

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY**  
Athletic Department



**REDHAWK DANCE TEAM PROGRAM**

## *Rules and Policies* Last updated by E.D-S.; 10/20/08

Participation in intercollegiate athletics at Miami University is a *privilege* and an *opportunity*. Along with this privilege come certain responsibilities. In addition to representing yourself, you represent Miami University, the Department of Athletics and the team at all times. Therefore, the Miami University Dance Team will adhere to certain standards of academic achievement, conduct, habits, dress, public appearance, performance, transportation policies, and selection procedures, all of which should reflect positively on the University, the team and you.

In addition to these policies, you are also responsible for knowing and adhering to the standards within the Code of Student Conduct, distributed by the Office of Ethics and Student Conflict Resolution and endorsed by the Department of Athletics, as well as the Guide for Student Athletes, sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), which governs and controls collegiate athletics on a national level.

### **A. TRYOUTS AND SELECTIONS**

The Program Advisor/Sponsor and Program Head Coach will coordinate the Dance Tryouts. In the past, Tryouts were conducted twice during the academic year, in the spring and fall semester, for the next school year. Tryout dates are planned on a yearly basis – for more details regarding an upcoming tryout date, please contact the Head Coach. The Program administration reserves the right to hold as many public and private tryouts they deem is necessary for the success and needs of the Program.

The team members will be chosen on the basis of appearance, athleticism, personality, enthusiasm, dance skills ability. **Dance Team Program administration reserves the right to refuse a try-out or a position on any squad to any person for reasons of academic deficiency or social probation with any part of Miami University, any past performances which dishonored the intercollegiate athletic program, physical liability or any reason deemed appropriate by the Program Head Coach. Tryout results are final and non-negotiable.**

#### **Tryout Requirements**

Tryout applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Full-time MU undergraduate student, OR transfer undergraduate student who will be a full-time undergraduate student during the next school year, OR incoming freshman student who has already been accepted by the Admissions Department of MU, OR graduate student who must individually contact their Department Chair/Advisor for permission to participate.
2. A minimum 2.00 cumulative grade point average is required for those undergraduates already attending MU.
3. Each applicant must have completed necessary medical insurance and information forms from the MU Department of Athletics.

Non-returning Dancers in good standing with the Program and Dancers waived of tryout participation by the Head Coach will help conduct tryout training/workshops during the Tryout(s). These workshops are required if the candidate wants to participate in the Tryout(s).

- There will be a non-refundable, mandatory **\$25.00 tryout fee**; this fee will contribute to the Program funds. Only cash and checks written to the Miami University Dance Team will be accepted.
- The candidates will be required to attend workshops and Tryouts in a form fitting black top, black shorts, dance pants or capris, and dance shoes (jazz shoes, dance sneakers, etc.).Pantyhose are allowed. All participants are expected to have completed full make-up; hair should be up and out of the face. The policies listed in section G. (*UNIFORMS, PERSONAL HYGIENE AND DRESS*) will apply.

The Program Tryout normally consists of a 2-day workshop and 1-day tryout. During the evening workshops sessions, the interested candidates should expect to learn, practice and receive minimum critiquing for:

**1. technique, which includes but may not be limited to:** double and triple pirouettes, leaps on the right and left (split leaps, leaps in second, and switch leaps); fouette turns, fouette turns a la seconde, calypso, C jump, axel, and toe-touch. Skills may be changed or added.

**2. a portion of the MU Fight Song and/or sidelines cheers/chants and/or band cheers**

**3. a routine or a series of routines incorporating pom, hip hop and jazz**

**(Occasionally the Dance Team Program will require each participant to bring a routine with them to tryouts. This routine will serve to display each candidate's individual choice in style and personalized talents.)**

During one of the evening session, each candidate will be assigned a number. Candidates will not be called or recognized by name, but rather by number so as not to influence judging. These numbers will be used to create, at random, tryout-groups of two people each. In the case that there is not an even number of participants, groups of three will instead be created.

An optional early-morning practice session will be offered to all the candidates the morning of Tryouts. Policies governing the necessary technique skills, school song portion, and dance routine will be announced preceding the Tryout.

### **Injured Candidates interested in a Program Tryout**

In the event that a returning Dancer is unable to participate in the spring Tryout due to surgery or an injury resulting from Dance Team or a University class situation, she is required to create alternate tryout plans with the Head Coach of the Program.

### **Video Tryouts, Private Tryouts**

In the event that a candidate is unable to attend either Tryout and/or Tryout training/workshops for reasons other than an injury, she must contact the Program Head Coach or the Program Advisor to set-up special agreements regarding either a **video try-out** or a **private try-out**. All Video try-outs must include a close-up face-shot of the candidate, and all relevant material that appropriately demonstrates the candidate's individual skills (as listed in the "Tryout Requirements" section) in addition to a short speech indicating why the candidate is pursuing a spot with the MU Dance Team Program.

Submission of a video try-out may also require a subsequent personal meeting with the Head Coach to confirm skill level as presented in the video.

### **Retention**

Because the success and longevity of Miami Dance Team Program relies heavily on the consistent retention of quality membership, every team member is asked to commit 12 months to the season. If a team member leaves the team before the end of the season, all team attire is required to be returned to the Program within two weeks of leaving the Program. If a team member leaves due to uncontrollable circumstances, the Program Administration will make accommodations to the stated regulations. **Team fees** are non-refundable in all instances.

## **B. ACADEMIC STATUS and STUDY TABLES**

Each Dancer must maintain a yearly minimum grade point average of 2.0. Any semester with less than a 2.0 GPA will result in immediate dismissal from the MU Dance Team Program. In the case that a freshman dancer receives less than the required 2.0 at the end of her fall semester, she will meet with Program Administration and be placed on academic probation for the spring semester. At this time, she will be allowed to participate in the Dance Team and will also be offered assistance in the form of tutoring or academic advising. If her spring GPA is again less than the required 2.0, she will be dismissed from the team and not allowed an invitation to tryout again until her junior year.

## **C. CONDUCT and EXPECTATIONS**

It cannot be stressed enough that the Dancers play important roles as University representatives. They are highly visible symbols of Miami University and thus must conduct themselves at all times as positive, mature, adult role models. They should do *nothing* which brings embarrassment to the University, the Department of Athletics, the NCAA and, most importantly, to themselves and to their families. *This will hold true regardless of the circumstances.* Selection as a Dancer is a prestigious honor and has separated that individual from the rest of the student body, and appropriate conduct is mandated accordingly. Although the NCAA does not recognize dance as a varsity sport, because we compete for Miami University, all Dance Team members are subject to the rules governing all NCAA sports and athletes.

The following rules specifically apply. Application of all rules are subject to the discretion of the Head Coach and Program Administration.

1. No smoking or use of smokeless chewing tobacco during practice, while in uniform, attending MU-sanctioned events, and traveling to and from away games/events.
2. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed 24 hours prior to athletic events. Violation of this clause will result in suspension/benching for that game/event and the next game/event.
3. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed during games/events, during transit to or from away-games/events, in the hotel where the squad is staying, or during a pre-game reception. Underage drinking with or without false identification will not be tolerated and will result in immediate suspension or removal from the team at the discretion of the Head Coach to Program Administration.
4. Student-athletes violating any of these clauses are subject to disciplinary action outlined in the Student-Code of Conduct.
5. Abusive language on or off the field of play, during practice or any MU-sanctioned athletic event will not be tolerated. Consistent violation of this clause can be used as grounds for dismissal from the Program.
6. Any action which brings undue embarrassment to the Dance Team Program or MU will be grounds for suspension or dismissal from the Program at the discretion of the Head Coach or Program Administration.
7. The Program Advisor/Sponsor will be involved with the coaching staff in any consideration of dismissing an individual from the Program.

In conjunction with the above, team members will be required to perform community service projects and promotional activities as scheduled. Active recruitment for the Dance Team Program is also required.

### **Use of Online Personal Websites (i.e. FaceBook, MySpace, etc.)**

When using resources such as FaceBook and MySpace that make public your personal profiles, it is the expectation of the Miami University Dance Team Program that the policies of appropriate conduct and behavior by our student-athletes be applied to the use of pictures and written submissions. Further, use of pictures or written submissions and profiles that bring embarrassment to the DT Program, the team, the ICA or the university may be grounds for suspension or immediate removal from the Program. Regular unannounced checks of personal online sites will be made throughout the year.

Specifically, use of pictures that hold any overt or applied/assumed reference to alcohol, drugs, sex, or any other inappropriate behavior by a student-athlete may be grounds for suspension or immediate removal from the Program (i.e. picture of student-athlete at a party next to an individual who is holding a red cup OR picture of student-athlete at a house; red cup is in the background: both of these pictures may be deemed inappropriate and should not be used on personal websites).

### **Individual Evaluations and Selections for National Competition Team**

The policy for Individual Evaluations is still under consideration. The process of choosing the individual who

will serve on the National Competition team will be detailed in the beginning of the season. The selection process for the competition team will be completed by the Program Administration at the end of the fall semester.

#### **D. TEAM FEES and SPONSORSHIPS**

The MU Dance Team Program is assisted financially primarily by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics as well as the Associated Student Government. Sponsorships and outside events (i.e. camps, appearances, etc.) also bring income into our financial accounts. Below is a list of items, services, etc. for which the Program pays all or at least a significant portion:

- Travel to and from MAC Conference, NCAA Competitions, Summer Camp, away games and National Competition
- Team meals when traveling to and performing at the MAC Conference, NCAA Competitions, Summer Camp, Winter and Spring Breaks (on campus), away games and National Competition
- Lodging at the MAC Conference, NCAA Competitions, Summer Camp, Winter and Spring Breaks (on campus), away games and National Competition
- Registration fees at Summer Camp and National Competition
- Practice attire and Warm-Up Uniform (the team member keeps all of this material)
- Game and Nationals uniforms, including all foot-wear and accessories (some of which the team member keeps)

While the MU Dance Team Program will make every effort to financially support each of our team members in their activities with the Program, there is still the need for every athlete to assist.

Each team member is required to obtain at least \$250.00 in outside sponsorships to offset the costs of the above bulleted- items. The Program assists in the distribution of sponsorship packets for each team member.

First-Years are required to pay **\$200.00**; Sophomores are required to pay **\$100.00**; Juniors are required to pay **\$75.00**; and Seniors are not required to pay a fee. All team fees are non-refundable.

#### **E. ATTENDANCE**

All practices are private and closed to the public. Non-team members may view practice at the invitation of only the Head Coach or Program Advisor. Prior permission to attend a practice should be sent to the Head Coach or Program Advisor at least 24 hours in advance to the practice.

Consistent attendance and on-time arrivals are vital to a well-prepared squad. Preliminary late arrivals *without an excused absence* will result in the person running laps; consistent tardiness will be subject to more serious disciplinary action. *\*Note: tardiness over 30 minutes without an excuse is considered an unexcused absence. These policies can be found under the heading "Unexcused tardiness over 30 minutes." The policies immediately following apply to unexcused tardiness less than 30 minutes.*

1. For practices and study tables: five toe-touches for every minute late.
2. For games/events: ten toe touches for every minute late.
  - These toe touches will be executed at the end of practice or prior to the next practice following a game/event. Individual toe-touches will be used as disciplinary action only for the first practices attended less than 30-minutes tardy and for the first game/event attended less than 30-minutes tardy. The second practice and/or game/event attended late will result in team discipline at the Head Coach's discretion. The third practice and/or game/event attended late will result in suspension from that practice, game or event, and a meeting between the Dancer, Head Coach and/or the Program Advisor. At this meeting, the Dancer's dedication to the team and time management skills will be discussed. A warning will be issued at this time, and the Dancer will be suspended for the next game/event. The fourth practice and/or game/event attended late will result in dismissal from the Program.

Suspension = the on-time attendance to that game/event in full, assigned uniform; the suspended individual will sit with the Head Coach during the game/event, but will not participate in any team activities.

**Excused Absences** include:

1. Illness to the Dancer or immediate family members, which require the Dancer's attention and travel away from campus.
2. Death in the immediate family.
3. Required class obligations (i.e. tests scheduled during regular class time or mandatory lectures required for class)

Review sessions and individual or group study sessions *will not* be considered excused absences from practices or games/events.

Notices of these situations must be submitted, when possible, to the Head Coach at least 24 hours in advance. It is recognizable that this may not be possible when the situation involves an illness or death in the immediate family. The Dancer must make a responsible and concerted effort to contact the Head Coach. An email message, not followed up with a phone call is *not* considered a concerted effort.

### **Absence involving arranged transportation to away-event**

If arranged transportation to an away game/event is missed, the Dancer is responsible for arriving to the away event at his/her personal expense, so long as the distance is drivable (within driving distance). If the Dancer chooses not to make the attempt, s/he will be suspended from the following game/event.

Repeated tardiness, unexcused absences or missed practice or games/events will be grounds for dismissal from the program.

### **Absences during Winter Break, Spring Break, and MAC Conference Contacting Faculty Members regarding Program-sanctioned events**

All team members are required to stay on campus during a portion of **Winter Break and Spring Break** for team National competition practices. All team members are also required to attend the **MAC Conference Basketball Tournament** for approximately one week in March. These dates will be announced to the team well in advance.

Involvement in the team as well as absences for Program-sanctioned events will be announced via an official letter to all faculty members at the beginning of every semester. However, it is still the requirement of each team member to follow-up with their professors regarding individual class needs and schedules as they pertain to Dance Team conflicts.

## **F. SUMMER CAMP**

Summer Camp is a required event. Missing the Camp with an unexcused absence is grounds for dismissal from the Program. The Program Sponsor and Head Coach will make arrangements for summer camp. Some expense to the individual may be incurred for camp clothing; every attempt will be made to keep this expense to a minimum.

## **G. UNIFORMS, PERSONAL HYGIENE AND DRESS**

Each Dancer is expected to practice good personal hygiene and be well-groomed. All team members will be groomed so that no hair is their face during a practice or game/event. Appropriate make-up is expected for all team public appearances.

No jewelry of any kind will be permitted during participation in practice or games/events. Body piercings that cannot be removed are required to be covered sufficiently to protect the individual and mask the piercing during team public appearances. For safety purposes, metal rings through the tongue, nostrils and eyelids will not be permitted at any time. Tattoos must also be covered during team public appearances.

Gum chewing will not be permitted at any practice or game/event.

The Program administration reserves the right to dismiss a team member if his/her appearance or hygiene habits change drastically from what was presented at Tryouts.

**Shoes** should be approved by the MU Dance Team Administration and worn *only* during Dance-Team-sanctioned performances, practices, or events.

Pieces of the **Uniforms and Practice Attire** will be provided and all pieces are for performance use *only*. They are *not* to be worn without jurisdiction of the Head Coach, Program Advisor or Captains. Each squad member is responsible for the care and appearance of uniforms and practice attire. Certain attire will be returned to the Program at the end of the season in the manner specified by the Head Coach. Any lost or damaged uniform item(s) will be replaced by the person responsible for that uniform. For every day that items are not returned to the Program, a fee – as determined by the Head Coach or Administrators of the Program – will be implied.

Dancers will dress uniformly for all team public appearances.

## **H. HEALTH HABITS and CONDITIONING**

Each Dancer is expected to practice good health habits during the season. This includes not only diet, but time management skills and consistently acquiring enough sleep.

Obtaining and maintaining a Dance-Team-applicable **Strength and Conditioning program** is essential for the progress of the Program. All Dancers are required to attend team weight-lifting workouts, which will be prepared and monitored by the Head Coach for the MU Strength and Conditioning Department. These workouts are scheduled at the Varsity Weight Room two to three times a week and will be listed in each semester's team schedule.

Additional weekly conditioning practices will be scheduled with the Program Head Coach. These conditioning practices may include such things as swimming, playing basketball, dodge-ball, other team sports, and running.

Regular attendance policies will apply to these workouts and conditioning practices.

## **I. MEDICAL**

Each Dancer must have a physical and the necessary medical paperwork on file with the Athletics Department and any other MU department needing the information.

### **Injuries, Therapy and Rehabilitation**

All **Injuries** received during practices or at games/events must be reported to the Athletic Training Department, where an examination will take place and treatment will be prescribed. The Program Head Coach will work with the Sports Medicine personnel for the individual's medical updates. The individual will be required to follow in full the therapist's and/or physician's guidelines and therapy schedule. Any deferment from these guidelines and/or schedules will not be tolerated and may result in seasonal suspension from games/events and/or the Program.

## **J. OFFICERS**

The role of “Officer” is considered a privilege, with the individual being responsible for higher expectations and more tasks than his/her team members. At the discretion of the Head Coach, officers will be chosen either in the beginning or end of the season in a democratic manner by the squads.

### **Captains**

The number of captains depends on the amount of members per squad. The Program Coach reserves the right to choose all or one of the Captains before or during the team vote. In the event that a Head Captain is chosen, this position will be required to have served at least one year as a Program officer. The second captain (co-Captain) position will not be required to have served as an officer in previous years. The Captains are responsible for keeping the attendance record and imposing disciplinary action as necessary. This responsibility applies to demerit disciplinary action, practices, workouts, and games/events. The Captains may help develop practice schedules and the year’s activities with the Head Coach and Program Sponsor. Captains are also required to attend regular meetings with the Coach before games and practices.

### **PR/Marketing Chair**

The Program Coach reserves the right to choose the PR/Marketing Chair before or during the team vote. The PR/Marketing Chair is responsible for assisting in website upkeep, outreaching to various media, writing articles and press releases, all media and marketing needs of the Program, as well as other responsibilities as assigned. The PR/Marketing Chair may help develop practice schedules and the year’s activities with the Head Coach and Captains. The PR/Marketing Chair is also required to attend regular meetings with the Coach and/or Captains at assigned times.

### **Programming Chair**

The Program Coach reserves the right to choose the Programming Chair before or during the team vote. The Programming Chair is responsible for assisting in enhancing social dynamics of the team; planning and executing team dinners, outings and formals; team bonding opportunities; upkeep of the Program’s trophy case; as well as other responsibilities as assigned. The Programming Chair may help develop practice schedules and the year’s activities with the Head Coach and Captains. The Programming Chair is also required to attend regular meetings with the Coach and/or Captains at assigned times.

### **First-Year Officer**

The Program Coach reserves the right to choose the First-Year Officer before or during the team vote. The First-Year Officer is responsible for serving as the liaison between the First-Year class and the administration of the Program. The First-Year Officer may help develop practice schedules and the year’s activities with the Head Coach and Captains. The Social Chair is also required to attend regular meetings with the Coach and/or Captains at assigned times.

## **K. EVENTS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

The Dancers will meet in sufficient time prior to a game/event to stretch and practice at the time and place designated by the Head Coach. Additional to the policies outlined in the “Conduct” section, squad members will:

1. Not converse unnecessarily with the student body or other spectators as this hinders their attention to the game/event
2. Be responsible for all equipment necessary for that game/event
3. Give your undivided attention to the game/event and display good sportsmanship at all times.

4. In all cases, the team's actions are under the direct supervision of the Team Captains.
5. Remember that the Dancers' primary purpose is to support the team by motivating and entertaining the crowd.

## **L. TRAVEL**

Out-of-town trips will be coordinated by the Program Sponsor, the Head Coach and the Department of Athletics. At the beginning of the season, the Program Sponsor and the Head Coach will determine in which away-games and tournaments the team will participate. NCAA rules limit the squad size at pre-season and post-season tournaments to 12 on-court participants. These participants will be chosen by the Head Coach.

The Program Sponsor and/or Head Coach will travel with the team. The squad will travel to and from the away-game/event as a team. The only exception to this will be if the individual travels with his/her own family to the away-game city. In this case, the individual will receive no per diem. Any deferment from this policy must be made in advance with the Dancer and the Head Coach or Program Advisor.

The Head Coach will announce any curfew on away-game trips. Squad members must be in their rooms at that designated time.

**The Program administration reserves the right to suspend or remove a Dancer from participation in the Program for any violation(s) against the Program and/or the University**

### **Fight Song**

Love and honor to Miami,  
 Our college old and grand.  
 Proudly we shall ever hail thee,  
 Over all the land.  
 Alma mater now we praise thee,  
 Sing joyfully this lay.  
 Love and honor to Miami,  
 Forever and a day.

### **Alma Mater**

Old Miami, from thy hillcrest,  
 Thou hast watched the decades roll.  
 While thy sons have quested from thee,  
 Sturdy-hearted, pure of soul.

### **(Alma Mater Chorus)**

Old Miami, New Miami,  
 Days of old and days to be;  
 Weave the story of the glory,  
 Our Miami, here's to thee.

Aging in thy simple splendor,  
 Thou the calm, and they the storm,  
 Thou didst give them joy in conquest,  
 Strength from thee sustained their arm.

Thou shalt stand a constant beacon,  
 Crimson tow'rs against the sky;  
 Men shall ever seek thy guiding,  
 Power like thine shall never die.

