OURCONS

COSPLAY CONTEST

RULES & DETAILS

RUNWAY COSTUME CONTEST

The Costume Contest includes prejudging at sign-up. Registration takes place on the day of the convention at a cosplay guest table. Store-bought and handmade costumes are welcome, and the competition is open to all skill levels.

AWARDS

- BEST IN SHOW
- BEST CRAFTSMANSHIP
- BEST GROUP
- BEST PERFORMANCE
- BEST YOUTH

GROUP ENTRIES

Groups may enter together. **Best Group** is an award, but only **one trophy** is presented to the winning group. Group members decide who takes it home.

- Judges will try to place every participant in an appropriate award category.
- Awards and trophy names may change.
- Keep group entries to characters seen together. Crossovers are welcome when you can show the judges where those characters appear together (for example, Fortnite and Arcane characters in a game).

COMPETITION RULES | 1-6

1. **One entry per person.** The same person may not submit separate entries. Every contestant must have purchased a ticket to the convention.

2. **Eligible characters.** Costumes must come from an established cartoon, comic book, anime, video game, manga, webtoon, novel, or movie. Original characters (OC) are an exception. Book characters without a visual reference may also be placed in the OC category.

3. **Registration form.** Every contestant must complete the contest entry form before the registration deadline. The exact deadline is pending organizer confirmation.

4. **Keep costumes PG.** No nudity or overly risqué costumes. Areas normally covered by beachwear must be covered. A costume is required.

5. **Respect other contestants.** No trash talking, sabotage, or poor sportsmanship. Improper behaviour can result in removal from the contest and possibly the convention. The goal is to have fun.

6. **Follow venue and convention policies.** Costumes and props must comply with these policies. Harmful or dangerous weapons, offensive or obscene costumes, and projectiles, explosives, flames, smoke, or loose glitter are not permitted. Anything brought onstage must leave with you. Do no harm and use good judgment. Judges may disqualify an entrant for any reason.

COMPETITION RULES | 7-11

7 **Craftsmanship matters most.** Judges consider how well the costume is made, how much was made by the contestant, cleanliness of work, and percentage of the outfit made. Performance and staying in character also count, but less heavily. Bring your best on the day of the show.

8 **Bring reference and progress photos.** A reference image and, if available, photos of the work you completed help judges understand your build. Build books are encouraged. Enter even without progress photos; judges can ask about construction details.

9 **Credit the maker.** If another person made your costume, bring that craftsperson to the convention if possible. The model and craftsperson may enter together; both walk the stage so the creator receives recognition. The model performs in character, if the entry includes a performance.

10 **Youth entries (age 15 and under).** Young contestants may need adult assistance with materials and construction, but should contribute to their costumes. Tell the judges honestly which parts the youth made and which parts an adult made. Judges may move a youth model and parent craftsperson into an adult category at their discretion.

11 **Do not re-enter a previous winning costume.** A costume that has already won at this event or within the convention chain is not eligible again. A costume that did not win may be re-entered. A completely different outfit for the same character is also acceptable.

Remember: Judging is about bringing your best work to the event. Contestants at every skill level are encouraged to participate.

CONTEST DAY | REGISTRATION & STAGE

REGISTRATION AND PREJUDGING

- Register at a cosplay guest table on the day of the convention. Prejudging happens during registration.
- Give your name, stage or cosplay name, costume or fandom, category you wish to enter, and any other details the judges should know.
- Entry is limited to approximately **150 contestants**, so register early.
- Roll call takes place approximately **20-30 minutes before the contest**. Contestants must be in the staging area for lineup. Additional instructions are provided at sign-up.

ON THE RUNWAY

- When it is your turn, show off your costume with approximately **1-3 poses**, depending on the time available.
- You may be asked to speak briefly and say your character name. Use that opportunity to perform in character.
- You do not need to stay in character while walking around the convention; save it for the stage if you prefer.
- Winners are announced after all contestants have appeared onstage. There is **no skit category** at this time. The judges' decisions are final.
- Costume weapons may be inspected and tagged. If you will not agree to inspection or tagging, do not bring the weapon.

Make friends, enjoy yourself, and have fun!