

Competition Team Policies

1. Eligibility

The Ballroom Dance Club at Georgia Tech Competition Team is open to students of the Georgia Institute of Technology in good standing who satisfy the following requirements:

1. Maintain a partnership throughout the semester
2. Pay competition team dues and fees for each competition
3. Attend at least one competition each semester
4. Commit to attending lessons and open practices

1.1 Affiliate Membership

Georgia Institute of Technology faculty and staff who wish to compete in ballroom dance competitions may join the competition team as affiliate members provided they satisfy the following requirements

1. Maintain a partnership throughout the semester
2. Pay competition team dues, fees for each competition and competition registration
3. Attend at least one competition each semester
4. Commit to attending lessons and open practices

Affiliates may not compete at collegiate competitions.

2. Joining the Team

2.1 New Members

Potential competition team members who have never been part of the team before must attend tryouts.

If a potential competition team member plans to be partners with a returning member who will be changing partners, the returning member and potential partner may attend the appropriate level of lessons (determined by the competitive coordinator and/or team captain) as an extended tryout. A decision will be made on both dancers' membership on the team on the regularly scheduled tryout date.

2.2 Returning Members

Returning competition team members who plan to continue dancing with their current partner do not need to attend tryouts. However, they must express their desire to remain on the team to the competitive coordinator no later than the first day of practice they would be expected to attend. Additionally, they must indicate their competition availability to the competitive coordinator on or before the day of tryouts.

Returning competition team members who do not plan to continue dancing with their current partner must attend tryouts.

If a returning competition team member has identified a partner that he or she plans to dance with, the returning member and potential partner may attend the appropriate level of lessons (determined by the competitive coordinator and/or team captain) as an extended tryout. A final decision will be made on the both dancers' membership on the team on the regularly scheduled tryout date.

2.3 Affiliate Members

Potential affiliate members who have never been part of the team before must attend tryouts. Due to the additional requirements associated with affiliate membership, they must specify a partner at tryouts.

Returning affiliate members who plan to continue dancing with their current partner do not need to attend tryouts. However, they must express their desire to remain on the team and their availability for the competitions to the competitive coordinator prior to the first day of practice they would attend.

Returning affiliate members who do not plan to continue dancing with their current partner must attend tryouts. They must specify a partner at tryouts.

3. Tryouts

3.1 Structure

Competition team tryouts are run during a regularly scheduled competition team choreography practice and consist of a normal choreography lesson. Potential team members must select the role for which they are auditioning and provide the following information upon arrival at tryouts:

- Name
- Email
- Phone number
- Partner preference
- Competition availability

The competitive coordinator and/or team captain determine the level of lesson each of the potential members is to attend based on their experience, partner preference, and availability of potential partners. Returning team members may be asked to rotate in and dance with potential members, regardless of skill level.

3.2 Selection

Selection of team members is performed based on the following criteria:

- Potential
- Partner compatibility

- Current skill

All returning team members may provide input on potential members' suitability for the team, but the final decision is that of the competitive coordinator and team captain.

The number of members on the team is subject to the following constraints:

- The team consists of couples, each of which consists of one lead and one follow
 - Due to the rules in the USA Dance Rulebook (section 2.2), in a couple with one male and one female, the male must be the lead
- The number of members attending any competition cannot exceed the number of competitors in the budget unless overridden by the Executive Board

3.3 Scheduling Issues

In the event that a potential member is unable to attend tryouts, the competitive coordinator and/or team captain may elect to arrange an alternate tryout for that dancer.

4. Expectations

Team members are expected to attend all lessons of their level. If a situation precludes attendance at a lesson, team members are expected to inform their partners and the team captain, competitive coordinator, and/or lesson coach (as appropriate) in advance. Team members are expected to make good use of the open practice time available.

If a team member is unable to attend a competition that he or she committed to at the beginning of the semester, he or she is expected to inform the competitive coordinator at least three weeks before the departure date for the competition. Failure to do so will result in the member being charged for the competition.

5. Lessons

The competition team offers two types of lessons: choreography and technique. Team members are required to attend one of the lesson types, depending on their skill level. Team members with limited prior dance experience attend newcomer choreography lessons. Returning team members who have demonstrated proficiency with the newcomer choreography and the basics of frame and new team members with the equivalent skill attend bronze choreography lessons. Team members who have demonstrated proficiency with the bronze choreography attend technique lessons.

Transitions between lessons may be achieved at any time by demonstrating the necessary proficiency to the competitive coordinator or the team captain, although it is most common to change lessons at the start of a new semester.

5.1 Instructors

Choreography lessons are taught by team members. The team members teaching the lessons should be attending technique lessons and should be familiar with the steps and techniques necessary to accomplish those steps of the level they are teaching.

Technique lessons are taught by professional instructors.

6. Competitions

The competitive coordinator is responsible for managing logistics for all competitions. This includes registration, lodging, travel, and meals. The competitive coordinator should create a detailed itinerary in advance of the trip.

6.1 Registration

The competitive coordinator should send out a survey for registration no less than one week before the early registration deadline for a competition. Team members should be registered in a standard set of events prior to receipt of the survey results based on the competition and their skill level to ensure that all team members attending the competition have some events in which to compete. After receiving the survey, the competitive coordinator should adjust the registration to reflect the couple's preferences. Any unreasonable registrations (e.g., a newcomer couple wanting to dance silver) should be discussed with the couple by the competitive coordinator and/or the team captain.

6.2 Lodging

Lodging should be booked no less than three weeks in advance of the departure date for the competition. It is recommended that at least one room be booked as refundable to allow for last minute changes to the number of competitors.

6.3 Travel

When possible, vehicles should be rented from the CRC to minimize the cost of the vehicles. When this is not possible, rental cars from off-campus sources should be used. Georgia Tech has contracts with Enterprise and Hertz (see <http://www.procurement.gatech.edu/> for details). When picking up rental vehicles, the tax-exempt status of the Institute should be used to reduce the cost. The treasurer can provide the necessary forms.

All members of the competition team who can legally drive in the United States should be certified to drive the CRC vehicles. Only those members certified to drive CRC vehicles can drive a rental vehicle on behalf of the club. Drivers can select their driving preference as primary (will be driving at least one leg each trip in each direction), secondary (will drive when it is convenient for the club), or tertiary (will drive when absolutely necessary or at their request).

7. Dues and Fees

Competition team dues and fees are used to cover part of the cost of registration, travel, coaching, and lodging. They consist of two portions, each with its own purpose.

7.1 Dues

All members of the competition team must pay dues, which are \$50.00 each semester. All members of a competitive student organization at Georgia Tech must pay at least \$50.00 in dues, according to the policies of the Joint Finance Committee of SGA. The dues paid by competition team members are used for professional coaching and to subsidize the cost of all competitions, with the exact distribution of dues toward each competition determined by the treasurer and/or the competitive coordinator. Dues must be paid by a competition team member's first practice following tryouts. For returning team members, dues must be paid by the second practice.

7.2 Fees

Competition team members must pay fees to attend competitions subsidized by the club. These fees are set on a per competition basis by the treasurer and/or the competitive coordinator and cover part of the cost of travel, lodging, and registration for the competition, with the rest being subsidized by the club.

Under normal circumstances, fees must be paid no later than three weeks prior to the departure date for a competition. The deadline can be extended at the discretion of the competitive coordinator.