



UK qualifier, MCM Birmingham Comic Con 2025

The **Cosplay Central Crown Championships** is a global cosplay competition, organised by ReedPop, for solo cosplayers. Finalists selected at ReedPop events and selected independent partner events attend the Global Cosplay Central Crown Championships Final at MCM London Comic Con. The competition is judged on the costume craftsmanship and design.

On Saturday 29th November 2025, one (1) cosplayer will be selected at MCM Birmingham Comic Con, which is owned, organised and staged by ReedPop, a division of Reed Exhibitions Limited ("**ReedPop**"), to attend the championship final taking place in spring 2026.

1st Prize

- £1500 and Trophy
- Automatic entry into the Global Final of the Cosplay Central Crown Championships at MCM London Comic Con, in May 2026, as the UK Finalist.
- A travel stipend of £250 for travel to London, two (2) nights accommodation (arranged by ReedPop), and event entry for the selected Finalist and assistant to attend the Final of the Cosplay Central Crown Championships at MCM London Comic Con in May 2026
- Two (2) weekend tickets to any MCM Comic Con event within 12 months

2nd Prize

- £750 and Trophy
- Two (2) weekend tickets to any MCM Comic Con event within 12 months

3rd Prize

- £500 and Trophy
- Two (2) weekend tickets to any MCM Comic Con event within 12 months

Rules

1. All participants must be 18 or older to compete in the Cosplay Central Crown Championships Qualifier at MCM Birmingham Comic Con.
2. Applications are open to registered citizens or permanent residents of the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
3. Applications must be received between Monday 22nd September and Friday 17th October 2025.
4. Each applicant must submit a minimum of one (1) reference image of the design or pop culture character that inspired their costume, two (2) images of the hand crafted costume they wish to enter (with allowance for minor unfinished elements) and a written description which includes details about the design and construction process, materials and the choice of costume. A panel will assess the applications and select a number of participants to compete to ensure a balanced competition.
5. Participation in the Qualifier will be confirmed no later than 1st November 2025.
6. All selected entrants are responsible for all expenses related to competing in the Championships Qualifier at MCM Birmingham Comic Con including all lodging and travel to and from the convention centre. All contestants must have a badge valid for Saturday at MCM Birmingham Comic Con. Entrants are responsible for their own belongings. MCM Comic Con is unable to provide a secure area for personal items.
7. Group entries or costumes presented on a model are not permitted.
8. Entrants must comply with the MCM costume, weapons and props rules and will be subject to security checks on entry to MCM Birmingham Comic Con.



9. Costumes for the Cosplay Central Crown Championships Final must represent an existing or recognizable character or element from the pop culture realm, including comic books, movies and television, video games, anime, manga, theatre or fantasy. Characters or elements from bands, musicians and drag acts are not eligible.
 - a. Costumes replicating published designs from comic books, movies and television, video games, anime, manga, theatre or fantasy, including derivative designs by well-known concept artists that have been publicly available for at least one year and not directly commissioned by the Finalist, will be judged on “Accuracy” i.e. the detail and steps taken to create a costume that is accurate to the given reference material.
 - b. Costumes inspired by existing characters but given an original twist, e.g. character mash ups or interpreting a recognizable character in an alternative style, will be judged on the “Design” choices and decisions taken to create a cohesive costume.
10. Entrants must have made the costume they are using in selection events and the Final by themselves.
 - a. All significant visible costume elements that can safely be made without assistance must have been constructed entirely by the competitor; If it is impossible or unsafe for a single person to make a costume element, assistance for simple tasks such as holding things in place is acceptable;
 - b. It is acceptable to use bought wigs, shoes, and accessories such as spectacles etc. Simple, largely insignificant base layers such as a leotard or pantyhose are similarly permitted. Any customisation such as styling a wig or modifying shoes must be the sole work of the entrant.
11. Costumes used for the Championships Qualifier or Final must not have been used for any previous international cosplay or costume contest final.
12. The costume should not exceed 2.5 metres in any one dimension, and the entrant should be able to safely move in the costume with limited assistance and the costume must not impede the finalist’s ability to get on and off stage. The MCM team reserve the right to intervene should they believe a costume is not safe to participate on stage.
13. All costumes should provide enough coverage to be worn in public and should be in good taste and appropriate for a family-friendly show.
14. Costumes cannot be obscene or offensive, including insensitive or unnecessary use of makeup, nor endorse any form of hate or any hate group. Gore, graphic violence or other objectionable elements may also be grounds for disqualification as determined by the judges or ReedPop.
15. Costumes cannot promote alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, firearms/weapons (or the use of any of the foregoing), any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous or any particular political agenda or message.
16. Costumes must not defame, misrepresent or contain disparaging remarks about Cosplay Central, ReedPop and their products, or other people, products or companies, or communicate messages or images inconsistent with the positive images and/or goodwill with which Cosplay Central and/or ReedPop intends to associate the Competition;
17. Costumes cannot depict, and cannot themselves, be in violation of any English or other applicable law.
18. All accepted contestants must attend craftsmanship judging on the contest day. If accepted, MCM will notify entrants when and where the craftsmanship judging will take place. Entrants must appear in costume at the time of their judging. Construction or progress pictures should be brought by the entrant to their judging session; not supplied electronically. Failure to appear for judging will result in disqualification
19. The weighting for each of the judging criteria is as follows:
 - Accuracy or Design and Ambition- 30%
 - Construction – 70%
20. Finalists will present their costume on the Main Stage through a walk on and in character posing which showcases their costumes features
 - a. An introduction will be created from the information provided in the application submitted



- b. The stage presentation will not be scored directly but may be taken into consideration if the presentation reveals flaws or benefits of the costume's construction.
 - c. Each Finalist will be on stage for a minimum of thirty (30) seconds and a maximum of two (2) minutes.
 - d. Presentations must be suitable for a family audience. No profanity is allowed on stage, including messages on signs or clothes.
 - e. ReedPop will provide background music. Background videos are not accepted.
21. The safety of the audience, staff, and other participants must not be compromised. This means that pyrotechnics, fireworks or any other methods of creating or causing a naked flame or explosion are forbidden; anything that may litter the stage (e.g., glitter or confetti) or make it slippery or sticky is similarly banned. The use of lasers, regardless of strength, is not permitted by the venue.
- a. Self-generated vapor as part of a costume may be permitted for use on stage following assessment by the ReedPop team but must not be used elsewhere inside the convention halls.
22. The judges' decisions are final and no further negotiation is permitted. There is no obligation on ReedPop or the judges to provide feedback.
23. All entrants are expected to behave with good conduct and respect each other and the judges.
24. Selected Finalists are expected to wear the costume that they qualified in for the Championships Final; should a Finalist wish to compete in an alternative costume this may be permitted following discussion with the ReedPop team.
25. The first place winner will be the selected UK Finalist for the Global Final of the Cosplay Central Crown Championships to be held at MCM London Comic Con in May 2026. In addition to the cash prize, they will be provided with the following to allow them to attend the Championship Final:
- a. A stipend of £250 will be provided towards the cost transportation, to be arranged by the selected winner.
 - b. One (1) hotel room for up to two (2) people will be arranged and provided by ReedPop, at a hotel selected by event management, for two (2) nights. Checking in Friday and departing on Sunday.
 - c. Two (2) entry passes for MCM London Comic Con will be provided for the winner and their chosen assistant.
26. Each entrant grants to ReedPop ("Management"), its employees, agents, and assignees, the absolute and irrevocable right and permission to photograph, film, reproduce, portray and/or otherwise exploit the name, voice, appearance, photograph, image and/or likeness of such Finalist at MCM Birmingham Comic Con and/or in the Competition (collectively, "Likeness"), and to use the results and proceeds, without limitation, in materials produced by Management in any and all media, in perpetuity. Competitor hereby waives any claim to compensation for use of such Likeness. Competitor agrees that Management owns the images and all rights related to them. The images may be used by Management in any manner or media without notifying Competitor, such as the Popverse website, publications, promotions, broadcasts, advertisements, and posters, for advertising or other related purposes. Competitor waives any right to inspect or approve the finished images or any printed or electronic matter that may be used with them
27. Release: By accepting a prize, each winner agrees to release and hold harmless ReedPop and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, suppliers, distributors, advertising/promotion agencies, and prize suppliers (if any), and each of their respective parent companies and each such company's officers, directors, employees and agents, from and against any claim or cause of action, including, but not limited to, personal injury, death, or damage to or loss of property, arising out of participation in the Cosplay Central Crown Championship or receipt or use or misuse of any prize.
28. Reed Exhibitions Limited reserves the right to modify, suspend, extend or terminate the Crown Championships Qualifier or any part thereof if Reed Exhibitions Limited determines, in its sole discretion, that the Crown Championships Qualifier is technically impaired or corrupted or that infection by computer



virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorised intervention, fraud, technical problems, failures, malfunctions or other causes have destroyed, corrupted or undermined the administration, security, fairness, integrity or feasibility of the Crown Championships Qualifier or any portion thereof as contemplated herein. In the event Reed Exhibitions Limited is prevented from continuing with the Crown Championships Qualifier or awarding any Prizes by any event beyond its control, including but not limited to fire, flood, epidemic, earthquake, explosion, labor dispute or strike, act of God or public enemy, satellite or equipment failure, riot or civil disturbance, terrorist threat or activity, war (declared or undeclared) or any federal state or local government law, order, or regulation, order of any court or jurisdiction, or other cause not reasonably within Reed Exhibitions Limited's control (each a "Force Majeure" event or occurrence), Reed Exhibitions Limited shall have the right to modify, suspend, extend or terminate the Crown Championships Qualifier at its sole discretion or to select a winner from entries received prior to such Force Majeure or as otherwise deemed fair and appropriate by Reed Exhibitions Limited.

29. Although Reed Exhibitions Limited shall attempt to ensure the integrity of the Crown Championships Qualifier, Reed Exhibitions Limited is not responsible for the actions of Participants in connection with the Crown Championships Qualifier, including any Participant's attempt to circumvent the Official Rules or otherwise interfere with the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Crown Championships Qualifier. Reed Exhibitions Limited reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any Participant and/or revoke any Prize award to any Participant whom Reed Exhibitions Limited finds to be (a) tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Crown Championships Qualifier, or with any website promoting the Crown Championships Qualifier; (b) acting in violation of the Official Rules; or (c) entering or attempting to enter the Crown Championships Qualifier through the use of any robotic or automated devices to submit entries. Once a decision on disqualification or revocation has been made or notified to the Participant, it cannot be appealed in any way.
30. Limitation of Liability: MCM is not responsible for: (1) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by entrants, typographical errors, printing errors or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilised in the Contest; (2) technical failures of any kind, including but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in phone lines or network hardware or software; (3) unauthorised human intervention in any part of the entry process or the Crown Championships; (4) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Crown Championships or the processing of entries; or (5) any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from an entrant's participation in the Crown Championships or receipt or use or misuse of any prize (provided always that MCM or its employees or contractors are not negligent in any way in relation to such injury or damage). If, for any reason, an entrant's entry is confirmed to have been erroneously deleted, lost or otherwise destroyed or corrupted, that entrant's sole remedy is another entry in the Crown Championships, if feasible. If the Cosplay Central Crown Championships, or any part of it, is discontinued for any reason, MCM, in its sole discretion, may elect to hold a random draw from among all eligible entries received up to the date of discontinuance for the prize(s) offered herein.
31. Employees, staff, crew or guests of Reed Exhibitions or any associated company and their immediate families, and persons connected with the Championships e.g. prize sponsors or judges and their agents are not eligible to enter the Cosplay Central Crown Championship.
32. In the event of any dispute arising, these Rules, which were last updated on 1st July 2025, are to be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.