



animania[®] FESTIVAL

2008 COSPLAY COMPETITION - RULES AND PROCEDURE

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Cosplay is a truncated term for 'costume play' and refers to a form of masquerade, in particular the act of dressing up as a favourite character usually from an anime, manga or even games. A definitely unique experience, **Cosplay is a much-loved event at all anime-related events and Animania Festival plays host to one of the best Cosplay Competitions in Australia.**

In 2008, we look forward to a grand and extraordinary year of Cosplay as we expect fans to pull out all stops to bring **the ultimate self-created costumes that will pay homage to their most favourite character and bring it to life for all to see.** The best, most creative and most spectacular costumes and performances will be rewarded with great prizes, but also the honour of earning a top place in one of Animania Festival's most loved competitions.

Apart from the Animania Festival's Cosplay Competition, the Festival is also proud to be playing host to the World Cosplay Summit (WCS) Preliminary Competition for Australia.

Entrants cannot compete in both events. **Individuals wishing to enter the Cosplay competition must register online. Individuals wishing to enter the WCS competition should refer to the WCS section on the website.** Once registered, they will be informed by email if they qualify for the competition.

This document outlines the rules and procedures for the Animania Festival Cosplay Competition ONLY. For information, rules and procedures relating to the World Cosplay Summit Preliminary Competition, please refer to the website for the relevant details.

1. DEFINITIONS

Below are the definitions for some of the common terms related to this Competition only:

<i>Entrant</i>	An individual Cosplayer or Cosplay group that has registered to participate in the Animania Festival Cosplay Competition prior to the registration cutoff date , but has not necessarily qualified to compete in the Competition itself.
<i>Group</i>	A group of Cosplayers. Groups qualify only for the Best Group or Best Skit categories of the Competition. While there is no specified limit to the number of people allowed to enter as a Group, please note that Best Skit and Best Group categories there is a maximum of 6 prizes allocated.
<i>Individual</i>	A single Cosplayer. Individual Entrants qualify only for the Best Female or Best Male categories of the Competition.
<i>Qualifying Entrant</i>	An individual Cosplayer or Cosplay group that has registered to participate in the Animania Festival Cosplay Competition and has been notified by Animania Staff that they have qualified to compete (on stage) in the Competition at the specified Animania Festival.
<i>Special Awards</i>	These are prizes that have particular significance and often have been donated by a patron of the Animania Festival to be awarded only for specific purposes.

2. ANIMANIA FESTIVAL COSPLAY COMPETITION PROCEDURE

- 2.1. All entrants of the Animania Festival Cosplay Competition (hereafter referred to as 'the Competition') must **register online** prior to attending the Festival to be considered eligible to participate in the competition. **Online registration will close 1 weeks prior to the Festival.** Check the website for the exact registration cutoff dates.
- 2.2. **NO NEW ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF COMPETITION.**
- 2.3. Places are **strictly limited** and only the entrants that best satisfy the judges' criteria will be granted a place in the Competition.
- 2.4. Entrants will be notified **no later than 2 days** prior to the Festival if they have qualified to compete in the actual Cosplay Competition at the specified event. Please ensure that you have provided a working email address (non-Hotmail or Yahoo! addresses preferred) as the Festival staff take no responsibility if you are not informed of competition status. Individuals who have been notified that they qualify to compete will be known as 'Qualifying Entrants'.
- 2.5. Qualifying Entrants **must** visit the Cosplay Registration desk on the day of the Festival between the designated times (provided by email) to pick up their Cosplay Receipts, drop off music files and present their costume. The use of music is recommended to improve the quality of your performance and must be provided to the Cosplay Coordinator (at the Cosplay Registration desk) on the morning of the competition. MP3 is the preferred format for supplied music and can be provided on a CD or USB device. Animania Festival take no responsibility if you are unable to compete to the best of your ability without music, video, etc if you do not provide these items during the designated times.
- 2.6. Qualifying Entrants who do not make themselves known during the designated times at the Cosplay Registration desk will forfeit their place in the Competition. This procedure is in place to ensure the smooth and timely running of all stage events, so it is required that we have all Qualifying Entrants ready to go on stage (with music cues and all) as prepared. Once the Competition has begun on stage it will be difficult to slot in late arrivals and **it will not be possible to cue your preferred music/video**, so please make sure to present yourself at the Cosplay Registration desk well before!!
- 2.7. Each Qualifying Entrants' presentation and costume will be assessed as per Section 4 of this document.
- 2.8. **Prizes must be collected by the winning Cosplayer/Cosplay Group on the same day that the Competition is held.** Prizes not collected on the day will be forfeited. Prizes will be announced during the Prizes Ceremony which will be listed in the Festival Guide.

3. COSPLAY COMPETITION RULES

- 3.1. The competition is open to individuals of all ages.
- 3.2. All Entrants must register online to be considered eligible to participate in the competition as outlined in the procedures above.
- 3.3. Upon registration, all Entrants must provide the information outlined in Section 5 – "Online Submissions Checklist". Please refer to this section and read carefully.
- 3.4. Entrants must present themselves in the costume of a character from any anime, manga or game (Japanese type). Characters from (Western) comics, movies or anything else that is unrelated to Asian popular culture will not be accepted in this competition.
- 3.5. Entrants presenting a costume or skit which has previously won a prize at a prior Animania Festival Cosplay Competition may not qualify for the Competition in 2008. Judges may make exceptions if they believe there have been significant alterations made since the costume has last been entered.

- 3.6. Costumes should be home made. Completely prefabricated costumes are not permitted and may result in instant disqualification. Prefabricated accessories (e.g. Naruto bandana) or parts (jeans) may be used with a homemade costume. Prefabricated items may be permitted if they have been substantially altered by the entrant.
- 3.7. **During registration, Entrants must indicate if they wish to enter the Individual category or the Group and Skit category of the Competition.** Contestants may only enter **one category per day** and group entries will not be considered for the Individual category.
- 3.8. The Individual and Group Qualifying Entrants will compete in separate categories, and will not be eligible for the same Prize (except for Special Awards).
- 3.9. The selection of Qualifying Entrants and their participation in the on-stage Cosplay Competition(s) is at the discretion of the Cosplay Judges.
- 3.10. All Entrants must abide the Terms and Conditions for General Public. These can be viewed on the Animania Festival website.
- 3.11. Metallic weapons (sword, axes, shuriken...) and firearms are illegal and therefore are not permitted as props for Cosplay. Projectile weapons (even plastic ones) are also not permitted as props. Hard wooden weapons and very large props (over 1 metre long) are allowed as props for Cosplay but must be stored in the cloakroom until the Competition begins. All foam, cardboard, Styrofoam and soft wooden props (balsa wood) are allowed as props for Cosplay and will not need to be stored in the cloakroom.
- 3.12. Animania Festival Staff and Volunteers working in the Cosplay Section will not be eligible to participate in the competition for prizes. This rule does not apply to Animania Festival Volunteer Floorstaff, who will be eligible to participate in the competition for prizes.
- 3.13. Aurora Entertainment Pty Ltd (hereinafter referred to as "the Organisation") reserves the right to adjust the competition rules in any way it sees fit and disqualify any entry for non-compliance with the rules outlined in this document or the Terms and Conditions for General Public.
- 3.14. Permission is granted to the Organisation to use the costume photographed/filmed for future promotions of Animania.
- 3.15. The Organisation reserves the right to refuse entry/display to any costumes entered to the competition that it deems inappropriate. The Organisation also reserves the right to cancel or cut short any acts that it deems to be inappropriate. The Organisation reserves the right to disqualify any entrants within reason. The Organisation's decisions are final.
- 3.16. By entering the competition, the participant agrees to abide by the terms and conditions as set out in this document and on the website. Participants who do not follow these rules will be disqualified.

4. AWARDS AND JUDGING

- 4.1. All Entrants **MUST** choose in which category they are competing before registering online. **There are two categories: INDIVIDUALS and GROUPS.**
- 4.2. Individual Qualifying Entrants are only eligible to run for the Best Female and Best Male Cosplayer awards. Best Female and Best Male Cosplayer categories will be **based on the gender of the contestant**, not on the gender of the character.
- 4.3. Group Qualifying Entrants are only eligible to run for the Best Group and Best Skit awards. Please note that there is **a maximum of 6 prizes** allocated to each of these categories only.
- 4.4. Special Awards may be given on the day of the Competition. Both Individual and Group Qualifying Entrants (or a specific individual within a group) are eligible to receive a Special Award. These Awards are allocated at the discretion of the judges or, in some cases, the donor.

- 4.5. The on-stage Competition itself will have a limit of no more than **30 Individual Qualifying Entrants** and **15 Group Qualifying Entrants**.
- 4.6. The judging criteria and process will be carried out to the same standards for all of the Competitions, following the WCS standards. There will be three standard point categories:

Performance (10 points):	Relating to production of performance, creativity of elements and entertainment (SKIT category ONLY).
Costumes (10 points):	Workmanship, how faithful the costumes are to the original Character (INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS categories ONLY)
Faithfulness to story (5 points):	How faithful is the performance to the story of the original work and characters, and is the cosplayer in character (ALL categories)

5. ONLINE SUBMISSIONS CHECKLIST

Individual (non-performance):

- Name of Cosplayer
- Title of the Anime/Manga/Game they are Cosplaying from
- Name and gender of character they are Cosplaying
- A picture of the character (electronically)
- A picture of the costume being made (electronically)
- Answer to the cosplay profile questions

Group Performance and Skit:

- Name/team name plus name of group members
 - Title of the Anime/Manga/Game they are Cosplaying from
 - Name of character(s) they are Cosplaying
 - A picture of the character (electronically)
 - A picture of the costume being made for each group member (electronically)
 - Answer to the cosplay profile questions
 - A brief description of the performance including any unexpected or surprising elements.
- It is in your best interest to give an honest description of your performance, especially if you wish to include unexpected elements. Failure to do this may result in disruptions to your performance (if staff is not aware that elements are part of your act) or disqualification from the competition (if staff feels your act may be going in an inappropriate direction).
 - As a condition of entry, each entrant must agree and abide with the rules and regulations of the competition.
 - Failure to provide the information above might result in immediate disqualification.
 - **WARNING: IF YOUR ROUTINE IS LONGER THAN 3 MINUTES, YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**