



# COSPLAY CENTRAL CROWN CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Rules of the UK Qualifier, MCM Birmingham Comic Con, December 2023

The **Cosplay Central Crown Championships** is a global cosplay competition, organised by Reed Exhibitions Limited also known as ReedPop UK ("**ReedPop**"), for solo cosplayers. Finalists selected at ReedPop and various independent partner events attend the "Crown Championship Final" at C2E2, Chicago, USA ("**the Championship Final**"). The competition is judged on the costume craftsmanship and design.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023, one (1) cosplayer will be selected at **MCM Birmingham Comic Con ("the Event")**, which Event is being organised and staged by ReedPop, to attend the Championship Final taking place in spring 2024.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

- £500 and Trophy
- Two (2) weekend tickets to any MCM Comic Con event in the UK within 12 months
- Automatic entry into the Championship Final
- Travel costs for selected finalist and an assistant from a UK airport to Chicago and accommodation in/around Chicago (arranged by ReedPop) to attend the Championship Final.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

- £300 and Trophy
- Two (2) weekend tickets to any MCM Comic Con event in the UK within 12 months

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

- £200 and Trophy
- Two (2) weekend tickets to any MCM Comic Con event in the UK within 12 months

## Rules

1. All participants must be 18 or older to compete in the Cosplay Central Crown Championships Qualifier ("**the Qualifier**") at the Event to be staged at NEC, Birmingham, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.
2. Applications are open to registered citizens or permanent residents of the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
3. Applications must be received between Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
4. Each applicant must submit a minimum of one (1) reference image of the design 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 at the Qualifier to ensure a balanced competition.
5. Participation in the Qualifier will be confirmed by ReedPop no later than Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
6. All selected entrants are responsible for all expenses related to competing in the Qualifier, including all lodging and travel to and from the NEC.
7. All contestants must have a badge valid for Saturday at the Event.
8. Entrants are responsible for their own belongings. ReedPop is unable to provide a secure area for personal items.
9. Group entries are not permitted.
10. Entrants must comply with the ReedPop costume, weapons and props rules (as per the Terms of Service for tickets to the Event) and will be subject to security checks on entry to the Event.
11. Costumes for the Qualifier and the Championship Final must represent an existing or recognisable 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 entrant, 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 recognisable character in an alternative style, will be judged on the “Design” choices and decisions taken to create a cohesive costume.
12. Entrants must have made the costume they are using in the Qualifier and the Championship Final by themselves. 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. It is also 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.
13. Costumes used for the Qualifier (and/or the Championship Final) must not have been used for any previous international cosplay or costume contest final.
14. The costume must not exceed 2.5 metres in any one dimension, the entrant should be able to safely move in the costume with limited assistance and the costume must not impede the entrant’s ability to get on and off stage. ReedPop reserves the right to intervene should it believe a costume is not safe to participate on stage.
15. All costumes should provide enough coverage to be worn in public and should be in good taste and appropriate for a family-friendly show that the Event is.
16. 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.
17. Costumes cannot promote alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, firearms/weapons (or the use of any of the foregoing) or any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous or any particular political agenda or message.
18. Costumes must not defame, misrepresent or contain disparaging remarks about Cosplay Central, ReedPop, the Event or Reed Exhibitions Limited 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 Qualifier within the Event.
19. Costumes cannot be in violation of any applicable law.
20. All accepted contestants must attend craftsmanship judging on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. 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 instant disqualification.
21. The weighting for each of the judging criteria for the Qualifier is as follows:
  - Accuracy or Design and Ambition- 30%; and
  - Construction – 70%.
22. Entrants will present their costume on the Main Stage through a walk on and in character posing, which showcases their costume’s features. An introduction will be created from the information provided in the application submitted. 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. Each entrant will be on stage for a minimum of thirty (30) seconds and a maximum of two (2) minutes. Presentations must be suitable for a family audience. No profanity is allowed on stage, including messages on signs or clothes. ReedPop will provide background music. Background videos are not accepted.
23. 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;



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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 ReedPop, but self-generated vapour as part of a costume may be permitted for use on stage following assessment by the ReedPop team, although it must not be used elsewhere inside the NEC or at the Event.

24. The judges' decisions are final and no further negotiation is permitted. There is no obligation on ReedPop or the judges to provide feedback.
25. All entrants are expected to behave with good conduct and respect towards each other and the judges.
26. The selected finalist (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner) is expected to wear the costume worn in the Qualifier in the Championship Final; should such selected finalist wish to compete in an alternative costume, this may be permitted following discussion with the ReedPop team.
27. Travel for the Championship Final will be organised by the ReedPop Team with the following considerations:
  - a. the selected finalist must hold a valid passport with at least 6 months validity at the time of travel to the Championship Final in Chicago;
  - b. travel is provided as a single round trip from a UK (or Ireland) airport chosen by the finalist to Chicago, such travel being on an economy basis for the selected finalist and chosen assistant, including 1 additional piece of hold baggage to assist with costume transportation, if required;
  - c. a stipend of £150 will be provided towards the cost of ground transportation for transfers to and from the airport in Chicago; and
  - d. the hotel will be provided by C2E2. Checking in Thursday of the Championship Final weekend and departing on Sunday (i.e. three (3) nights).
  - e. Any costs incurred due to changes made after travel is booked will be the responsibility of the selected finalist. All other costs relating to travel are the responsibility of the selected finalist, including meals, insurance, transfers to and from the departure airport and any visa/ESTA related costs.
28. Each entrant grants to ReedPop, 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 entrant at the Event and/or in the Qualifier (collectively, "**Likeness**"), and to use such Likeness in any and all media, in perpetuity. Each entrant hereby waives any claim to compensation for use of such Likeness and agrees that ReedPop owns the images and all rights related to them. The images may be used by ReedPop in any manner or media without notifying the entrant, such as any Event or other website and in publications, promotions, broadcasts, advertisements and posters, for advertising or other related purposes in connection with the Event.
29. 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 Qualifier (or the Championship Final) or receipt or use or misuse of any prize.
30. ReedPop reserves the right to cancel, suspend and/or modify the Qualifier, or any part of it, if any fraud or technical failures or any other factor beyond ReedPop's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the Qualifier, as determined by ReedPop in its sole discretion. ReedPop reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Qualifier or to be acting in violation of the Rules or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner. Any attempt by any person to deliberately undermine the legitimate operation of the Qualifier may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and, if such an attempt be made, ReedPop reserves the right to seek damages from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. ReedPop's failure to enforce any term of these Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.



31. ReedPop 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 Qualifier; (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 for the Qualifier; (4) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Qualifier 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 Qualifier or receipt or use or misuse of any prize (provided always that ReedPop 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 Qualifier, if feasible.
32. Employees, staff, crew or guests of Reed Exhibitions Limited or any associated company and their immediate families, and persons connected with the Qualifier, e.g. prize sponsors or judges and their agents, are not eligible to enter the Qualifier.
33. In the event of any dispute arising, these Rules are to be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.