



# Cosplay Show & Contest

## Terms and Conditions

### Qualifications

To be qualified, you must meet all the costume requirements:

- Costume must be at least 70% custom made using raw supplies, found items, or ready-made garments provided those items have been altered, cut, and applied in a unique way, such as spray-painted, cut, and reassembled, and/or embellished.
- Costume must fit through a normal doorway unless pre-approval has been given by written request.
- Costume must be tasteful and generally PG-rated. Vulgar will not be permitted.
- Costumes can be of an original invented character or a character from all genres such as history, literature, comics, movies, television, video games, and more.

### Judging Criteria

- Costumes will be judged evenly on three criteria: Craftmanship, Integrity of Design and Fluidity on the Runway, which includes theatricality.
- Craftmanship will be based on quality of build, technique, complexity, and inventiveness.
- Integrity of Design will be based on originality or interpretation and likeness of an existing character.
- Fluidity will be based on how the costume and the wearer move and the body language the costume helps portray to the audience during your 60-second spotlight on the Runway\*.

\*If you are not able to be on the Stage itself, you are qualified to walk or roll near the audience and around the stage for the judging panel's final look. If you will require some assistance, such as with large wings, let the Expo staff know in advance by notifying us in the comments field on the entry form.

### Rules

- Registration is free.
- Contestants under the age of 18 must have signed permission slip from a parent or legal guardian in order to enter the contest (see last page of this document).
- You must be registered using the online Entry Form by midnight local time the day before the contest. Onsite entries the day-off will be accepted if space is available.
- The Runway Show and Cosplay Contest is limited to the first 30 qualified entrants (only 20 of those can be part of the Judged Contest).

- All entrants will participate in the Runway Show. Please indicate if you would also like to be entered into the Judged Contest. (You do not need to participate in the Contest in order to participate in the Runway Show.) Everyone who walks the runway is eligible to win the door prizes. Only those who entered the Judged Contest will be eligible for cash prizes and bags of products and tools.
- Contestants must enter either the Apprentice category or the Master category. The Judging panel has the final say on which level a contestant should compete at.
- You should enter the Apprentice category if this is your first time and are new to cosplay or costume making, or if you've never won a Cosplay contest. You should also enter the Apprentice category if your costume is a little "roughly made" and you are new to sewing or costume construction, meaning you've made five (5) or fewer costumes.
- You should enter the Master category if you have won a Cosplay contest or you have years of experience sewing and constructing costumes.
- If you are unsure which category to enter, contact us at [info@sewingexpo.com](mailto:info@sewingexpo.com) with pictures for help.
- Each person may only enter one costume in the contest. Time permitting, an individual or group may be able to show multiple costumes during the show.
- Each entrant will be allowed approximately 60 seconds on stage before the judge(s).
- If you break the code of conduct, you will be disqualified.
- Play fighting is not allowed. You must stop immediately if asked to do so. Theatricality and play fighting will only be allowed on the stage during your runway walk.
- No profanity or obscene gestures at any time. Hate speech is expressly forbidden.
- Costumes must be tasteful and cover appropriate areas of the body - no nudity allowed. Feet are to be covered in all public areas but can be removed for the runway portion of the event.
- Real weapons of any kind are NOT allowed, this includes steel swords, knives, blades, or guns. Most prop weapons are permitted but no prop guns are allowed. The contest and show managers have the final say on whether a prop weapon will be allowed in the building.
- No projectiles or objects may be thrown on or off stage. No spitting or spaying of water or other liquids of any kind, including slime.
- Loud audio, air horns or other noisemakers louder than 30 decibels will not be permitted.
- No jumping off the stage, flips or somersaults.
- Participation is at your own risk.
- Live animals are discouraged and only allowed by written pre-approval.
- Cruel and/or inhumane imagery will not be allowed in the building. Graphic horror imagery is greatly discouraged and will be rejected unless pre-approved by written request with photos.
- Flames, fireworks, smoke, vapor, lasers are not allowed. Electronic flashing lights are generally permitted unless they create a disturbance.
- Friends of yours in the audience must always be courteous and respectful. No shouting negative things or being subversive to other contestants.
- The wearer does not need to be the creator or maker but must be a representative of the maker. The wearer should be prepared to answer questions about construction if asked.
- Judges will not be able to review sketches or videos of construction.
- Prizes will be awarded to the individual wearing the costume.

- By entering and participating, you agree any photograph or video taken may be used for promotional purposes, including but not limited to email, print and social media. Group and individual photos on the runway stage are welcome at the end of the show after the contest winners have been announced.
- If you apply and fail to show up without contacting us by email at [info@sewingexpo.com](mailto:info@sewingexpo.com), it will result in a forfeit, and you will be banned from competing for one year.

**For Questions: [info@sewingexpo.com](mailto:info@sewingexpo.com) | 800-699-6309**

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**PERMISSION SLIP for participants under the age of 18 years old:**

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*I give permission for my youth (named above) to participate in the Cosplay Show & Contest, and agree to the rules and procedures as listed above.*

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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