

Cosplay Contest at ZURICH POP CON & Game Show

Conditions of Participation & Regulations



Conditions of Participation

- The registration period for the Cosplay Contest is open until September 6, 2026 at 23:59.
- All participants must be at least 16 years old at the time of the contest.
- The Newcomers Cosplay Contest is for cosplay newcomers. Participants of the Newcomers Cosplay Contest confirm with their registration that they have not previously taken part in more than three similar competitions.
- For the ZURICH POP CON Cosplay Contest, the cosplay must be at least 80% self-made. For the Newcomers Cosplay Contest, the cosplay has to be at least 70% self-made.
- The costume must have never been awarded a prize at a cosplay contest before.
- The cosplay must be worn by the creator themselves.
- Participants will receive a free weekend ticket (2 days) for ZURICH POP CON & Game Show and a free day ticket for the competition day for a companion.

Registration

- The registration takes place with the submission of the registration form.
- The submission of the registration form does not entitle the participant to take part in the contests. A pre-selection will be made and after the registration period, the participation will be confirmed or canceled in writing by the organizer.
- Only one contest per cosplay can be entered. If participants wish to enter more than one contest, they must enter a different cosplay in each contest.
- Categories: It is possible to register with several people for the category „group“ or as an individual for the category „solo“. Group and solo performances will be judged differently. If there are too few group entries, the category „group“ will be canceled.
- All required materials must be submitted by the registration deadline:
 - Mandatory: Registration form
 - Mandatory: Reference picture of the character
 - Mandatory: Photo(s) of the cosplay (work in progress also possible)
 - Optional: Music file for the stage performance (correctly cut, good sound quality)
 - Optional: Background image for the stage performance in high resolution
 - For the ZURICH POP CON Cosplay Contest, you may also use and submit a video file in MP4 format instead of a music file and a background image
- The reference picture (character template) must show the character completely and in as much detail as possible (different perspectives, close-ups of details). The submission of another picture/collage of individual details of the cosplay is possible. The cosplay will be judged based on the submitted character template. The character, as well as its clothing, equipment, and weapons, may not be changed in the reference picture and should be realized completely and accordingly. For own creations and OCs, a detailed sketch must be submitted.



Performance

- The maximum performance time on stage in front of an audience is 120 seconds for solo performances and 180 seconds for groups at the ZURICH POP CON Cosplay Contest, and 60 seconds for solo performances and 150 seconds for groups at the Newcomers Cosplay Contest.
- Individual music/sound and a still background image during the performance are allowed if the materials have been submitted to the organizer in time (before the registration deadline or individually agreed date). A background video with sound may also be submitted for the ZURICH POP CON Cosplay Contest, but background videos are not permitted in the Newcomers Cosplay Contest.
- If no music file or background image has been submitted, the organizer will play neutral music and show a neutral image.
- During the performance, the participant is not allowed to use a live microphone. Sketches must be pre-recorded and pre-submitted with the sound file.
- The stage may not be soiled by the performance (e.g. by confetti, liquids, soap bubbles, flour, fire, dry ice, chemical effects, etc.).
- Smoke effects must be announced in advance and approved by the organizer.
- No objects may be thrown into the audience or the jury.
- Indecent or disturbing behavior on stage and during the prejudging is not permitted.
- Depictions of extreme violence, pornography, etc. are not permitted. Note: In case of uncertainty, it is recommended to clarify those with the organizer in advance.
- Indecent behavior during the entire event will result in immediate disqualification.
- No live animals may be used for the performance.
- The costume must be worn on the body by the participant (e.g. no puppets).
- Props are permitted but must be announced in advance and approved by the organizer. The organizer may prohibit the use of individual weapons, costumes, or props.
- The cosplay and weapons regulations as well as the Swiss Weapons Act must be observed by all participants.
- The cosplay contest team on site handles the placement of props on stage.
- Weapons, props, and costumes must not be made of easily flammable material.

Judging

- The contest is run by the contest lead and judged by a panel of judges.
- The jury consists of the cosplay guests of the event.
- The decision of the jury and the instructions of the contest lead are final.
- Any attempt to influence the jury and/or the contest lead will result in disqualification.
- The costume worn at the judging must be worn in the same manner at the performance. Small deviations, such as more secure but visually similar shoes, may be permitted by the contest management.
- In the ZURICH POP CON Cosplay Contest, the scoring is based on the costume (50%) and the presentation / performance (50%).
In the Newcomers Cosplay Contest, the scoring is based on the costume (70%) and the presentation / performance (30%).



- The costumes are judged by the following criteria: Accuracy and precision, workmanship, complexity and technique, material, and overall impression.
- The performances are judged by the following criteria: staging, quality and use of media, accessories and props, creativity and entertainment, coherence and comprehensibility as well as the overall impression.
- The costume judging by the jury takes place in the judging room without spectators.
- The performance judging by the jury takes place on the Main Stage with spectators.
- The awards are presented after the contest and the performances on the Main Stage.
- The jury can only award one prize per cosplay. Exceptions must be approved by the contest lead.

Procedure

- On the day of the contest, there is a staging in the morning, where participants can briefly get to know the stage.
- Afterward, the pre-judging takes place in a separate judging room, where the jury evaluates the cosplay from up close.
- In the afternoon, the performances take place on the Main Stage, followed directly by the awards ceremony.

Other

- During ZURICH POP CON & Game Show, photos, audio, and video recordings are made of the participants. By taking part, participants agree that any material may be used and passed on by Amazing Event AG (organizer of ZURICH POP CON & Game Show) and its partners without restriction and remuneration.
- The contest rules are subject to change at any time.
- Non-cash prizes cannot be paid out.
- Cash prizes are transferred by bank transfer after the event.
- Violation of the rules results in disqualification from the contest.
- The general terms and conditions as well as the weapons and cosplay rules of Amazing Event AG apply.
- Changes to the prizes can be made at any time.
- Participants will receive their festival tickets on the day. If a participant withdraws, the festival ticket must be returned unused or, if it has been used, a refund will be issued.