

MCM COMIC CON

COSPLAY MASQUERADE RULES



GENERAL INFORMATION

Within the MCM Comic Con events, which are owned, organised and staged by MCM Expo Limited, part of the ReedPop group of companies (“ReedPop”), ReedPop organises a Cosplay Masquerade (“the Masquerade” or “the Cosplay Masquerade”). These Rules set out and govern how each Masquerade is to be run by Reedpop at each MCM Comic Con. Please send any queries by email to: MCMCosplay@reedpop.com. -Please indicate which show you are attending in the subject line of your email, e.g. “MCM London Masquerade”.

Participation in the Cosplay Masquerade does not grant free entry to MCM Comic Con. You will require a valid ticket for the day you wish to participate.

HOW TO ENTER

- Online registration opens 6 weeks before each Masquerade. Registration will close when places are full or 1 week before the event, whichever event occurs first.
- Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis to eligible entries.
 - You will receive an email to confirm if you have secured a place in the masquerade within 10 days of your application.
 - Once capacity is reached a waiting list of eligible entries will be kept and available places offered in order of application date.
- We occasionally accept sign-ups on the day of the Masquerade at the MCM Comic Con event if capacity has not been reached in advance; on the day sign-ups close at noon or when the places are full, whichever comes first. Please visit Cosplay Central HQ at the MCM Comic Con as early as possible to find out if any spaces are available.
- Only one entry is permitted per person per event
 - If you enter as part of a group, you can enter as an individual on the alternative day with a different eligible costume.
 - If capacity has not been reached in advance and there are on the day spaces available, entrants that have registered online can register with a different eligible costume on the alternative day
- If you secure a place in the Masquerade, the ReedPop Cosplay Team will provide “Where and When” instructions the week of the event. On the day of the Cosplay Masquerade, you must check in at Cosplay Central by the time communicated to confirm you are still taking part and check your details. If you wish for your costume(s) to be judged competitively, you will be allocated a time slot (a 15-20 minute window) in advance of the stage show to appear for pre-judging so the judges can assess your costume construction. All entries will present their costume on the Main Stage in the Cosplay Masquerade, which takes place at the end of the day.

CRITERIA

Cosplay is not limited to costumes from anime and games - any pop culture costume is welcome. Original costumes based on pop culture can also be entered if supported by an explanation of the inspirations behind the costume.

Employees, staff, crew or guests of MCM Comic Con, any other ReedPop companies, Reed Exhibitions Limited or any group or associated company of Reed Exhibitions Limited and/or any of their immediate families, and persons connected with the Masquerade, e.g. prize sponsors or judges and their agents, are not eligible to enter the Cosplay Masquerade.

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The **maximum** group size is **six people**.

Juniors (11-15 years old) and family entries (adults with children) can enter regardless of whether or not they made their own costume, but they are not judged or eligible for prizes. Participants over the age of 16 may choose to only showcase their costume on stage and not to be judged if they do not wish to enter competitively.

Masquerade entrants aged 16 or over must wear a costume that meets the following criteria **(there is no exception for people who do not wish to be judged)**:

- All costumes **must be made by the wearer or one of the group**. A portion of the costume (such as leotard, tights and shoes) may be from purchased, finished goods, but the majority of the costume should have been constructed by the entrant: at least 70% should be their own work. Any customisation work to bought wigs, props, etc. should be the original work of the entrant. If entrants have made heavy alterations to completely transform a store-bought garment and wish to enter it into the Masquerade, they must be able to explain how they have altered it and the processes that such an endeavor entailed.
- Commissioned and bought costumes or costumes mostly made up of bought, unmodified, general clothing are not accepted, even in a group with some eligible costumes.
- The costume should not exceed 2.5m/8ft in any one dimension, the entrant must 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 the stage. The ReedPop Cosplay Team reserve the right to intervene should they believe a costume is not safe to participate on stage.
- The costume must not have been entered into a Cosplay Masquerade at any previous ReedPop event.
- All costumes should provide enough coverage to be worn in public and should be in good taste and appropriate for a family-friendly show and must not contain material that is violent, pornographic or otherwise obscene, illegal or racially or morally offensive or endorses any form of hate or hate group, each as determined by the ReedPop Cosplay Team, at their sole discretion. Further, no costume or stage presentation may include harmful or potentially harmful materials, including, but not limited to, water, cigarettes, flames, fireworks, silly string or any other substance that can be fired, launched or dripped. Additionally, each costume must comply with all laws including, but not limited to, those concerning copyright, plagiarism, trademark, defamation and invasion of privacy. Any costume which ReedPop determines to be in violation of the Criteria will be rejected as ineligible and disqualified from the Masquerade.

Entries will show off their costumes on stage through a simple walk on and in character posing, usually a maximum of 3 poses. Most entries will be on stage for 30 - 60 seconds, or two minutes for large groups.

- Cosplayers that disrupt the smooth running of the Cosplay Masquerade by attempting to deliver a performance (*i.e. a full skit, dance or dramatic performance*) will be banned from participating in future masquerades. The length of this ban will be determined by the ReedPop Cosplay Team, at their sole discretion, based on the severity of the breach.

Due to music rights issues, we cannot accept backing music submitted by participants. The Cosplay Team will provide music to fit the character or costume for the stage presentation.

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JUDGING & PRIZES

The contest element is open to **ages 16 and over** only.

- For a costume to be judged competitively, entrants must attend a pre-judging session as well as participating in the stage show. Any reference pictures or other supporting material to be shown to the judges should be brought to that pre-judging session.
- Participants may choose to showcase their costume on stage only and not to be judged if they do not wish to enter competitively.
- A 'Best Costume' prize will be awarded to the overall winner as determined by the judges. The judges may award additional prizes depending on the size of the Masquerade.
- Groups will be judged as a whole and not just on the basis of the best or worst costumes.
- Prizes are awarded per entry, not per person in a group.
- **The judges' decision is FINAL.- Please respect the judges and the other participants by accepting their decisions.**

USE OF DATA

Each Participant's information will be collected and used by ReedPop in accordance with the Privacy Policy (the "**Privacy Policy**") posted on <https://privacy.reedexpo.com/en-us.html>, which is incorporated herein by this reference. By entering the Cosplay Masquerade, each participant agrees and acknowledges that he or she has read, understood and agrees to be bound by (i) these Rules; and (ii) the Privacy Policy, each as may be amended by ReedPop.

All participants are expected to review the Privacy Policy carefully before participating in the Masquerade and each participant acknowledges that, in the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the terms of these Rules and the terms of the Privacy Policy, the terms of the Privacy Policy shall prevail, govern and control. In addition, ReedPop may engage third party entities to administer certain aspects of the Masquerade, including, without limitation, the collection of participant information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Privacy Policy, ReedPop may share participants' information with such third party entities to the extent needed to perform their duties and functions in connection with the Masquerade or otherwise in accordance with their own independent privacy practices.

PUBLICITY

Except where legally prohibited, participation in the Masquerade constitutes each participant's grant of permission for ReedPop to use such participant's name, voice, likeness, photograph, video, testimonials, biographical information, and/or statements made in all media now known or hereafter discovered, worldwide and in perpetuity, without additional notice, approval or compensation. Each winner's name may be included in a publicly available winners' list.

LIMITATION ON LIABILITY; FORCE MAJEURE

Each participant agrees that, save for applicable law, ReedPop shall not be responsible or liable for, and is hereby released from, any and all claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages of any kind, relating to any of the following: (a) incomplete, inaccurate, lost, late, misdirected or illegible entries, winner notifications, prize claims or a winner's failure to receive the same due to any cause, including without limitation human or technical problems, failures, or malfunctions of any kind, whether originating with participant, ReedPop or otherwise, that may prevent or limit any participant's ability to participate in the Masquerade or send or receive messages requiring action or response by such participant; (b) any computer system, phone line, hardware, software or program malfunctions, or other errors, failures, hacks, unauthorised access, delayed computer transmissions or network connections in connection with the Masquerade; (c) any problems or technical malfunction of any network or lines, servers or providers, equipment or software, including any injury or damage to any participant or any participant's property resulting from participation in the Masquerade; (d) the awarding, acceptance, possession, use, misuse, loss or misdirection of any prize or participation in any prize-related activities or any inability of any winner to accept a prize for any reason; (e) any participants who do not comply with or who violate the Rules or who have committed fraud or deception in participating in the Masquerade or in claiming a prize; or (f) any delays or disruptions are as a result of a Force Majeure event, which is defined as "any event beyond the control of either party, including but not limited to fire, flood, epidemic, earthquake, explosion, labour 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 state or local government law, order or regulation, any court or tribunal order, any epidemic or pandemic and/or any other cause not reasonably within either party's control.

ReedPop reserves the right to modify, suspend, extend or terminate the Masquerade or any part thereof if ReedPop determines, in its sole discretion, that the Masquerade is technically impaired or corrupted or infected by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorised intervention, fraud, technical problems, failures, malfunctions or other causes have destroyed or undermined the administration, security, fairness, integrity or feasibility of the Masquerade or that ReedPop is prevented from continuing with the Masquerade or awarding any prizes by a Force Majeure event.

Although ReedPop shall always attempt to ensure the integrity of the Masquerade, ReedPop is not responsible for the actions of participants in connection with the

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Masquerade, including any participant's attempt to circumvent the Rules or otherwise interfere with the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Masquerade.

ReedPop reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any participant and/or revoke any prize award to any participant whom ReedPop finds to be (a) tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Masquerade or with any website promoting the Masquerade; or (b) acting in violation of the Rules; or (c) entering or attempting to enter the Masquerade through the use of any robotic or automated devices.

In the event of any dispute arising, these Rules, which were last updated on 9th January 2023, are to be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.