

MASTERS DIVISION RULES



- 1. COSPLAYS MUST BE AT LEAST 75% HOMEMADE.**
- 2. COMMISSIONED AND STORE-BOUGHT COSPLAYS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY.****
- 3. ORIGINAL CHARACTER (OC) COSPLAYS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY.****
- 4. FULL COSPLAY CHANGES ARE NOT PERMITTED ONCE AN ENTRY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED. IF YOU WISH TO CHANGE YOUR ENTRY, YOU MUST WITHDRAW AND RE-SUBMIT WITH THE NEW COSPLAY. MINOR DETAIL CHANGES ARE ALLOWED; PLEASE CONTACT THE COSPLAY TEAM IF YOU WISH TO AMEND YOUR ENTRY [COSPLAY@SUNNYCONANIMEEXPO.COM](mailto:cosplay@sunnyconanimeexpo.com)**
- 5. COSPLAYS THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY WON AWARDS ARE NOT PERMITTED. COSPLAYS THAT HAVE PLACED 2ND OR LOWER (AT ANY EVENT, NATIONALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY), OR HAVE BEEN ENTERED BUT NOT PLACED, ARE ALLOWED. PREVIOUS SUNNYCON MASTERS 1ST-PLACE WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ENTER FOR ONE YEAR FOLLOWING THEIR WIN. THIS “GAP YEAR” ALLOWS FOR A MORE VARIED AND OPEN CONTEST. FORMER WINNERS MAY RE-ENTER AFTER THIS ONE-YEAR BREAK. ANY ENTRANT FOUND TO HAVE SUBMITTED A WINNING COSPLAY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**
- 6. COSTUMES MUST BE FAMILY-FRIENDLY. SUNNYCON ANIME EXPO WELCOMES ATTENDEES OF ALL AGES, AND ANY COSPLAY DEEMED AGE-INAPPROPRIATE MAY REQUIRE MODIFICATION OR BE REFUSED ENTRY. COSTUMES MUST BE TASTEFUL, WITH A MINIMUM COVERAGE EQUIVALENT TO A BIKINI—PRIVATE AREAS MUST BE FULLY COVERED AT ALL TIMES. SUNNYCON STAFF HAVE FINAL DISCRETION ON WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE. BODY PAINT, LATEX, PASTIES, ETC. ARE NOT CONSIDERED ADEQUATE COVERAGE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CLOTHING. THONGS ARE PROHIBITED UNLESS COVERED BY SHORTS, SKIRTS, CAPES, ETC.**
- 7. GROUP ENTRIES ARE PERMITTED. ANY PRIZE WON MUST BE SHARED AMONG THE GROUP.**
- 8. CONTESTANTS MUST BRING A SCRAPBOOK*** DETAILING HOW THE COSPLAY WAS CREATED. THIS MUST BE HANDED TO THE COSPLAY COORDINATOR AT THE COSPLAY DESK BEFORE THE CONTEST.**
- 9. CONTESTANTS MUST ATTEND A POST-JUDGING SESSION WITH THE JUDGES. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION. PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 5 MINUTES EARLY AND BE PREPARED.**
- 10. ENTRANTS MUST HOLD A VALID SUNNYCON ANIME EXPO 2026 TICKET.**
- 11. ENTRANTS MUST BE 16 OR OLDER ON THE DAY OF THE CONTEST. ENTRANTS AGED 16–17 MUST SUBMIT A SIGNED PARENTAL CONSENT FORM TO THE COSPLAY COORDINATOR TO BE ELIGIBLE (FORMS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST).**
- 12. ALL CONTESTANTS MUST GATHER IN THE BACKSTAGE AREA 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE CONTEST. LATE ARRIVAL MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION. PUNCTUALITY IS ESSENTIAL, AS DELAYS IMPACT THE EVENT SCHEDULE AND OTHER PERFORMANCES.**
- 13. THE STAGE HAS RAMP ACCESS. STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IF NEEDED.**
- 14. ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE SUNNYCON ANIME EXPO CLOSING CEREMONY FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS. FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL RENDER THE ENTRY INVALID AND ANY WINNINGS WILL BE FORFEITED TO THE NEXT-PLACED CONTESTANT. THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE MAIN STAGE AT THE END OF THE EVENT, BEFORE THE VENUE CLOSES. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE IN COSTUME TO COLLECT YOUR PRIZE; HOWEVER, IN CASES OF EMERGENCY, AN EXCEPTION MAY BE MADE. PLEASE SPEAK TO THE COSPLAY TEAM IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.**
- 15. ENTRIES WILL CLOSE **ONE WEEK** BEFORE THE EXPO. THERE WILL BE **NO ON-THE-DAY SIGN-UPS**.**
- 16. PROPS MUST BE UNDER 2 METRES IN LENGTH AND MUST NOT CONTAIN ANY SHARP, CUTTING, OR POINTED EDGES THAT COULD CAUSE PHYSICAL HARM (COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS “LARP SAFE”).**

THERE WILL BE LIMITED SPACES IN THE COSPLAY CONTEST. ONCE ALL SPACES ARE FILLED, YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE OPTION TO JOIN A RESERVE LIST OR WITHDRAW YOUR ENTRY.

THIS CONTEST WILL HAVE THREE PRIZES:

*** **1ST PLACE:** £500**

*** **2ND PLACE:** £250**

*** **3RD PLACE:** £100**

ABUSIVE OR INTIMIDATING BEHAVIOUR TOWARD STAFF WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE PRESENT AT THE CORRECT TIME (30 MINUTES BEFORE THE CONTEST BEGINS) AND TO FOLLOW STAFF INSTRUCTIONS. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY CAUSE DELAYS AND MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION. ONLY CONTESTANTS, GUARDIANS, AND ASSISTANTS (IF REQUIRED) ARE PERMITTED BACKSTAGE—PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE COSPLAY TEAM FOR DETAILS.

WINNERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER AND SORT CODE AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONY. ALL PRIZES ARE PAID VIA BANK TRANSFER WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE END OF SUNNYCON ANIME EXPO, FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF DUE DILIGENCE TO ENSURE ALL ENTRIES HAVE MET THE RULES ABOVE.

*** **HOMEMADE DEFINITION****

“HOMEMADE” REFERS TO A COSTUME PRIMARILY MADE BY THE COSPLAYER. STORE-BOUGHT, COMMISSIONED, OR PRE-MADE ITEMS (MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR COSPLAY) MUST MAKE UP NO MORE THAN 25% OF THE TOTAL COSTUME. EVIDENCE MAY BE SHOWN IN THE SCRAPBOOK. ITEMS THAT ARE BOUGHT AND SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFIED MAY COUNT AS HOMEMADE; THIS IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COSPLAY TEAM. IF UNSURE, PLEASE ASK FOR CONFIRMATION.

**** **CHARACTER GUIDELINES****

COMPLETELY ORIGINAL CHARACTERS ARE NOT PERMITTED, AS ACCURACY CANNOT BE JUDGED FAIRLY OR CONSISTENTLY. NON-HUMANOID CHARACTERS MAY BE PORTRAYED AS HUMAN ONLY AS FAR AS REQUIRED FOR THE CHARACTER TO BE A COSTUME RATHER THAN A PROP. “FRESH TAKES” ON CHARACTERS (E.G. OLD LINK, STEAMPUNK MARIO) MUST BE JUSTIFIED WITH REFERENCES AND MAY INCUR ACCURACY PENALTIES. IF UNSURE, CONTACT THE COSPLAY TEAM FOR CLARIFICATION. ULTIMATE DISCRETION LIES WITH THE COSPLAY TEAM AND JUDGES.

***** **SCRAPBOOK REQUIREMENTS****

THE SCRAPBOOK VERIFIES THAT THE COSTUME HAS BEEN MADE BY THE CONTESTANT. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO EXPLAIN HOW YOUR COSPLAY WAS CREATED. THIS MAY BE AS DETAILED AS YOU WISH. SCRAPBOOKS MUST BE HANDED TO THE COSPLAY COORDINATOR BEFORE THE CONTEST. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY SERIOUSLY HARM YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING AND, IN SOME CASES, LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION. SCRAPBOOKS MUST BE **PHYSICAL COPIES****; DIGITAL VERSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. YOU MAY RECLAIM YOUR SCRAPBOOK BY THE END OF THE CONVENTION. ANY UNCLAIMED SCRAPBOOKS WILL BE DISPOSED OF.**

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SUNNYCON ANIME EXPO™ RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND THESE RULES AND THE CONTEST AT ANY TIME. ALL ENTRANTS WILL BE INFORMED OF ANY CHANGES.