



2025
2026
S E A S O N

Embrace. Support.
Ignite. Empower.

REVISED 8.22.2025

COMPETITION & CLUB TEAM HANDBOOK

Mission Statement

At Island Groove Dance, we ignite passion, support creativity, empower discipline, and embrace confidence in youth through the transformative art of dance.

Welcome to Island Groove Dance!

We're thrilled to welcome you to our IGD family. Whether you're returning or just beginning, we can't wait to dance, grow, and shine together this season. Performance and Competitive dance is a big commitment, and we're honored to support your dancer on this journey. Our programs offer opportunities to train with top choreographers, perform across Florida, and build skills in discipline, teamwork, and confidence—all right here in the Lower Keys.

This handbook outlines the expectations, commitments, and opportunities ahead for both dancers and parents as we head into a new season.

How to Use This Handbook:

Sections will be notated for *[Competition Team]* or *[Club Team]*.

For Dancers

As a member of the IGD Competition and Club Teams, show up fully—physically and mentally. Always dance full out, stay coachable, and treat everyone with respect. Growth comes from effort, focus, and teamwork.

For Parents

Your support sets the tone. A positive, respectful environment helps every dancer thrive. With open communication and a team-first mindset, we can make this season one to remember.

About the IGD Competition Program

The Island Groove Dance Competition Program is for dancers who are dedicated, motivated, and ready to grow—both on and off the stage. This team is for students eager to challenge themselves technically, take on extra responsibility, and perform confidently in professional settings.

IGD Company members are expected to bring focus, maturity, and a positive, team-first mindset to every class and event. In addition to building strong technique, dancers develop discipline, teamwork, and performance presence.

Team Members Will:

- Attend weekly rehearsals and required classes
- Perform in group routines at regional competitions and the annual Dancapalooza Showcase
- Have opportunities to work with guest choreographers
- Represent IGD with professionalism at all times

This program is about more than just performance—it's about becoming a strong, expressive, and committed dancer.

About the IGD Club Program

The Island Groove Dance Club Program is for dancers who love to perform, want to grow, and be part of a team—without the commitment of competition. This program is ideal for students who are passionate about dance and excited to represent IGD in community-centered settings.

Club members are expected to bring enthusiasm, focus, and a collaborative spirit to every class and performance. Through conventions, rehearsals, and events, dancers build confidence, improve technique, and develop their stage presence.

Club Members Will:

- Attend scheduled rehearsals and optional classes
- Perform in one group routine at community events and the annual Dancapalooza Showcase
- Participate in regional dance conventions for continued growth
- Represent IGD with positivity, professionalism, and pride

This program is about more than just dancing—it's about building artistry, connection, and a love for sharing dance with others.

2025–2026 Team & Club Auditions

Who Can Audition:

All new and returning dancers ages 5+ (as of Jan 1, 2026) must audition to be considered for the IGD Competition Teams and IGD Club Team.

Audition Date:

Friday, May 23, 2025 @ Island Groove Dance Studio

- Ages 5–6: 4:30–5:30 PM
- Ages 7–9: 5:45–6:45 PM
- Ages 10 & Up: 7:00–8:00 PM

What to Wear:

Solid black dancewear, hair slicked back in a bun or ponytail. No jewelry. Bring sneakers and your choice of ballet, jazz, or turn shoes.

How You'll Be Evaluated:

Dancers will be scored on:

- Flexibility
- Technique
- Performance quality
- Choreography retention (memory & learning speed)

Team Selection:

Placement is based on audition performance, age, and skill level. Dancers must meet a minimum score for consideration. Final decisions will be made by Mrs. Renee, Ms. Krysti, and Ms. Kara.

Results:

Audition results will be emailed by **May 30, 2025**.

What to Expect as a Member of the IGD Competition Team & Club Team

Joining the Island Groove Dance (IGD) Competition Team and Club Team means becoming part of a positive, high-energy community where dancers grow as artists, athletes, and teammates. Members are expected to lead with integrity, demonstrate professionalism, and represent IGD with pride both inside and outside the studio.

Team Expectations & Etiquette

In the Studio

- Use studio spaces respectfully and for their intended purpose
- Keep personal items in designated cubbies and spaces tidy
- Studio rooms require prior approval for use
- Do not touch mirrors
- Restrooms are for intended use only

In Class

- Arrive at least 5 minutes early, prepared and focused
- Attend all classes with full participation and respect
- Apply corrections, support your teammates, and thank instructors
- No talking, leaning, or leaving without permission
- Hydrate only during designated breaks
- Injured dancers must still attend to observe and take notes
- Notify staff in advance of any early departure

Respect & Conduct

- Be kind, inclusive, and positive—no gossip or negativity
- Keep phones silenced and stored away during classes
- Socializing is for outside of class; stay focused during training

Training & Participation Requirements

To promote well-rounded development, all Competition Team dancers are required to take the following classes during the school year:

Junior & Elite Level Competition Team

- 1 Dance Technique Class (Jazz or Advanced Dance Technique)
- 1 Ballet Class
- 1 Additional Class of their choice
- Attend all scheduled Competition Team rehearsals for the season – Competition Routines are performed in the annual Dancapalooza Showcase.

Mini Level Competition Team

- 2 Classes of their choice – Ballet is strongly recommended
- Attend all scheduled Competition Team rehearsals for the season – Competition Routines are performed in the annual Dancapalooza Showcase.

Club Level Team

- 2 Classes of their choice
- Attend all scheduled Club Team rehearsals for the season – Club Routines are performed in the annual Dancapalooza Showcase.

Team Rehearsals

Team rehearsals for the 2025–2026 season will begin with the start of the new school year. Rehearsals are scheduled on **Friday evenings**, with the **first rehearsal taking place on Friday, August 22, 2025**, unless otherwise communicated.

The finalized Friday schedule will be shared closer to the beginning of the season. Please note the following **tentative** schedule as a general guideline:

Tentative Friday Rehearsal Schedule: [[REVISED 8/22/2025]]

- **4:15 PM – 5:00 PM** – Club Team
- **5:00 PM – 5:45 PM** – Mini Team
- **5:45 PM – 6:30 PM** – Junior Team
- **6:30 PM – 7:15 PM** – Junior & Elite Team
- **7:15 PM – 8:00 PM** – Elite Team

Dancers should arrive on time, dressed appropriately for rehearsal, and ready

to give their full effort each week. Consistent attendance is expected for all team members.

Routines & Opportunities

Group Routines *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

- Junior & Elite Levels:
 - All dancers will be cast in 2 required group routines
- Mini Level:
 - All dancers will be cast in 1 required group routine
- Club Level:
 - All dancers will be cast in 1 required group routine
- Casting (genre, size, etc.) is determined by IGD Directors
- Additional routines may be offered based on readiness and parent approval
- Full participation is expected in all assigned routines

Competition Solos, Duos/Trios & Small Groups *[Competition Team]*

- Offered by Director approval only
- Require extra commitment and independent practice
- Must schedule private cleaning sessions before competing

Events & Attendance

Competitions & Conventions

- *[Competition Team]* Required attendance at 3 full-company regional events per season **UPDATED: 3 Required Competitions and 1 Additional Convention of dancer's choice. [[REVISED 8/22/2025]]**
- *[Club Team]* Required attendance at 1 CONVENTION event per season.
- These experiences are essential for team bonding and personal growth

Competition Team Season Commitment *[Competition Team]*

- Competition Dancers are expected to commit to the full season
- Early withdrawal incurs a \$200 withdrawal fee

Attendance Policy *[Competition Team]*

- 3 unexcused absences allowed per semester
- Excused absences include illness, school events, or pre-approved conflicts
- Missed classes must be made up within 30 days
- No unexcused absences allowed the week of a required event
- Notify staff in advance of any absence

Studio Dress Code *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

Consistent attire supports focus, technique, and team unity. Please follow these expectations for all in-studio classes:

Attire & Grooming

- Wear fitted black or IGD-branded dancewear suitable to class style (leotards, shorts, leggings, tights).
- Hair must be neatly secured and away from the face before arrival.
- No jewelry (small stud earrings allowed).
- Arrive clean, fresh, and ready to move!

Shoes

- Use instructor-approved footwear appropriate for each style.
- Dance shoes must not be worn outside to maintain condition.

Communication & Office Hours *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

Clear, respectful communication between parents, dancers, and IGD Staff is essential to the success of our team.

Primary Communication

We use the BAND App for all team updates, schedules, announcements, and reminders. Please enable notifications and check the app regularly.

For urgent updates, group texts may be used on a limited basis.

Contacting Staff

For questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Renee directly at

info@islandgroovedance.com. For questions related to competitions and conventions, please contact Ms. Kristin on Band App.

If you don't receive an immediate response, we kindly ask for your patience — you will receive a reply within 24 hours.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Event Support

IGD staff will be available on-site during all scheduled competitions and conventions to support dancers and families.

We're here to help every step of the way — don't hesitate to reach out!

Digital Presence: Social Media & Privacy *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

At Island Groove Dance, we expect all dancers, parents, and families to represent the studio with positivity, professionalism, and respect—both in person and online.

Social Media Guidelines

- Use social platforms to uplift and encourage.
- Refrain from negative comments about dancers, studios, judges, or competitions.
- Always reflect IGD's values of integrity, teamwork, and respect.
- IGD follows all photo/video policies set by competitions and conventions.

Giving Credit

When sharing performance-related content, please tag:

- **Island Groove Dance**
- **The Choreographer** (if applicable)
- **The Competition/Convention/Community Show** (if applicable)

Proper credit shows appreciation for everyone's contributions.

Privacy Preferences & Opting Out of Public Content

We deeply respect the privacy of all our dancers and their families. If you prefer that your dancer not be included in Island Groove Dance's social media content, please notify the IGD Director in writing. These wishes will be fully honored.

Please note: At times, we may take group or event photos intended for public sharing. If your child has opted out of social media content, we kindly ask that they step aside during these specific photo moments so we can capture images in accordance with family preferences.

Conventions & Competitions *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

Each season, IGD Competition dancers attend a mix of **required and optional** regional conventions and competitions. These events are essential for technical development, team bonding, and preparing for future opportunities. IGD Club Members are required to attend 1 of the required conventions per year to experience the convention master classes.

Why We Attend

Conventions and competitions allow dancers to:

- Train with top industry professionals
- Receive expert feedback
- Gain stage experience and confidence
- Improve focus and adaptability
- Build teamwork and connect with other dancers

2025–2026 Season Events (*Tentative*)

Final schedule will be confirmed at the Company Meeting on Friday August 15, 2025.

Required Events *[Competition Team]*

- **Step Up 2 Dance** (CONVENTION & COMPETITION)– Jan 10–11, 2026 | Miramar, FL | stepup2dance.com
- **Headliners** (COMPETITION ONLY) – Feb 20–22, 2026 | Miramar, FL | headlinersdance.com
- **Starpower** (COMPETITION ONLY) – Apr 24-26, 2026 | Miami, FL | starpowertalent.com
- COMPETITION TEAM Must attend 1 other convention. Please see options events below.

[Club Team] - Club Team is required to attend the convention classes at either KAR Dance (See Below), STEP UP 2 DANCE, or IGNITE The Keys (See Below).

Please note: While the Studio owner/Director may not be present at every competition or convention, Island Groove ensures that qualified faculty members will be in attendance. Faculty representation may vary depending on scheduling, event type, and staff availability. All attending IGD staff will be fully prepared to guide and support dancers throughout the event weekend.

Optional Events

Optional events offer extra growth opportunities and require Director approval. IGD staff will attend larger optional events; otherwise, dancers may attend solo with prior permission.

- **KAR Dance (CONVENTION ONLY)** – October 26, 2025 | Fort Lauderdale, FL | dancekar.com
- **Press Play (CONVENTION & COMPETITION)** – Nov 7–9, 2025 | Miami, FL | pressplay.com
- **Adrenaline (CONVENTION & COMPETITION)** – Dec 12–14, 2025 | Orlando, FL | adrenalinedance.com
- **Streetz Dance (CONVENTION & COMPETITION)** – Jan 30–Feb 1, 2026 | Ft Lauderdale, FL | thestreetzdance.com

- **Ignite the Keys (CONVENTION)** – Apr 17–19, 2026 | Big Pine Key, FL | islandgroovedance.com
- **NUVO (CONVENTION & COMPETITION)** – May 22–24, 2026 | Miami, FL | gonuvo.com

Optional Event Fees May Include:

Convention registration, solo fees, observer bands, staff time, administrative fees.

Note: Dancers with outstanding balances may not participate.

Community & Special Performances

IGD Club Dancers will perform at local events to build confidence, poise, and connection to the community. IGD Competition Routines may be scheduled at community events as needed. Schedule will be forthcoming.

Competition & Performance Expectations & Etiquette

For Dancers

- **Attendance:** Required for all rehearsals and classes 2 weeks before a competition. Missing class may result in removal from routines.
- **Conduct:** Respect backstage areas, dressing rooms, clean up after yourself, and maintain a positive attitude at all times.
- **Convention Class Participation:** Attend the full weekend and all assigned convention classes unless excused in advance.
- **Sportsmanship:** Model positive behavior and cheer respectfully for all studios and dancers. We expect IGD dancers to be gracious and kind—both on and off the stage.

For Parents & Observers

- **Behavior:**
 - Celebrate your dancers enthusiastically, but also respectfully support all performers. Offer encouragement and polite applause for all studios.
- **Rules:**
 - Absolutely no video recording or photography is allowed during performances, convention classes, or in dressing rooms. Unauthorized filming may result in immediate disqualification from the event.

- Photos allowed only in designated lobby areas.
- Observer wristbands are required for convention classes and may be available for purchase.
- Silence phones and only enter or exit the venue between routines—do not move around during a performance.
- **Support Role:**
 - Most importantly, remember your role is to support, not to coach. Let the IGD Directors and staff guide and critique the dancers. Your encouragement and positivity are invaluable to your child’s growth and experience.

Competition Preparation

Packing & Arrival [*Competition Team*]

- A full checklist (including costumes, hair instructions, makeup, and accessories) will be provided before each event.
- Dancers must arrive 2 hours before performance time, fully ready (hair, makeup, costume).
- Dancers must wear IGD Company wear when not in costume, and during all awards ceremonies to show team pride and unity.
- Competitions can run ahead of schedule—late arrivals may miss their opportunity to perform.

Schedule Release [*Competition Team*]

- Schedules are typically released 7–10 days before each competition. We do not receive access to them earlier—thank you for your patience!

Wardrobe, Hair & Makeup

A polished appearance reflects a dancer’s professionalism and respect for their craft. Please follow these guidelines to help each dancer feel confident, prepared, and unified as part of the IGD team.

Competition Guidelines *[Competition Team]*

- Dancers must arrive fully ready: hair styled, makeup applied (including lashes), and in their first costume.
- Make-up must remain on during the entire competition daily schedule.
- A detailed checklist will be shared before each event outlining specific hair, makeup, and costume requirements.
- IGD staff will ensure dancers are performance-ready but will not apply or fix hair or makeup during events.

Resources & Support *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

- Step-by-step tutorials will be provided ahead of each event.
- An optional Hair & Makeup Class will be offered for those who want additional support or are ready to handle prep independently.

Backstage Policy *[Competition Team]*

To maintain a calm, organized prep space:

- Parents should limit time backstage to avoid overcrowding.
- Dancers are expected to be self-sufficient with support from IGD staff as needed.

Convention Guidelines *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

- Dancers should wear comfortable, movement-ready attire for master classes—makeup is not required.
- Most conventions assign a number to be visibly worn during classes.
- IGD gear is encouraged before and after classes but not required during sessions.

Lost & Found *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

- Clearly label all items.
- IGD is not responsible for lost/stolen belongings.
- Unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each semester.

By showing up polished and prepared, dancers contribute to a focused and respectful environment that reflects their commitment and pride in being part of Island Groove Dance. Thank you for supporting these high standards!

Awards & Recognition *[Competition Team]* *[Club Team]*

Etiquette

- Dancers must wear IGD Company wear when not in costume, and during all awards ceremonies to show team pride and unity.
- All dancers are encouraged to stay through the entire awards presentation. Following the ceremony, dancers must remain for at least 10 minutes to participate in group photos on stage.
- Even if not performing, dancers are encouraged to attend, support, and cheer on their teammates.

Trophies & Awards

- Group routine trophies and awards are the property of Island Groove Dance and will be displayed at the studio.
- Any pins or adjudication awards given for group routines will be collected by the IGD team and distributed to dancers at their next rehearsal.
- Soloists may keep their individual trophies.
- For duos and trios, dancers may decide amongst themselves who will keep the trophy if only one is provided.

Cash or Competition/Convention Credit Awards

- Cash or Credit awards earned from group routines will go to the studio and be credited equally to those IGD Dancers in the winning routine.
- Soloists may retain 75% of any cash prize they earn (25% will go to IGD).
- Duos and trios may retain 50% of any cash prize, which should be split evenly among participating dancers.
- All dancer cash awards will be applied as a credit to the dancer's IGD account. Credit awards will be applied to the following year at the correlating event.

Financial Overview

Club Tuition / Recurring Fees *[Club Team]*

Club tuition is \$65 per month, covering their participation in one group routine. Tuition ensures that each dancer receives the necessary rehearsal time, coaching, and performance preparation for a successful performance season.

Club Costumes *[Club Team]*

Each dancer is required to purchase an IGD Season T-shirt. For community performances, they will be required to wear the IGD T-shirt, with appropriate black bottoms, and black sneakers/dance shoes. Fee for T-shirt will be determined at the start of the 2025-2026 season.

Competition Tuition / Recurring Fees *[Competition Team]*

Competition tuition is \$100 per month for Junior and Elite dancers, covering their rehearsals for two group routines. For Mini dancers, Competition tuition is \$65 per month, covering their participation in one group routine. Tuition ensures that each dancer receives the necessary rehearsal time, coaching, and performance preparation for a successful competition experience.

Competition Team Registration Fee *[Competition Team]*

The \$100 registration fee is applied toward securing venue space for the dress rehearsal and maintaining a stocked supply of competition essentials, including tights, makeup, first aid items, and other emergency needs while the team is on the road.

Competition Solo, Duet/Trio Required Rehearsal Fees *[Competition Team]*

A recurring 30-minute private session per routine is required for choreography and rehearsing solos, duets, and/or trios. These fees are \$35 per session, a minimum of 20 sessions are required. This rate includes the choreography fee. Please note – costumes and competition entry fees are separate.

Competition Costume Fees *[Competition Team]*

Competition Costume Fees are \$115 per costume. Each dancer is required to purchase a costume for every routine they are cast in. At a minimum, dancers will need two (2) costumes for the required group routines.

Each costume fee includes:

- Performance attire
- Coordinating headpiece
- One (1) pair of tights

Please note: Dance shoes and Make Up are not included in the costume fee.

Competition & Convention Fees [Competition Team] [Club Team]

A detailed schedule of fees will be provided at the Company Meeting. Fees must be paid in full prior to each event. These may include:

- Convention registration fees
- Solo, duo, or trio entry fees (if applicable)
- Group dance entry fees
- Observer wristbands (if applicable and if required)
- Teacher fees (pay, travel, hotel, meals, etc.)
- Administrative fees

Competition Team Gear Fees [Competition Team]

(for competition dancers without jackets only)

This \$165 fee covers the cost of the studio-specific warm-up jacket, which all team members are required to wear at competitions (before and after performances). Payment is due upon acceptance of team membership to ensure the jacket arrives in time for first event.

Travel & Lodging Fees [Competition Team] [Club Team]

Families are responsible for all travel and lodging expenses for their dancer. Securing accommodations is the responsibility of the parent or guardian — Island Groove Dance (IGD) will not reserve or book hotel rooms on behalf of families. Whenever possible, we strongly encourage booking at the event venue or designated host hotel to ensure smooth coordination and timely arrival for all scheduled activities.

Teacher Accommodation Fees [Competition Team]

We are fortunate to have dedicated teachers who give their time and expertise on weekends to support our dancers at competitions. This is a privilege we value deeply.

To ensure our staff can be present and fully available for your dancers, a Teacher Accommodation Fee will be applied for each event. This fee includes instructor pay, per diem, and travel-related costs such as hotel, flights, gas, and meals. These costs will be divided evenly among participating competition families and invoiced ahead of each event.

One (1) hotel room at the competition group rate—or a comparable price point—will be reserved for IGD staff per event.

Fundraising [Competition Team] [Club Team]

Fundraising is a voluntary but valuable way to help reduce the cost of competition, convention, and costume fees.

Please note: Funds raised may not be applied toward tuition.

All fundraising efforts must be pre-approved by the IGD Director.

- Funds raised through group events will be evenly divided per participating family (not per dancer).
- Past fundraisers have included:
 - Car Washes
 - Bake Sales
 - Super Bowl Squares

We encourage families to be creative and get involved—fundraising not only helps with expenses but also strengthens our IGD community and team spirit!

Sponsorships [Competition Team] [Club Team]

Sponsorship is welcomed and may support either individual dancers or the team as a whole. More information on how to secure or set up sponsorships will be provided upon request.

Island Groove Dance

Team Audition Form | 2025–2026 Season

Please complete and return before your audition.

Dancer's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Age (as of Jan 1, 2026):** _____

Interested in (check all that apply):

☐ Competition Team ☐ Club Team

For Competition Team, are you interested in the following?

☐ Solo ☐ Duet ☐ Trio ☐ None

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Relationship: _____ **Phone:** _____

☐ *I have read and understand the IGD Team Handbook.*