

## Craoi na Tire Studio of Irish Dance

### **Student Handbook**

#### WELCOME TO THE CRAOI NA TIRE Studio of Irish Dance!

Craoi na Tire is the Omaha area's oldest and only school with multiple teachers certified with An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha. As such, we are motivated by offering the finest in Irish dance education to our students. Regardless of whether a student wishes to pursue dance as a career or participate for personal development and enjoyment, we are committed to offering each student an education in Irish Dance that is based on the traditions of Ireland, handed down over generations.

Our students are enrolled in classes that are suitable for their individual stage of development. We offer a carefully-studied curriculum, which provides students with a comprehensive knowledge and mastery of the dance form. While gaining a strong foundation in Irish Dance, the students have taught us that they also gain a strong foundation in life skills. Our students take pride in their ever-expanding abilities to manage their time well, follow directions, think on their feet and share their talents through performance. While it is always nice to see children continue into adulthood in dance, we are equally delighted to see our dancers grow as individuals and pursue other careers and life paths. We have been told that the years in Irish Dance have prepared them well for the rigors of college and adult life. We look forward to working with your child in our school. We know that we have the best to offer in Irish Dance education and are honored that you have chosen the Craoi na Tire Studio of Irish Dance.

Shannon Ryan-Stamper; TCRG  
Owner

## **ENROLLMENT /WITHDRAWAL PROCESS**

The enrollment period is understood to be for the entire school year August 1, 2021– August 1, 2022. Family registration fees cover this time period. Craoi na Tire accepts students ages 3 – adult. All families must have a signed enrollment form with the waiver on file in order to participate. **No exceptions.**

As our program is a 10 month term and separate 2 month summer session, Dancers/Parents MUST notify the school **in writing** of their intent to withdraw from classes. Notification must be given 30 days prior to a tuition period. Example: A student sends notification of withdrawal on November 15<sup>th</sup>. They would still be held liable for tuition on December 1<sup>st</sup>, but would not be liable after that date. Example 2: A student provides notice of withdrawal on December 1<sup>st</sup>, they would not be liable for January tuition. Exception: Military orders or death of student or parent. Should a family not provide notice, billing will continue regardless of attendance.

## **TUITION REFUNDS & CREDIT**

Tuition and registration fees paid to the school are non-refundable. Tuition credits will be considered only in the cases of prolonged absence due to serious injury or illness substantiated by medical documentation. Accidents or illness lasting longer than three weeks will be eligible to apply for tuition reduction or suspension.

## **REGISTRATION FEE**

Registration fee is \$75 per each **family** not dancer.

## **TUITION PAYMENT PROCEDURE**

Tuition is paid on a monthly basis using Auto-Pay through your checking account or credit/debit card. This allows us to focus entirely on teaching dance and not running down people to collect money and also serves as a convenience for our customers. Payments will be processed on the first of each month, September through May. Auto-pay customers whose accounts are not approved on a specific pay period will be charged to a late fee of \$20.00.

Payments not received by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month will be subject to a \$20.00 late fee PER CHILD.

Families with multiple children will receive 50% off tuition for the third and subsequent child. The discount applies to the least expensive child registered for lessons and only applies to regular classes. Workshops, summer, special sessions and adults registered are not included. Returned check fee of \$30.00 will apply to all payments declined.

## **DANCE ATTIRE & GROOMING REQUIREMENTS**

Proper dance attire and grooming are necessary parts of any high quality dance training program. Craoi na Tire students are required to wear the following attire to class.

## **Girls**

- Black shorts or skorts or form-fitting black leggings.
- White socks that come above the ankle, similar in length to Irish dance poodle socks or poodle socks (they don't wick sweat away as well as gym socks, however and may cause blisters long term).
- Black Craoi na Tire T-shirts or solid, **PLAIN**, black t's. Long, short or sleeveless varieties are fine. Fitted shirts are preferred.

No jazz pants, tights without socks, dark socks etc. are allowed.

- Appropriate dance shoes
- Leg warmers may be worn for warming up as well as sweatpants and hoodies etc. of any color or style.

## **Boys**

- Black shorts or Exercise pants
- Black Craoi na Tire T's or solid, **PLAIN**, black t's. Long, short or sleeveless styles are fine.
- White or black socks that come up above the ankle.
- Appropriate dance shoes
- Sweat pants, hoodies etc. may be worn for warming up.

Dancers not in uniform or properly groomed may be asked to observe class.

## **GROOMING REQUIREMENTS**

Female students must be well-groomed with their hair pulled back from their faces in a ponytail, pig tails, or braids. Short hair may be managed with a headband or barrettes. Male students should also pull back hair if they wear a long style.

**JEWELRY:** Please leave expensive, distracting, trendy jewelry at home. Dangly earrings are not allowed as they could pull when dancing.

## **STUDIO RULES**

- There is limited seating outside of our studio and we encourage parents to drop off and pick up their children after class. The waiting area is a shared space with other tenants in the building. Therefore, you must keep control and supervise any children in the waiting area so as not to disturb the business activities of our neighbors.
- Please be on time when picking up your student as there is no supervision outside of the studio. Also, there are times after the last class of the day that we have had students not picked up on time. Please be mindful that the teaching staff may have commitments they need to get to and waiting with your child causes stress to the child as well as is unfair to the teaching staff. Should an emergency arise, please text the teacher to let us know.

- Students are expected to be quiet and to behave in a manner conducive to learning when in the classroom.
- All students are required to bring a notebook and pencil to class for making notes about corrections and writing down dances learned. These notebooks are vital to the students' progress.
- Please be quiet when entering or leaving the studio as several classes are going on at once.
- Please try not to bring food and drink (other than a water bottle) to class. Parents you are fine to bring your morning coffee but please keep food items that can have crumbs (cookies, sprinkles, sugary donuts etc, crackers) outside of the building. If bringing treats for class, please bring into the studio as sweeping up is easier than trying to get frosting out of carpet.

### **STUDIO PROCEDURES**

- Student enters the building, takes street shoes off in the hallway, and enters the studio.
- Place all belongings on the bleachers and get shoes on.
- Have all restroom needs completed, hair pulled back prior to class.
- Go to the stretching area to begin your warm up/stretches.
- Do not interrupt current classes and be in the area ready to go until class is begun. Use the space in the hallway to prepare for class prior to entering-put dance shoes on, stretch, ect.
- Remain in the studio until class is dismissed.
- Pick up all trash and personal items and leave quietly.

### **CLASS POLICIES**

- WE EXPECT OUR STUDENTS TO BE ON TIME FOR CLASS. In the event that a student is late, they should enter the classroom prepared to dance (in dance attire ONLY) and enter the class quietly. If the dancer is late and missed warm ups-they will be asked to complete a warm up on their own before joining class to ensure they do not pull a muscle.
- If a student for reasons beyond their control is unable to be dressed or groomed appropriately, he/she needs to speak to the instructor before class or they may be asked to observe.
- Students must remain in the studio at all times unless dismissed by the teacher. Should a student need to leave the studio, they **must** alert the teacher so that we know where all children are during class time.
- Areas outside of the dance studio are off limits to dancers. This includes: Other rooms in the building, Teacher's office space, Small Dance studio when not in use, back of building and grounds.

- We presume that children attending dance are healthy and fit to participate. If a student asks to sit out because of injury/illness, they will not be allowed to participate for the rest of the class until we can speak to the parent to assess the situation. This is a liability issue for us.
- Dancers may bring a water bottle into the studio
- In between classes is NOT an appropriate time to talk to your child's teacher about questions, concerns, or problems. The teachers need that time to either prepare for their next class or take a small break. If a parent wishes to talk to their child's teacher, they should call or email the teacher and discuss either that way or set an appointment for a conference.
- Electronic equipment such as ipods, cellphones, video games etc. MUST be kept in the child's dance bag or (better yet) not brought to class. They are disruptive to the class and we cannot be responsible for items lost or damaged.

## **DISCIPLINE**

While this is something that rarely comes up, it is important to have specific expectations and consequences for in class behavior. Should children be having a difficult day with listening to their teacher the following policy will be enacted.

- First warning; Reminder to listen, stand in line etc.
- Second warning; 5 minute break sitting down by the mirrors.
- Third warning; child is finished with class for the day and taken to parents or will remain in the class observing. The child's parents will be notified of the issue.
- Continuing issues; A conference will be held with the parents and teacher to decide on the best course of action which may include class changes or expulsion.

**Bullying:** Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. This is something that sadly, we have had to address over the years. If we witness a situation of mean attitudes or bullying behavior, we will address the situation immediately and notify parents of the issue if necessary. If we are alerted to bullying behavior, we will request a conference with parents whose children are involved and try to remedy the situation. The perception of bullying or imbalanced power is oftentimes hard to see and can be very subjective. Good communication at home and at dance can usually catch these things early. We try to be aware of what may be going on, but it is impossible to see everything and hear every comment in and out of class. Please alert the teaching staff if you feel this is going on so we can address it.

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

### **STUDENT CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND PROMOTIONS**

The Craoi na Tire Studio of Irish Dance offers classes on a multi-level system with students progressing from one level to the next at their own individual pace. The average stay varies

between students, with no set expectation of time in each level. The amount of time the student comes to class, competes and, most importantly, practices will determine the speed at which they move through the levels. Students are placed in the course of study that best suits their training needs, with age being a secondary consideration. While we realize that a big aspect of dance is the social outlet it gives, carpools, siblings, friendships or feuds are not reasons for changing class placements. We use the following factors to determine class placement; Feis level, teacher discretion and age. **Dancers will not move up classes during the year. Any changes to class placement must be made by November 1st. The only exception is teacher discretion. For dancers moving from Prizewinner to PC, they must know their three steps before moving up. Shannon will let the dancer/family know when that change can be made.**

After having consulted with one another, the faculty may determine at any time during the school year that a student may require some adjustment in her/his course work. In this event the parent will be advised of the adjustment and a change of schedule will be implemented if possible.

## **Class Pre-requisites**

**Wee Ones:** Pre-School

Ages: 3-5

Pre-Requisite: None

Recommended taking once a week

**Killarney/ Beginner 1/Continuing Dancers not yet doing Hard Shoe** Age:

5-12

Pre-requisite: None

Recommended taking at least once a week twice if wanting more lessons.

**Beginner Hard Shoe**

Age: 5-12

Pre-requisite: Has to be enrolled in a soft shoe class as well Recommended taking once a week twice if wanting more lessons.

**Dublin : Advanced Beginner/Novice**

Ages: Multi

Pre-Requisite: Proficiency in Reel, Slip Jig, Jig, Some hard shoe experience. Competes at Beginner 2 - Novice levels

Recommended taking classes at least twice a week

**Derry: Novice/OPW**

Ages: Multi

Pre-Requisite: Proficiency in Reel, Slip Jig, Jig, Fast Treble Jig, and Fast Hornpipe. Competes at the Novice or OPW level in all dances. Knows at least 1 slow hardshoe

Recommended taking classes at least twice a week

**Donegal: Open Prize Winner**

Ages: Multi

Pre-Requisite: Proficiency in Reel, Slip Jig, Jig, Fast Treble Jig, and Fast Hornpipe. Competes at OPW in ALL dances with goal to get into PC. Recommended taking classes at least twice a week

**Belfast: Preliminary Championship**

Ages: Multi

Pre-Requisites: Must be competing at the PC level

Recommended taking classes at least twice a week

**Galway: Open Championship**

Ages: Multi

Pre-Requisites: Must be competing at the OC level

Recommended taking classes at least twice a week

**MAKING UP MISSED CLASSES**

Should Craoi na Tire have to cancel a class for any reason other than an act of God (snow etc.), then that class will either be made up or a credit will be issued for the following month. All other missed classes by the student are non-refundable. If there is an extended absence or special circumstance that requires the dancer to miss classes, please speak to Shannon about trying to find an alternative class or time. Each class and level is specific to the students in those classes, as well as have specific teacher:student ratios which makes offering make up lessons challenging. **In the event that a student misses class, the student is then responsible for approaching the teacher to catch up on what they missed.**

**SNOW / WEATHER CLOSINGS**

Craoi na Tire will generally follow the snow closing plan of the Omaha Public Schools. However, sometimes storms kick up late. In the event of a late storm that will impact the safety of our teachers and students, classes may be cancelled. We will post on Facebook, Instagram, send a group email, and group text message to notify parents. On days where the weather looks iffy, please check the web site or these other social media to make sure class is on. We will also send a group text to the number you provide on the registration form to let you know if there is a cancellation. There are no refunds or makeups for snow days.

## ILLNESSES

If you are sick and unable to attend class, please email your instructor if possible so that they aren't looking for the child. Children who have contagious diseases such as pink eye, chicken pox or any kind of flu should not be sent to class or rehearsals, even and especially if a competition, parade, show is the following day.

## COSTUMES

Costumes are not required to be a member in any level at Craoi na Tire and to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. However, in order to do performances and compete, you will need to have a proper costume.

### Boys

- Black dress pants
- Black socks
- Black belt
- Black Dress Shirt
- Lime green or purple solid tie
- When all dances, competitively are in the novice level, and the dancer has placed 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in a qualifying competition (at least 5 dancers in those competitions) in novice in reel, treble jig and hornpipe, a Solo vest may be purchased with the approval of Shannon. **Design, style and seamstress must be approved.**

### Girls

- School Jumper
- Worn with the white long-sleeved t-neck leotard and Lavender bow.
- White poodle socks
- § Appropriate for the Beginner – Novice level for 11 and under
- School Dress
- Green/Black dress worn with black leotard, Lavender bow ○ Appropriate for Beginner – OPW level in any age.
- Solo Dress
- Dress individually designed for the dancer bought either used or new.
- **Must have teacher approval to order or purchase/wear**
- Must be in Novice or above level in Reel, Slip Jig, Treble Jig and Hornpipe (not just one dance) and have placed in all four dances, 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> in a qualifying competition in novice (minimum of 5 dancers in the competition).

All female dancers **must** wear a full wig to compete. Bun wigs can be worn with teacher approval **ONLY**. Also, blinged socks, buckles, or extra headwear must be approved by a teacher.

See the links on our web page for approved vendors and styles. There is a specific way to wear the wig and bun. Please make sure that you are familiar with the proper wearing of either style.

- A note about solo costumes: we have had great costumes and not so great costumes represent our school on stage. Please do not order a dress or design a dress without approval as it will not help your child competitively to be in a dress that is not appropriate for their level in style or fit. We have been doing this for a long time and styles and colors you might not consider for a dress look very different on stage. We have the dancer's best interest at heart and hate to tell an excited child that they can't wear the dress that they found and bought. Please try to avoid this with communication throughout the process of buying that new dress.

## **COMPETITION**

A big element of Irish dance in schools who are part of an Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha (The Irish Dance commission in Dublin, Ireland) is competition. A feis (pronounced, fesh) is a competition that is mostly local (although for us, it means travel) and has all levels offered for all ages. They are fun and great ways to see all the work your dancer has been doing. The North American Feis Commission posts the schedule of feiseanna (plural of feis) on an annual basis for you to choose from. As a school, we try to go to a couple each year that aren't too far. **But, dancers are encouraged to compete as much as possible if that aligns with their goals.**

In order to compete in a feis, a dancer needs to know two steps of each dance. They can select which dances to compete in. We are requiring that we approve dancers for feiseanna by dance. This will ensure that your dancer is ready for each dance selected and have the best chance for a happy outcome. While we offer a comprehensive program for both students who are more recreational as well as ultra-competitive, it is our desire to steer the child into the best classes for their commitment level. In order to be competitive as you move through the ranks, it is recommended to attend one feis per month as well as attend class at least two times per week (core class). At home practice is absolutely essential for improvement.

Above the local level, we compete in the Regional Championships (Oireachtas) and North American championships. These are qualifiers for the World championships which are held each year. Dancers must qualify for all of these types of events and it is only the top dancers at each school who compete at this level.

- **Championship Students: It is expected that if you wish to compete at the regional/national level, you must attend at least 3 competitions leading up to the major.**

## **PRACTICE**

At home practice is the key element to achieving success in this art form. This practice includes parental involvement as most children need the supervision and feedback. We provide feedback at each class on what the child should be working on. We encourage students to bring

a notebook to class and write their comments down for each class at the end of class. Without this practice, the improvement will be very little for most children. Like any skill, repetition is the key. We recommend that each student have a place to practice (a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood that you can slide under their bed when finished is enough space for at home practice) and a full-length mirror. Practice must be in the dance shoes and in their practice space to get the most from the time.

## **PERFORMANCE**

Performance is a large part of Irish dance, and not just on St. Patrick's Day. While that is our busy season, we perform throughout the year at various functions. All dancers are invited to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade and most dancers will also perform at the various shows as well. As long as dancers have full costumes, wigs and shoes and know their dances, they will be invited to perform. **\*First year dancers will only dance in the parade and at the Pancake Breakfast to alleviate some of the chaos of their first season.**

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Teachers and drillers are available for private lessons should you feel the need. Privates are recommended for those students who may have a new skill that one on one time could benefit or who may have missed class. Those going to a competition shortly can also benefit from the extra time. A private however is not a miracle hour, nor is it a replacement for the core class. Dancers MAY NOT learn new material during a private lesson. If a dancer tries to compete in a dance not taught to them in class by a CNT teacher, their registration will be pulled. Cost of privates is as follows

Shannon; ○ \$50.00/hour 1:1 ○  
Semi-private: \$30.00 per person per hour ○  
3 children; \$25.00 per person per hour.

Assistant Teachers (Natalie, Maria) ○  
\$35.00/hour 1:1 ○ Semi-private;  
\$20.00/hour /child ○ 3 children;  
\$15.00/hour/child

These are the approved staff that are authorized to do private lessons. There are some senior dancers who could also help younger dancers. Speak to your child's teacher for guidance.

\*All private lessons must be communicated with Shannon for approval and direction.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Text messaging or email is the quickest way to contact us. Please sign your name to any text messages as not all numbers are recognized. Please try to limit messages to normal daytime hours unless there is an emergency.

Shannon Ryan-Stamper [craoinatire@gmail.com](mailto:craoinatire@gmail.com)  
402-612-9442

Natalie Takacs-Brown 402-659-2084  
[natalietakacs@gmail.com](mailto:natalietakacs@gmail.com)

Maria Casey 402-916-0791  
[mgcasey963@gmail.com](mailto:mgcasey963@gmail.com)

Website; [www.craoinatire.com](http://www.craoinatire.com)

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Craoi-na-Tire-Studio-of-Irish-Dance/73237749832>