



## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Hellenic Dance Academy of Denver is committed to teaching and performing authentic Greek folk dances in a professional and enjoyable manner. In all things, HDA included, Christians at all times represent their faith and are expected to live by the guidelines set forth in the Bible and the life of our Church of those who truly believe in Jesus Christ as Lord. HDA is an ideal way to participate in learning the heritage of Greek folk dance, and an opportunity for growth in mind, body and spirit, to develop character and make lifelong friendships within our Church. These special friendships, and opportunities to learn Greek heritage, are part of our Church's Christian goals, and HDA is an extension of ministry in our Church.

Parents are encouraged to support their children who participate in practices, as well as children who participate in performances throughout Colorado and surrounding states. At all times parents and participants will be expected to honor the decisions of their instructors, leaders, youth director(s), HDA Committee, Chairperson and priest(s) involved in HDA. Parents and participants are expected to respect the protocols and chain of command, and not go over the heads of the instructors, leaders, youth director(s), HDA committee, Chairperson, priest(s) or Bishop to better their position in HDA. Orthodox Christians are to love one another, as Christ Himself commanded us, with an attitude of peace, respect, patience, kindness, forgiveness and self-control.

Our Church provides the ministry of HDA as a means of its own to grow and develop our youth, but not as a tool to force *a percentage of* attendance in Church services or Sunday School. This is an Orthodox dance ministry, so all participants as Orthodox Christians who are members in good standing should be participating in our Church and its sacramental life by their own choice and love for God, not by force of rule. However, those who wish to dance and display no desire for the Orthodox faith will be strongly encouraged to find other dance organizations that better match their belief system. This is an Orthodox Christian ministry, under the auspices of the Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral, and will remain so in all aspects. We encourage all to have fun, attend and participate in Divine Liturgy on Sundays, regularly attend Sunday School, live the faith, and grow in the Lord's blessings.

**The following policies are intended to enable the Hellenic Dance Academy to achieve these goals. All Hellenic Dance Academy participants are required to read and sign the Code of Conduct.**

## Attendance:

Weekly attendance is expected; members should notify instructors of their absence prior to a missed practice. This will allow instructors to plan and conduct the practice session accordingly. Members are expected to uphold performance commitments so that the group can fulfill its obligations. In case of unforeseen circumstances, a member must notify the instructors immediately if he/she is not able to attend a performance. If dance practices have to be cancelled for any reason, i.e. inclement weather, the church will notify participants/parents/instructors/leaders by our one-call system, HDA email blasts as well as shown on our website through a link on the Assumption Cathedral website.

## Punctuality:

Punctuality at practice is required to minimize distractions and maximize practice time. Members are required to attend practice sessions in their entirety unless he/she has made previous arrangements with the instructor. It is mandatory for dancers to be punctual to practices in order to allow time to make changes in dances, transitions, etc.

## Eligibility/Membership:

**Dancers (participants) must be active, faithful members in good standing of the Assumption (of the Theotokos) Cathedral, and sister parishes, verified by the priests of the Assumption Cathedral of Denver.** Participants who were allowed in for a brief period of time prior to January 2013 and who are not current members of the Assumption Cathedral, were grandfathered in as of January 2013.

- Age eligibility: Pedakia = 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and at least 7 years old by October before the beginning of the dance year; Asteria = 4<sup>th</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grades; Levendia = 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Fotia = 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and Dynamis Hellenic Competition Group – 14 years through 30 years.

## Season:

There is presently one season, Winter/Spring, which commences the last week of January with a Kick-off Parent/Instructor/Participant meeting and Ayiasmo blessing. Practices begin the first Monday in February, and continue on consecutive Mondays thereafter. **The last week in May is the final practice for those who do not wish to participate in our annual Greek Festival**, held the third week of June. Beginning the first week of June, practices are held on each Monday and Wednesday until Festival.

## Participant Rules:

All participants as Orthodox Christians are expected to attend and participate in Divine Liturgy on Sundays, as well as regularly attend Sunday School. All practices will begin/end with the Lord's prayer.

**In order to protect the integrity and safety of HDA, participants will be required to sign and agree to the following:**

*I hereby agree to abide by and observe all the rules and regulations that have been set down by the HDA Committee and in particular:*

- To obey and respect the guidance and leadership of our instructors, leaders, youth director(s), HDA Committee, Chairperson and priest(s) involved in HDA.
- To absolutely abstain and prevent others from any and all types of substance abuse, i.e. alcohol, illegal drugs or intoxicants, at any time and at any location during the HDA season. This rule will

be strictly applied under the direction of the priests of the Assumption Cathedral of Denver and the HDA Committee which will abide by a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for substance abuse.

- To refrain from any un-Christian behavior: fighting, profane or abusive language, cheating, stealing, bullying or lying.
- To maintain a constant vigilant policy of safety first, with no intention to inflict harm. Violation of this agreement will be grounds for immediate and possibly indefinite suspension. Disciplinary actions may be taken anywhere from immediately to within two weeks following violation. All disciplinary action will be taken by the priests of the Assumption Cathedral of Denver and the HDA Committee.

### **CHURCH FACILITIES AND ROOM RULES:**

- No younger siblings of participants are allowed entry into the community center building or lobby unless accompanied by the participant's parent. Failure to comply may result in the participant being forced from participating in practice to babysit the unsupervised sibling.
- Participants, and their siblings, MUST be picked up by parents or a designated driver by parents, and may not be left alone or unattended in the building should their ride be late. Parents who fail to pick up their children in a timely manner may face disciplinary measure or performance suspensions for their children.
- Any damage to the building facilities or equipment that is not accidental will be paid for or restored by the offender and the offender will be at risk of suspension or expulsion from the program, and a meeting will be held between the offender and the priest(s).

### **DRESS CODE:**

Appropriate dress attire is required during all dance events. Clothes deemed inappropriate include:

- No clothing with logos that contain profane language, reference to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and violent or anti-Christian propaganda will be permitted.
- Midriffs must be covered at all times, tube tops, halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps, short/shorts (daisy dukes), short mini-skirts, spandex (as primary clothing), overly tight fitting or low cut apparel are not allowed.
- Pants are not to be worn below the hips and boxers/pajamas are not to be worn as outerwear.
- Pants or shorts with writing on the seat are not permitted.
- Consistent with the Orthodox teaching of modesty and respect for the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit, participants may not have any visible tattoos, brandings or body piercings.
- Proper attire at performances is required by all members in order to sustain a professional image.
- Instructors reserve the right to deny further participation in pre/post-performance activities.
- All participants, instructors and leaders are expected to maintain a decent level of cleanliness and hygiene.
- The Clergy and HDA Committee, and all instructors reserve the right to ask any participant(s) to change their clothing if they feel that what they are wearing is inappropriate, or to sit out practice.

## CODE OF CONDUCT SIGNATURES:

*By signing below I acknowledge, as an Orthodox Christian, the Code of Conduct as presented to me and will strive to abide by it. **\*\*Participants in Middle School or above must sign.***

**I acknowledge receipt of HDA Code of Conduct.**

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**Participant Signature**

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**Participant Signature**

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**Parent Signature**

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**Parent Signature**

**NOTE: This form must be submitted to the Hellenic Dance Academy for participation in the program**