

2025-2026 Company and Clogging Team Information for current members:

- Entering into the next season we're working to implement continuous growth and strength within our dancers and some of these **new** opportunities are ones we have done research on as well as are in agreement across the board within the ASOPA staff. Our goal is to help them become the best dancers as well as young people they can be. To be there to support them and help them grow in so many ways. We understand they do a lot but also want them to know deciding to step into another level of dance with being on a competition team aside from weekly classes is a big commitment and one to know comes with consistent responsibility. This is especially as they grow and advance up.
 - All current members from here forward will re-audition every year. This is just like any other competitive team you try out for within your schools: volleyball, cheer, dance teams, basketball, soccer etc. What auditioning teaches is confidence in your abilities, strength and performance growth/showmanship within performance situation and helps a dancer gain experience in the world of the arts as they enter into workshops or other dancing opportunities that require stepping forward into the spotlight to go after a part or recognition they want.
 - For Company- We will implement a class makeup policy for their technique/ weekly classes. This is designed to help with other activities. That said this is a LIMITED amount and not to rely on as ways to just miss class for various reasons but to help with other activities you choose to be involved in.
 - The dances that will be competed this year are as follows:
 1. Junior Company: Jazz and Hip Hop
 2. *NEW* Junior Contemporary: 1 Contemporary dance
 3. Senior Company: Jazz and Hip Hop
 4. Senior Contemporary: 1 Contemporary dance
 5. Elite Company: Jazz and Hip Hop (Hip Hop Guest Artist)
 6. Elite Contemporary: 1 Contemporary dance
 7. 1 Production
 8. **Audition Only** Advanced Small Group Contemporary (details below)
 9. Jr Clogging Team
 10. Sr.1 Clogging Team
 11. Sr. 2 Clogging Team
 12. *Optional* Group Clogging Routine
 13. *Optional* Group Tap Routine
 - To audition for Contemporary Company you need to have had at least 1 year of Lyrical/Contemporary Class and/or already have at least one year of Company.
 - **Audition Only Piece: *In addition*** there will be 1 extra group dances. One contemporary/jazz. You can choose to audition for both BUT are only eligible for ONE. This will be made up of 5-7 dancers and is not mandatory! Please know choosing to audition and upon making the dance means extra practices in addition to your current company ones. They will likely be some Saturdays and we will try to make them the same as your Production Saturdays. These

will compete at the competitive or higher level. You must have **solid** double pirouettes, **solid** coupe turns, calypsos, leaps in center, and leg extensions.

Company/Clogging Team and Class levels/requirements:

- Junior, Senior and Elite companies must take jazz and ballet.
- Clogging Team must take designated clogging level class.
- All contemporary company members are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** to take contemporary class. IF you plan to ever audition for contemporary team you need to have experience with the technique.
- Upon making contemporary team; if you are a previous Company member and have never had the class, you're required to take the class this upcoming year.
- Class levels for the **2025-2026** seasons have been decided on by Alicia and Kinsie and agreed upon with all ASOPA staff as the best decision for the physical, mental and emotional well being of all dancers. We have thought long and hard about what we as educators think is the best and the most productive way to offer growth, along with the right education and health values physically and mentally for each dancer.
 - You **HAVE** to have at least 1 year of **BALLET I/II** and be **10 years of age** by **AUGUST** to audition for Company. Even if someone auditions and makes company they're required to take the 2 years of Ballet I/II in tandem with **JAZZ/TAP**. No exceptions.
 - You **MUST** complete 2 YEARS of **Junior level** classes to move up to Senior level classes regardless of what Company you are on. No exceptions.
 - In order to move to **Senior level** you **MUST** have had 2 years of Junior level classes. No exceptions. If you have had those two years you're allowed to move up. Juniors moving into **Senior level** will stay in Senior until they're a freshman in high school at which time they will move into Master Jazz and stay until graduation. This means they may stay in Senior level more than two years.
 - As of 2025-2026 season Master Jazz will be Freshman and up from here forward. No exceptions.
 - Clogging Team Classes: You must have completed one year of Jr. 1 clogging before moving to Jr. II, and one year of Jr. II before moving to Sr. Clogging Class. You will remain there until you are going into 8th grade where you will then move to Advanced 1. Once moving to Advanced 1 you will stay until you're a Sophomore in high school OR are on Sr II Clogging Team at which time you will then move to Advanced II.
- Our teachers are highly trained in teaching not only multiple levels but teach to the **HIGHEST** level in the class. We as staff evaluate the dancers all year long and at what levels and areas will benefit them most for the following year physical, mentally and emotionally.
- As a studio things *evolve and things change* with how we're growing and with what will benefit all the most. This means things do change based on our educational experience at what will be the best programs for growth and success as well as dancer health. We can not move dancers up for the sake of moving. This mostly jeopardize their health and causes injury. As teachers giving them proper time and knowing when they're ready is a huge part of our job.

- The class level for which they dance at *does not* determine the COMPANY/CLOGGING TEAM LEVEL for which they're placed. **This is what is taken into consideration upon auditioning:**
 - Judges will look at not only technique but at **performance quality** and how dancers blend together for the dance piece ideas discussed with them before auditioning. Your Coaches discuss what they want in each group, the stories for which they want portrayed and what pieces will look like for the upcoming season. Remember Company/Clogging Team are competitive performance groups. We go into each season with the ideas of dance pieces we want to accomplish and what we'd like them to look like. That means that there are ALWAYS moving pieces that require different skills sets from different dancers. **Again**, this means Team size isn't based on the exact class level you're in!! *IF THE JUDGES see fit to move someone up* or think a dancer moves well with a certain group, we will heed their advice. *Example: Just because you're in your second year of Junior classes doesn't mean you'll be on Junior team this next year.*
 - Companies and Clogging Teams can and *will likely look different year to year.* Just because a group had a certain number or size one year will not mean it will always have the same number or be the same group. There are different things that are taken into consideration for what the ideas are for that year and what best fits the students.
 - Being on Company/Clogging Team does not mean you move up earlier than other dancers in the studio or with certain members. We will follow the policies in place within this next season.

Class Attendance:

- You must maintain CONSISTENT attendance in all classes. In order to grow, **stay healthy** and compete like we would like too, attendance and accountability is required. This is the case with any sports team.
- Your technique classes are **mandatory** classes and require you to be there. These classes are the foundation of your dance training and the reason behind why you have the skill sets to compete. Success at competition comes down to how hard you train in these classes. Company is rehearsal time, not technique training. If you're missing classes you're not able to sharpen and work towards healthy growth.
- Within your ballet, jazz and clogging classes you are only allowed to ***miss 2 WEEKS in a row*** due to outside circumstances aside of illness. You can not miss month/months worth of class. Having excessive absences will result in pulling a solo/duet or from group entries in competition. **No exceptions.**
- **WITH THAT**, we're implementing a **MAKE UP POLICY for technique classes (ballet, jazz, clogging)** this is designed to help you balance your activities and your commitment but that said it is not to be taken advantage of or used as an exception to just miss for social putting reasons:
 - You only get **4 MAKE UPS for the total year.** For every 3rd absence you have to make up that missed class by attending another hour ballet class, clogging- during the week. Remember this truly only helps you maintain your technique and overall dance health, not keep up with your choreography in that class

missed. You have to make sure you know that back/ front and if teacher comes to us with concern we will revoke your make up opportunities.

- We appreciate everyone coming in as soon as you can in times when other activities conflict. That said if you only come the last 10-15 minutes of class, it will still count as an absence that needs to be made up.

○ **Within your recreational classes** (*additional classes you choose to take*) you can not have multiple/consistent back to back absences either. We can not have month/months of misses. This is in reference to your non-required Company/Clogging classes. We do realize you might have things happen or come up with other activities but you can not miss these classes month/months at a time. They're just as important as your technique classes. If you think you will have a hard time committing to making classes outside of required ones we ask that you strongly think about not taking that class. Also teachers are depending on you for dances and choreography and learning by video is not an option. Only available under extreme circumstances. If videos are needed in certain circumstances this is to be asked of a peer, not teacher.

- We've really had to look at what will be the overall benefit for all in these circumstances. When dancers are consistently absent due to other things aside from illness or the occasional event that may come up, it not only affects the dancer but impacts their **classmates, the teachers and their choreography**. This has to be taken in consideration by parent and dancer. Regardless of class (recreational or technique) consistent misses affect overall growth.

- **Making choices in order to find focus**- We are **still committed** to working together if they have **another activities** they do however when they get involved in an **overwhelming number of things** it begins to take affect in their ability to achieve growth, overall preparedness, the attitudes they bring into the room, exhaustion and dancers health. We do understand our dancers are involved with other things aside from dance and feel we go above and beyond to work with all. That said when doing too much we see dancers coming into classes and Company/Clogging rehearsals exhausted and stretched thin. They start to feel frustrated or behind. This leads to consistent injury or lack of overall achievement. Joining Company/Clogging Team, a competitive team is an additional step to your weekly dance classes. It's not mandatory and definitely should be thought through when making the time commitment

○ We have a mandatory *Winter Workshop* happening for all Company dancers like last year on Saturday January 10th, 2026 from 9-4pm with a 4:30pm showcase. This has been such a hit and exciting learning opportunity and we're continuing to work to provide new ways for our dancers to grow, challenge and put themselves out there as these class time opportunities allow them experience in different styles of dance as well as with different teachers. This is **mandatory** and we need to be informed by **September** if you will be missing this workshop!

○ There will be a mandatory Clogging Workshop in the Fall. More information coming soon. This is **mandatory** of all Team members.

○ We also *highly* encourage each of our dancers to participate in any extra workshops we have during the season as any opportunity to learn will make them stronger in all facets of dance and athleticism.

DANCER ATTITUDES AND TEAM CONDUCT:

Parents and Dancers please make sure this section is read over and understood firmly:

This past year we experienced **several** waves of unideal team conduct and separation among all teams. This was a topic of conversation that had to be addressed in multiple instances in classes as well as team rehearsals. We're STRONGER TOGETHER and can achieve nothing without the bond of a team. Everyone needs to have positive, humble, generous and supportive attitudes toward their teammates and teachers!!! We need parents help in making sure this is completely understood.

Going forward please know and understand clearly:

- We understand that you may be closer to others but in the studio walls you need to make sure you're not staying in clicks or making others feel left out. Inclusivity is what we stand for. It is not forcing you to be friends with everyone but it is about showing respect and kindness to all.
- We will have a strict **NO** tolerance policy for attitudes toward teachers and other students. At any sign of misconduct (talking back, eye rolls, failure to listen, gossip, etc) we reserve the right to pull students solos or dancers from groups going to competition. As well as from extra pieces they've auditioned for inappropriate behavior. If it persists you will be removed from the team.
- **Social Media:** Being on ASOPA teams mean you're a role model, mentor and reflection of the studio. If we see anything or have anything brought to our attention that correlates or is directed towards inappropriate behavior via instagram, Facebook, Tiktok, Snapchat or any other social media network that will resort in disciplinary action.
- We will be doing group check ins with our dancers periodically throughout the season to discuss goals, opportunities and how we can continue to best support them. We feel it's so important to allow open communication for all our dancers. As well as 30 minutes before our Production rehearsals on those schedule dates we will do a group/team building/mental health group activity. We're a firm believer that teamwork is the key to unity and the overall success of our family. Yes! We compete but we do it by working TOGETHER and it's so important to offer opportunities to build that within our teams jointly.

Company/Clogging Team Summer Workouts/Starting Choreo

For MAY:

Tuesday 5/20 Elite Company 4-6 (Starting Jazz Choreo)

Thursday 5/22 Sr. Company 4-6 (Starting Jazz Choreo)
Jr. Company 4-5:30 (Strength and Technique)

Tuesday 5/27 Elite Company 2-4 (Adding on Jazz Choreo)

Thursday 5/29 Sr. Company 2-4 (Adding on Jazz Choreo)
Jr. Company 4-5:30 (Strength and Technique)

Tuesday 6/3 Elite Company 2-4 (Starting Contemporary Choreo)

Wednesday 6/4 Senior 2 Clogging 9:00-12:00 (Starting Clogging Choreo)

Thursday 6/5 Sr. Company 2-4 (Starting Contemporary Choreo)
Jr. Company 4-6 (Starting Jazz Choreo)

Tuesday 6/10 Elite Company 2-4 (Adding on Contemporary)

Wednesday 6/11 Senior 1 Clogging 2-4 (Start Clogging Choreo)
Senior 2 Clogging 9-12 (Adding on Choreo)

Thursday 6/12 Sr. Company 2-4 (Adding on Contemporary)
Jr. Clogging Team 2-3:30 (Adding on Clogging)
Jr. Company 4-5:30 (Adding on Jazz Choreo)

Wednesday 6/18 Senior 1 Clogging 2:00-4:00 (Adding on Choreo)

Thursday 6/19 Jr. Clogging 2:00-4:00 (Adding on Choreo)

IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY TO JUNE:

Companies and Clogging Teams are only called on certain days, not twice a week like previous years for workouts. It may look like a lot however it is less days in total as well as alleviate long choreography days. Each team is color coated to help know what days and times apply.

This schedule will help put us at a place where most pieces will be finished before the new dance year starts and we can go right into the rehearsal and polish process in August.

Choreography Dates (July):

Choreography weeks will be back to back to try and get all done consecutively.

Elite Contemporary: 7/8 9:00-1:00

Elite Jazz: 7/9: 9:00-1:00

Elite Hip hop: Saturday 7/10 9:00- 3:00

Sr. Contemporary: 7/15 9:00-12:00 LUNCH Sr 1.Clogging 1:00-3:00

Sr. Jazz: 7/16 9:00-1:00

Sr. Hip Hop: 7/17 9:00-3:00

Sr. 1 Clogging 7/22 2:00-4:00

Jr. Contemporary 7/15 9:00-4:00

Jr. Hip hop: 7/16 9:00-4:00

Jr. Jazz 7/17 9:00-12:00 LUNCH Jr. Clogging 1:00-3:00

Jr. Clogging 7/24 2:00-4:00

Small Group Piece: Saturday 8/9 9:00-3:00

Production: Saturday: 8/23 9:00 2:00 times to vary- all will be called differently.

Rehearsal Times & Attendance:

- Elite Company practices Monday 8:30-9:30
 - Senior Company practices Friday 4:00-6:00
 - Junior Company practices Fridays 4:30-6:30
 - 1 **SATURDAY A MONTH** rehearsal for Productions
 - Clogging Team: Wednesdays 7:30-8:30
 - Jazz/Contemporary Small Group will practice on those same Saturdays and various Mondays/Fridays depending outcome of involved.
- Rehearsal attendance is mandatory. The only reasoning for missing should be if you're dealing with illness, graded school function or ceremony, family vacation, or religious event. All of which I need advanced heads up. If you have a sports team event that interferes or overlaps with a practice we need advance warning and we ask that if it's possible to still come to rehearsal even late that you do try and make it. If it's a regular sports time that occurs every week then that is something to think about **before** auditioning as it needs to fit cohesively. While again, we will work with you if you're involved with sports it has to be within reason and not consistent misses **see page 1**. Birthday Parties, other workshops or clinics for other dance things etc are **not reason** for missing Company/Clogging team practices. We meet just one time a week and in order to achieve the goals and the results we're after we have to be consistent and attendance is the first step to that. If there is an extended circumstance please speak with us privately but we give these dates out way in advance to plan accordingly. We give schedules out way in advance to plan around regular scheduled practices.

- When committing to Alicia's Dance Teams you're not permitted to compete with any other studio competition team.
- We definitely encourage you to participate in any learning experiences and/or workshops within and outside of ASOPA when given the opportunity but all Company/Clogging Team rehearsal/performances dates take **precedent**. We work really hard to plan and give all dates ahead of time so all can plan accordingly. If for some reason a last minute rehearsal date is put on the schedule and it would conflict just speak with us privately.
- If attending or apart of additional dance opportunities please do not discuss during class/ rehearsal time.

Competition Information:

- All Company/Clogging Team dances are competed at competition.
- You **MUST** know your competition dances **before prioritizing** a solo/duet/trio. Group dances take **precedent**.
- If you do vocal at Encore that **WILL** count toward your solo count for the first competition. This means if you have three dances and want to sing at Encore you will **have** to choose, unless a Senior. But remember multiple the more you do the more likely it will make you advance levels.
- You're only able to compete **MAX 3** additional dances outside of teachers group choreography. This does not count any additional small group dances a teacher decides to do outside of Company/Clogging Team dances. As well as **SENIORS** do not have a cap.
- You by no means have to do any additional dances other than your Company/Clogging Team dances. If you have questions on this please ask Kinsie or Alicia.

Company/Clogging Team/Competition Etiquette & Behavior

- You will all have an Alicia's Team Jacket, T-shirt/ASOPA attire. This is necessary for performance and appearances. We of course know you will shop the competition boutiques but you must wear your ASOPA gear during that weekend/ awards as you're representing your team and that team spirit is very important!
- We go over all rules of each competition with everyone before registering. Please make sure you know at time of making a decision to compete solo/duet/trio that you're clear on what the rules and regulations are for those entries and if you have any questions please ask then. Once we're signed up we will not be changing anything or calling into the competition to change anything unless it is something on the backend that we need to edit.
 - If you choose to do multiple dances and enter all of those into the competition you **HAVE** to be ok with and understand it may affect your level placement, not on our end but by each competitions rules/ regulations. We will not be able to ask for any changes regarding levels if that is their ruling.

- There is no consistent sitting out during classes or Company/Clogging Team practices. We expect you to work to your fullest extent at all classes and Company/Clogging Team rehearsals. Taking on Company/Clogging Team is a huge commitment both mentally and physically so when making the choice to audition we ask that you take that into consideration. Are you able to withstand what it takes to dance that intensely every week?

- **ATTITUDES!** There is no room for *negativity, attitudes or drama!* POSITIVITY is something we value very highly from students and parents as that is what gives our Alicia's family the love, light and true beauty that is the arts. We ALL work together! That is the ASOPA way!
 - We're NOT in competition with one another and should be each others BIGGEST support systems. Teamwork helps our dancers shine on stage even brighter so it must be something practiced by all. Encourage your peers and support them. Any notice of issues will result in pulling individual numbers.
 - Peers do not need to be giving other peers corrections, notes or commentary on anything in the classroom, at competition or stage. This should only come from instructors.
 - When in class dancers must come ready to work and grow. We are aware that there are hard days, that said this space is suppose to be a safe place for you to come and take a break from those hardships, find joy and release stress. Teachers will be reporting back to us on dancers progress and demeanor consistently.
 - When at competition we ask all to stay students and parents to stay encouraging and speak to each other/students with uplifting and positive words. Those weekends are not meant for critiques or changes unless students are speaking with a teacher. Even in those moments we as teachers are focused on keeping all supported and their eyes on growth, the passion that is fueled but what performing on that stage means and enjoying the moment! Those weekends can already have some stress added to them that we do not want to add anything extra except being uplifting.
 - **Students must respectful and be kind to their parents.** Parents/ Guardians **do so much** for all students so that they can take part in dance that being thankful and appreciative is a rule we uphold strongly.
 - While awards are exciting they *DO NOT DEFINE OUR WORTH OR TALENT.* We can not fixate on the awards we get but when receiving we should be excited. When we come off the stage from awards we can not be continuously having pep talks about this. What does this mean? When competing we know going into it awards are received so we have to be willing to take and grow from our performance and critiques. We can not place our value on that one award and be willing to see the big picture. It is normal to have feelings about how you did but we can not let that affect our team spirit. This also goes for awards ceremonies -we expect good attitudes and bright faces. Be proud of yourselves and what you bring to the table. This also goes for when we come home and go over critiques. With each opportunity to get on a stage and dance there is opportunity to grow, challenge and become better. That is what we look for in our dancers.
 - WHEN doing a solo you have to understand what comes with that responsibility, no matter what the adjudication your attitude has to be

accepting. Competing is different on any given day and we learn and grow from every experience no matter if we're first overall OR don't place in the overalls. You have to be able to look at the bigger picture and be willing to grow and gain knowledge from what happens on the stage. The feedback from other Dance Educators is what we truly go for. YES, the hardware is fun and exciting but it doesn't define you. It is overall three different opinions on one given day. It will change every weekend. Every year will look different and you want to look at personal growth and what is challenging you mentally and physically as an artist and athlete.

We are extremely proud of this past season and all the growth, determination and hard work put into making the year a great one! While some of this new material for the new year, a lot is existing from last year. Please make sure both student and parent review so all know exceptions and requirements. Our main focus is for overall growth and success for all our students with every season. We want to help them be the best they can be! We appreciate everyones love, support and encouragement in helping the A TEAM grow!