



PACIFIC BALLROOM DANCE

PARENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AT COMPETITIONS

- Audience members should set all electronic devices to silent or vibrate before entering the ballroom/arena.
- Audience members should enter & exit the arena BETWEEN heats, rounds, or medleys. Please do not stand up DURING a round and walk in/out. Enter & exit quickly and quietly between dances.
- Please do not stand and talk in the walkways or other areas that block the view of others.
- Please allow the coaches to do their jobs. If you have a concern with the event, please share it with a PBD staff member, who will use their best judgment in approaching competition organizers.
- We consider it our job to handle the logistics of competition events for Pacific Ballroom Dance students from registration through awards. This includes the registration process, issues with attire, syllabus compliance issues, or anything else that might come up. Please understand that when parents assume the role of coach/director at any point in this process, it causes a great amount of confusion for all involved. Please notify PBD staff of any concerns and we will work hard on behalf of your student to resolve any situation that might arise.
- Do not represent yourself to the organizers of the competition as being part of PBD staff or leadership, and please do not claim any of your personal complaints are from "Pacific Ballroom Dance."

- Parents should NOT be backstage, in a line up area, or any other areas reserved for competitors, for any reason. Please stay in the stands/chairs with the other audience members. If your child has an emergency and you are needed, we will come find you.
- Dancers/Parents should exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. PBD dancers and families will refrain from making negative comments regarding other participants (dancers & studios), awards received, judges, competition coordinators, etc. Often times we may not agree with the award we receive, however, we always behave graciously. Be sure to clap for everyone who is receiving awards, not just PBD.
- If your child comes to you experiencing strong emotions related to an outcome at the competition, one of the best ways to support them is by **listening** and asking open-ended questions. Let them explore why the experience was meaningful, joyful, or challenging, rather than letting YOUR feelings overrun the situation. For example, "How did you feel about your performance today?" "What was it like to be out on the floor?" "In what ways were you a great competitor today?" If they are upset or disappointed, remind them that while there are many things we can control at competitions, we can't control the results, which are ultimately based on the opinions of a group of (highly-qualified) strangers. Give the kids lots of hugs, high fives, and support and let them know you're proud of their courage.
- Most of all, have fun and enjoy the experience!