

SMASH! 2009 Cosplay Competition Rules

COSPLAY COMPETITION

Only 50 entries will be allowed to enter the Cosplay Competition. Groups count as 1 competition entry place. For example, if you're entering as a group of 3 people you count as only 1 competition entry, however each individual in the group will still be assessed during the judging. Sign up is online pre-registration and will be available from **July 1st** until **August 1st**. Registration will also be available on the day.

- For your entry to be accepted you must have read and be able to follow the cosplay rules and guidelines. Your costume must be of an Anime, Manga, Japanese Games character, or related to Japanese pop culture. (For example, J-rock etc). Western characters or anything unrelated to Japanese pop culture CANNOT enter the competition.
- Costumes must be home made. Prefabricated/commissioned costumes are not permitted in the competition. Costumes must be made or significantly altered by the contestant entering in them, or if in a group, by another member of the group.
- Cosplay marshalling will be at **2:30pm on Saturday**, and **1:30pm on Sunday**, you must be ready in costume in the Cosplay Room at this time or you will not be eligible to enter the competition.
- Be aware the competition ends at 5:00pm on Saturday, and at 4:00pm on Sunday, so please organise to stay for this time if you're planning on entering the competition. The results of the competition will not be announced until 5:00pm at the awards ceremony.
- Please be prepared to talk about yourself, your character and your costume on stage as the MC will be asking you questions.

REGISTRATION

- Registration for the cosplay competition is available online and on the day. Online registration opens on **July 1st** and closes **August 1st**. If you have pre-registered, you will be sent a confirmation email. On the day registration will need to be done before **12:00pm** each day of the competition. Entrants cannot enter the same costume in the Saturday and Sunday cosplay competitions.
- When registering for the cosplay competition you must provide two images:
 1. The first is an image of the character you are cosplaying. [This is an image of the character, not of yourself]. It will be used in the cosplay competition on the PowerPoint presentation and will appear on the main

stage screen when you are onstage. Providing a picture will make it easier for our judges to compare the accuracy and details of your costume to the character.

2. The second image you must provide for registration is a progress picture of the creation of your cosplay. This picture must be of the incomplete cosplay and is evidence that you have made the costume (as bought cosplays are not allowed in the competition). The progress picture must include yourself.

Failure to provide the images will not prevent a you from entering, but will make the you unable to win the Best Cosplay Award.

- Once you have registered online you will receive an email confirming your entry. You must present yourself in the cosplay room before **12:00pm** to confirm your entry. If you do not, you will not be allowed to enter the competition. If performing a pre-recorded skit you must present the skit music to the Cosplay Registration Desk before **12:00pm**. Skit music will not be accepted after this time. (Please refer to the 'Skit' section of the rules for information about providing music or pre-recorded skits).
- When completing your online registration, you will be asked to provide certain personal details, such as your name and contact number. This information will only be used for the SMASH! Cosplay Competition 2009, in the instance that we will be required to contact you. For more information, please refer to our Privacy Policy on the SMASH! website.

GENERAL RULES

No cosplayer is allowed to take part in any of the following actions. Failure to abide by these may result in the withdrawal of your entry, or even your removal from the premise.

The Cosplay Competition will not allow:

- Anything that may injure other cosplayers, staff or anyone else attending SMASH. This includes anything not allowed according to our weapons policy or anything at the discretion of the SMASH! Staff that they believe may cause harm. (Please refer to the 'Weapons Policy' section of the rules).
- Any offensive language, such as cursing or profanities or offensive racial slurs.
- The Cosplay Competition as well as the convention is all rated PG-13. Please do not use material that exceeds this rating. Nudity is not allowed in skits or in the Cosplay Competition altogether. SMASH also discourages highly revealing costumes and recommends shorts for very short skirts. If your costume is considered too revealing, you will not be allowed to enter the competition or the convention.

We encourage all entrants to try their best and partake in friendly competition. Please support each other, especially for people who are new to Cosplay.

PROPS/WEAPONS POLICY

- All props and weapons must be presented to staff at the cosplay registration desk upon entering the venue, failure to present weapons even seemingly harmless ones may result in your entry being removed and you may even be escorted from the premises.
- If the SMASH Cosplay Committee judges a weapon or prop as harmless you will be free to carry it around for the full duration of the convention. If a prop is deemed harmless you will be given a written note from the Cosplay Coordinator as proof. However if a weapon or prop is judged to be harmful for general use around the convention, it will be placed in the weapons and prop storage and returned for the cosplay competition.
- No authentic and/or metal and/or explosive weapons and/or objects deemed unsafe by SMASH Cosplay Coordinator and staff will be allowed to enter the convention. Anyone found with any objects such as these will have them confiscated and they will be returned at the end of the convention. If the situation warrants, persons may be removed from the premises and the authorities may be notified.
- Skates, roller-blades, skateboards or any other similar wheeled and/or moving item is not allowed to be worn or used in the venue. They may be brought into the venue at the discretion of the staff, but permission must be sought at the cosplay desk, and given in writing or the props will be confiscated until the end of the convention.

NO dangerous weapons. These can include:

- Bladed or edged weapons, or live steel of any kind such as knives, swords, axes, martial arts equipment, etc.
- Liquid dispensing weapons. If you need to use hairspray or aerosol cans please do so outside, as some patrons may be allergic to or irritated by the contents.
- Incendiaries or anything that produces a live flame, explosion or spark.
- Anything that shoots a projectile (this includes realistic and plastic guns).
- Long props such as poles or pointed items, which might accidentally cause injury.
- Props that are over one metre in length may still be brought to the convention and used during the Cosplay Competition, but cannot be carried during the normal course of the convention. Instead, they will be kept in the cosplay room and returned to you during cosplay marshalling at 2:30pm.
- Chains that can be used as a weapon are prohibited; depending on the situation 1 metre length is a preferred maximum.
- Live blades and guns are not allowed on the premises and not allowed in the competition.

Alternative material for props, such as: balsa wood, cardboard or plastic will be allowed, but should still be shown to cosplay staff upon registration.

SKITS

- Skits are limited to 3 minutes in length. If any cosplayers exceed this time constraint they will be asked by staff to stop their skit and may be disqualified.
- All recorded skits will need to be presented to the Cosplay registration desk on the day **before 12:00pm**, on a usb/cd and will be reviewed by the cosplay team. Your skit music must be ONE track. Multiple tracks will not be accepted.
- Sound files on the CD must be kept to an easily read format e.g Mp3, WAV. Make sure to use one of these file types otherwise your skit may not work on our system. Please keep this in mind when you are recording.
- To be extra cautious we recommend that you bring more than one copy or more than one storage device if possible to be certain that your skit music will work. Also make note on your online registration under the 'Comments' section if you need your music to be played at a particular time during your performance, otherwise it may get played the moment you walk on stage.
- Depending on the situation any skits that are deemed inappropriate or breach the rules will be immediately halted and disqualified from the competition and if the case all persons responsible for the skit will be escorted from the convention.

If you're worried that your skit may be breaching these rules, please run it by the SMASH Cosplay Co-ordinator at least a week prior to the convention.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Cosplayers will be judged under these categories:

- Best Cosplay (and runner-up): Best overall construction and finish of a costume made by a male or female competitor.
- Best Group (and runner-up): The group with the best construction, finish, and accuracy to characters, as a whole.
- Best Skit (and runner-up): The best presented sketch. The judges will be considering the clarity of the performance, that it doesn't breach the outlined skit rules, and how entertaining it is for the audience and themselves.
- Judges' Choice Award: This is a special award presented to the Cosplayer who leaves the greatest impression on the Judges. This could be any entrant in the Cosplay competition.

Judges will take into consideration your accuracy to the character/costume, craftsmanship and performance (if applicable)

Prizes will be announced after the Cosplay Competition at the Awards ceremony. Judges are not to be disturbed during this period. If it is believed that you are trying to influence the decision of the judges, your entry may be withdrawn from the competition.

STAFF

The Cosplay Co-ordinator and Volunteers are there to make the competition as fun and fair for everyone as possible. Feel free to ask them any questions you have, but abusive language or actions towards convention staff will not be tolerated. If there are any complaints or problems with the competition please consult the Cosplay Co-ordinator.

- If it is thought necessary, the cosplay committee may alter the rules at any time.
- Committee members and volunteers may enter the cosplay competition, however they are not eligible to win any prizes. They must seek permission from the Event Manager in advance and in writing.
- Guests, artists or vendors may not enter the competition for the purpose of advertising or promoting their own work or merchandise.

CONTACTING THE COSPLAY TEAM

If you have any issues with these rules and guidelines or any enquiries please address them to the SMASH Cosplay Coordinator at least a week prior to the convention, so that we'll have time to reply and make any changes if need be.

- When contacting our Cosplay coordinator, please leave a suitable subject heading (such as 'Cosplay skit inquiry') so that we don't miss your email and know exactly which of our areas it relates to. Contact our Cosplay Coordinator at: **cosplay@smash.org.au**
- Any concerns of mismanagement, unfairness, corruption, cheating or other issues that involve the staff, judges or participants of the SMASH! Cosplay Competition they are to contact the Events Manager at **events@smash.org.au**