programs.

The *mission* is to provide dancers with a successful and meaningful educational experience. Team members have personal goals of high academic achievement, increasing their dance ability, learning effective time management, and forming strong friendships. This team's success is by a strong commitment from the dancers, parental involvement, and coaches. The dancers exhibit good sportsmanship and positive attitudes toward team members, competitors, school, parents, and coaches.

Thank you again for your interest in SJMSAA Dance, and good luck!

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Peyton Blair
SJMSAA Dance Commissioner

Article I. Purpose and Mission

Section 1.01 The purpose of the SJMSAA Dance Teams is to promote school spirit, provide entertainment at athletic events, and represent the school and community in a positive and honorable way. The SJMSAA dance teams also introduce middle school students to the training, technique, and dedication needed for High School dance programs.

Section 1.02 Teams perform a variety of dance styles that include pom, jazz, hip-hop, kick, and modern contemporary. Dance teams perform at all football games as well as a few soccer games, basketball games, and community events. Dance teams will focus on their sideline dance events starting in August, and each team will then follow their own competitive event schedule that will take them into the following year.

Section 1.03 The mission is to provide dancers with a successful and meaningful educational experience. Team members have personal goals of high academic achievement, increasing their dance ability, learning effective time management, and forming strong friendships. This team's success is by a strong commitment from the dancers, parental involvement, and coaches. The dancers exhibit good sportsmanship and positive attitudes toward team members, competitors, school, parents, and coaches.

Article II. Membership

Section 2.01 Any student expressing an interest in becoming a member of the Dance Team and who demonstrates advanced dance skills and techniques, as well as the ability to work cooperatively with others in a positive manner, can become a member of the team.

Section 2.02 All St. John's County residents ages 10+ may audition for their school's dance team.

- (a) Homeschooled students in St. John's county may participate with the school they are zoned for.

Section 2.03 All participants must re-audition every year. The previous year's membership DOES NOT guarantee a position for the following year.

- (a) If a dancer quits the team at any time during the season, it will be up to the coach's discretion if the athlete will be eligible to audition for the following year.

Section 2.04 Members will be required to pay for association fees, practice wear, uniform, and dance team accessories that each coach feels necessary.

- (a) In addition, some schools do not have the privilege of practicing on campus after school. A gym fee may be required to host practices. It's also up to the coach to require girls to be enrolled in a dance class at a local studio.

Section 2.05 It is up to the coach to decide whether the members will compete during the season. Competition fees, choreography/music fees, coaches' travel, and athletes' travel fees may apply.

Article III. Apparel/Accessories

Section 3.01 Each dancer will purchase their own uniform. In addition, all dance team accessories will be purchased by dancers. We do our best to be frugal and help with fundraising opportunities (as many as parents want to lead and coordinate them). However, dance is an expensive sport.

(a) Uniforms cannot be altered without the coach's approval.

Section 3.02 Neither uniforms nor any practice wear is to be worn unless told to do so by your coach.

Section 3.03 Neither uniforms nor any practice wear may be worn by or loaned to a non-team member.

Section 3.04 When arriving at events, practices, or games, dancers should be fully dressed before getting out of the car.

Section 3.05 No other apparel should be worn with your uniform unless you are told otherwise by your coach (example: pants underneath your dress/skirt, or jacket/sweatshirt over your uniform.)

Section 3.06 The coach may provide some accessories. If so, these are to be returned within one week of the season-ending.

Section 3.07 Jewelry is not to be worn at any time during practice or performances. This includes jewelry for body piercings. Stud earrings are acceptable.

Section 3.08 Glitter shall not be on hair, face, uniform, costume, or the body unless otherwise instructed by your coach.

Section 3.09 Hair is to be up and out of the face for practices and performances—no unnatural hair color.

Section 3.10 Nails should be free of nail polish for performances and kept at a moderate length for practices and performances.

Article IV. Behavior

Section 4.01 Students will represent SJMSAA and their school while promoting school spirit positively on- and off-campus, in and out of uniform.

(a) Dancers must follow all rules and regulations set forth by the St. Johns County School Board, SJMSAA, and the dance coaches. Inappropriate behavior on or off-campus, photos, social media, or texting with any SJMSAA/school attire will be grounds for dismissal from the squad with no refunds.

Article V. Social Media

Section 5.01 The coaching staff can monitor all Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., accounts. All pictures and posts must be taken off if deemed “inappropriate” by the coaching staff.

(a) Possible suspension or expulsion from the team will be at the discretion of the coaches and commissioner.

Article VI. Attendance

Section 6.01 SJMSAA Summer Dance Camp is mandatory.

- (a) This year's camp will be July 27-29, 2022.

Section 6.02 All practices are mandatory.

- (a) Dancers are expected to arrive 10 minutes early to practice in the appropriate practice attire, prepared to begin.
- (b) Dancers who appear to be improperly dressed or unprepared for practice may be required to sit out.
- (c) Dancers may not leave practice without the permission of the coach.
- (d) All dancers are required to attend practice unless the dancer has an illness deemed contagious by a physician. Dancers must alert a coach of any illness before practice. If a dancer is ill but not contagious, the dancer will be required to attend practice and be permitted to sit on the side or sidelines.
 - (i) *If a physician has restricted a cheerleader's participation due to an injury, a doctor's clearance must be presented before the cheerleader will be allowed to resume cheerleading activities.*

Section 6.03 It is the dancers' responsibility to notify the coach as soon as they know they will not be in attendance at practices, games, or events.

- (a) Demerits will be given for not contacting the coach in advance for missing practices, games, or events.
- (b) Demerits will be given for excessive absences.
 - (i) *Excessive absences can result in removal from the squad with no refunds given. Commitment is vital to the success of a team.*
- (c) If a member is absent, it is the member's responsibility to contact the coach or a teammate to learn what is missed. Failure to do so can result in demerits.
- (d) If a dancer misses practice the week of a game, event, or performance, she will be benched and still required to attend in full uniform and sit by the coach. It is up to the coach to determine if they can participate on the sidelines.

Section 6.04 All games and performances are mandatory.

- (a) Dancers are expected to arrive at least 30 minutes early for games or events unless the coach specifies.
- (b) Upon arrival, you should be dressed in FULL uniform and prepared for the game or performance before exiting your car.
 - (i) *Dancers who appear to be improperly dressed or unprepared for games or performances may be required to sit out—sitting out will that the member will not participate during the event but will sit next to the coach.*
- (c) Parents are responsible for transportation to and from ALL practices, games, or events.
- (d) Dancers may not leave games or performance events without the coach's permission.
- (e) Specified spirit wear will be worn to school on game days. Failure to wear the assigned items when instructed will be considered defiance and result in demerits.

(f) Horseplay, excessive talking, or laughing during games or performance events will not be tolerated. We want you to enjoy the dance team, but you must remember that your purpose as a dance team member is to lead the crowd and provide entertainment.

(i) *Excessive play or talking at practices or performance events is grounds for removal and even dismissal from the team.*

Section 6.05 Students are expected to attend and participate in all fundraising activities.

Article VII. Parental Commitment

Section 7.01 Parents are responsible for the monetary obligation that will be clearly outlined by each school's dance team coach at the beginning of the season.

Section 7.02 Parents are asked to volunteer to assist in making candy bags, team meals, transportation, leading/coordinating fundraisers, and providing drinks at games.

Section 7.03 Parents are responsible for proper and timely transportation to and from all events.

Section 7.04 Parents must provide all appropriate funds and paperwork by the announced deadline.

Section 7.05 Parents must attend ALL meetings asked of the coach.

Section 7.06 Parents must understand that the dance team is a big commitment and have read and know the mandatory dates and will have their dancers in attendance for them to participate in this dance team season. Failure to do so can result in your dancer being dismissed from the team.

(a) There are NO refunds at any time.

Section 7.07 Parents must always show full support for the coach, commissioner, and St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association.

(a) We understand there may be disagreements on decisions that can or will be made. The coach's decisions are not based on your dancer. Rather than they are based on the whole team.

(b) If you have questions or concerns, you are to contact your coach first.

(c) Any parents involved in or begin gossiping amongst other parents, dancers, or teams is grounds for immediate dismissal for your dancer. We have ZERO tolerance for gossiping parents or dancers.

Article VIII. There is a chain of command for communication about the SJMSAA dance teams.

Parent/Athlete → Coach → SJMSAA Athletic Director →
SJMSAA Dance Commissioner → SJMSAA President



SJMSAA

Dance Team Bylaws

**Print and Return this page to your Coach before Tryouts.*

I/We have read the Dance Team Bylaws and understand what is expected of the Dance Team member throughout the course of auditions and year.

Parent/Guardian agrees to do all in their power to support their student's membership on their school's SJMSAA dance team.

Team Name _____

Athlete's Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

Coach's Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____