

We get it.

It can be challenging to understand and relate to today's dancer.

So we polled hundreds of them.

Compiled countless hours of research into these 8 things.

Our theme is Better You, Better Team.

And we hope this helps.

Disclaimer: We didn't create this list, we're just interpreting the results!

1. KNOWLEDGE

- Dancers want their coaches to be knowledgeable about dance, technique, competition, and coaching in general. Dancers said they wanted their coach to have strong backgrounds in dance, some specifically citing ballet. A coach who is educated is a coach that is respected.

2. DEDICATION

- This word, in many different phrasings, came up often. Dancers listed dedication to the team, as well as dancers as individuals.

3. COMMITMENT

- Dancers cited commitment to the well-being of the team and the love of dance as crucial aspects they seek in a coach.

4. PASSION

- On top of knowledge, dancers want their coaches to be passionate about the art of dance, their team members, and competition. This passion, love, and commitment to the team should show through their coaching style.



5. TOUGH-LOVE

- Dancers want their coaches to push them. One is quoted as saying, “we aren’t here for you to go easy on us, we want you to push us.” They want their coaches to offer motivation and constructive criticism as well as strong direction.

6. REALISTIC

- On the other hand, dancers want their coaches to have limits. They want them to know when to be a coach and when to be friendly. They want their coaches to be realistic when it comes to winning and other goals. Dancers also specifically said that they like their coaches to have reasonable practice hours, and to be respectful of limits.

7. GOAL-ORIENTED

- Many, many dancers spoke of goals. Whether it is winning a competition or getting a new trick, dancers want their coaches to set goals, and to help them reach them.

8. MOTIVATION

- Although last on the list, dancers want their coach to motivate them. Whether it be through constructive criticism or belief in their team, dancers stated the importance of motivation in a coach.



OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

DANCERS WANT KNOWLEDGEABLE COACHES FIRST.

In a position of authority, no leader wants to constantly prove to their dancers that they are knowledgeable. Our biggest advice here: Admit the areas that you are not as competent, and supplement! Not good cleaning technical skills? Bring in someone to do ballet once per week. You will still look like a rockstar, and the job gets done.

MOTIVATION IS LAST.

Dancers will always discuss about how positive you are, or how negative you are. So find unique ways to motivate your team. It does not have to fall on your shoulders.

NUMBERS 2, 3, AND 4 (DEDICATION, COMMITMENT, AND PASSION) ALL RELATE TO EACH OTHER.

They want you to feel good about your job. And yes, even on the days that are tough. They will follow your example- and even if they don't, they will remember your example.

DON'T UNDERVALUE #6 (REALISTIC).

Don't tell them that they look great when they don't. Praise when necessary and take it back to the kindergarten rule- honesty is always the best policy.

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