

MCM COMIC CON

COSPLAY MASQUERADE RULES



GENERAL INFORMATION

Within the MCM Comic Con events, which are owned, organised and staged by ReedPop, a division of Reed Exhibitions Limited (“**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 must have a valid ticket to MCM Comic Con (“**the Event**”) in order to participate in each Cosplay Masquerade.

HOW TO ENTER

- Online registration opens approximately 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 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 Event as early as possible to find out if there are any spaces available in the Masquerade that day.
- Only one entry is permitted per person per Event. If you register multiple times, only one registration will be accepted with the following considerations:
 - if you enter as part of a group, you can enter as an individual on an alternative day with a different eligible costume; and
 - if capacity has not been reached in advance and there are on the day spaces available, entrants who have registered online can register with a different eligible costume on an 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

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

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 Reed Exhibitions Limited or any g associated company of Reed Exhibitions Limited

MCM COMIC CON

COSPLAY MASQUERADE RULES



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 Masquerade.

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 shall not be judged nor are they eligible for prizes. Participants over the age of 16 may choose only to showcase their costume on stage and not to be judged if they do not wish to enter competitively.

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.

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.

All 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, basic wigs, small accessories and shoes) may be from purchased or finished goods, but the majority of the visible costume parts 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 and/or general clothing are not accepted, even in a group with some eligible costumes;
- the costume must not exceed 2.5m/8ft in any one dimension, the entrant must be able to move safely 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 reserves the right to intervene should it believe a costume is not safe to participate in on stage;
- the costume must not have been entered into any 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 its absolute and sole discretion. 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 outlined in these Rules will be rejected as ineligible and disqualified from the Cosplay Masquerade;
- no costume or presentation may include harmful or potentially harmful materials, including, but not limited to, water, cigarettes, flames, fireworks, silly string, lasers, smoke, arcs of electricity or any other substance that can be fired, launched, or dripped;
- participants who disrupt the smooth running of the Cosplay Masquerade by, for example, attempting to deliver a performance (i.e. a full skit, dance or dramatic performance), or who act in violation of the safety briefing given by the Cosplay Team, or who violate the costume criteria, including acting in bad faith by passing off another person's work as their own, may be disqualified from the Cosplay Masquerade and banned from participating in

future competitions and sessions across ReedPop events. The length and extent of this ban will be determined by the ReedPop Cosplay Team, at its absolute and sole discretion, based on the severity of the breach. Once a decision on eligibility to participate has been notified by ReedPop, it cannot be appealed in any way.

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 Beginner' prize will be awarded to a competitor the judges wish to inspire and whom they deem eligible based on their previous cosplay experience as noted in their registration;
- 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; and
- 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 in good faith and good spirits.

- **USE OF DATA:** Each Participant's information will be collected and used by Reed Exhibitions Limited 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 Official Rules; and (ii) the Privacy Policy, each as may be amended by Reed Exhibitions Limited. All Participants are expected to review the Privacy Policy carefully before participating in the Cosplay Masquerade and each Participant acknowledges that, in the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the terms of these Official Rules and the terms of the Privacy Policy, the terms of the Privacy Policy shall prevail, govern and control. In addition, Reed Exhibitions Limited may engage third party entities to administer certain aspects of the Cosplay Masquerade, including, without limitation, the collection of Participant information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Privacy Policy, Reed Exhibitions Limited may share Participant's information with third party entities to the extent needed to perform their duties and functions in connection with the Cosplay Masquerade or otherwise in accordance with their own independent privacy practices.
- **PUBLICITY:** Except where legally prohibited, participation in the Cosplay Masquerade constitutes such Participant's grant of permission (and agreement to confirm such grant in writing) for Reedpop to use such Participant's name, voice, likeness, photograph, video, testimonials, biographical information, and/or statements made by Participant in all media now known or hereafter discovered, worldwide, without additional notice, approval, or compensation and in perpetuity. Each winner's name may be included in a publicly available winners' list.
- **LIMITATION ON LIABILITY; FORCE MAJEURE:** Each Participant agrees that Reed Exhibitions Limited 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 Winner Forms or the failure to receive same due to any cause, including without limitation human or technical problems, failures, or malfunctions of any kind, whether originating with Participant, Reed Exhibitions Limited or otherwise, that may prevent or limit any Participant's ability to participate in the Cosplay 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 Cosplay Masquerade; (c) any problems or technical malfunction of any network or lines, servers or providers, equipment or software, including any injury or damage to Participant or Participant's property resulting from participation in the Cosplay 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 Official Rules or who have committed fraud or deception in participating in the Cosplay Masquerade or in claiming a Prize; or (f) any delays or disruptions as a result of a Force Majeure (as defined herein).

MCM COMIC CON

COSPLAY MASQUERADE RULES



- Reed Exhibitions Limited reserves the right to modify, suspend, extend or terminate the Cosplay Masquerade or any part thereof if Reed Exhibitions Limited determines, in its sole discretion, that the Cosplay Masquerade 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 Cosplay Masquerade or any portion thereof as contemplated herein. In the event Reed Exhibitions Limited is prevented from continuing with the Cosplay Masquerade 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 Cosplay Masquerade 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.
- Although Reed Exhibitions Limited shall attempt to ensure the integrity of the Cosplay Masquerade, Reed Exhibitions Limited is not responsible for the actions of Participants in connection with the Cosplay Masquerade, including any Participant's attempt to circumvent the Official Rules or otherwise interfere with the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Cosplay Masquerade. 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 Cosplay Masquerade, or with any website promoting the Cosplay Masquerade; (b) acting in violation of the Official Rules; or (c) entering or attempting to enter the Cosplay Masquerade 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.

In the event of any dispute arising, these Rules, which were last updated on 22nd January 2025, are to be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.