

COSPLAY RULES

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The competition is a **solo-based** competition with prejudging and a catwalk. The winner of the qualifier will be rewarded with a trip to London to represent the Nordics, competing against all other countries' winning cosplayers. Besides the qualification prize, you have the opportunity to win a number of other prizes.

- The application opens on August ~~14th~~ 28th at 20.00 (GMT+2).
- There are **30 spots** available in the competition.
- The competition is first come, first served.
- Each competitor will get free entry to Comic Con Denmark 2026.
- On **October 31st**, all of your material must have been approved.
- This includes a build book that you must provide. Please use [this template](#) in a PDF format and send it to cosplay@j-popcon.dk. You are allowed to remove and add pages as you see fit.
- The competition is judged on 70 % construction, 20 % accuracy/design, 10 % ambition.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- You must have turned 18 before November 7th.
- You must be a citizen or permanent resident of **Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, or Iceland**.
- You can only enter as a soloist.
- You must be available to attend Cosplay Central Crown Championships in London, United Kingdom, in May 2027.
- You must not be directly involved with the organisation of any partner event or organisation of cosplay activities at the partner event for at least 12 months prior to the selection.
- Employees, staff, crew, or guests of ReedPop or any associated company and their immediate families, and persons connected with the Championships e.g. prize sponsors or judges and their agents are not eligible to enter the Cosplay Central Crown Championships.
- AI usage is not allowed in any aspects of your participation.
- In case you cannot compete, you must contact the cosplay team at cosplay@j-popcon.dk immediately.

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COSTUME RULES

- Your costume must represent an existing or recognisable character or element from the pop culture realm, including comic books, movies and television, video games, anime, manga, theatre, or fantasy. Characters or elements from bands, musicians, and drag acts are not eligible.
 - Costumes replicating published designs from comic books, movies and television, video games, anime, manga, theatre, or fantasy, including derivative designs by well-known concept artists (that have been publicly available for at least one year and not directly commissioned by the participant), will be judged on **accuracy**, i.e. the detail and steps taken to create a costume that is accurate to the given reference material.
 - Costumes inspired by existing characters but given an original twist, e.g. character mash ups or interpreting a recognizable character in an alternative style, will be judged on the **design** choices and decisions taken to create a cohesive costume.
 - Further information regarding these categories can be provided. Send an email to cosplay@j-popcon.dk.
 - Use of references created with AI is not permitted.
- The costume and props must be made by you.
 - All significant visible costume elements that can safely be made without assistance must have been constructed entirely by you.
 - If it is impossible or unsafe for a single person to make a costume element, assistance for simple tasks such as holding things in place is acceptable.
 - It is acceptable to use bought wigs, shoes, and accessories such as spectacles as long as they are not customized or commissioned. Simple, largely insignificant base layers such as a leotard or pantyhose are similarly permitted. Any customization such as styling a wig or modifying shoes must be the sole work of the participant to be considered as part of the costume by the judges.
 - Instruction and planning advice is acceptable, as long as the practical construction of the costume is by you.

... *The costume and props rules continued:*

- Use of 3D printing and other automated production tools is accepted, but significant costume pieces created in this way will only be judged on the steps that you take yourself, e.g. if you present a significant part of your costume that was a purchased and finished 3D print with no additional work done by yourself, this would be treated as a purchased item and not considered for scoring by the judges. If you have created the model yourself, you should include details of the modelling process in your build book.
 - Like the use of commercial sewing patterns, it is permitted to use models created by someone else provided the original creator is disclosed and credited. It is also accepted that the creation of the item might be completed by an individual that owns the relevant tool (or in a maker space or similar). The finishing and final construction of such pieces must be completed by yourself and you must be able to detail how this was done in order for the piece to be eligible for judging.
 - Passing off another creator's work as your own will be grounds for disqualification.
 - You must wear the costume yourself.
- The costume cannot have been used for any previous international cosplay or costume contest final.
 - The costume should not exceed 2,5 metres in any one dimension, and you should be able to safely move in the costume with limited assistance and the costume must not impede your ability to get on and off stage or in and out of the prejudging room.
 - If your costume or props have lights, you must be able to turn them on and off yourself easily.
 - Your costume should provide enough coverage to be worn in public and should be in good taste and appropriate for a family-friendly show.
 - Costumes cannot be obscene or offensive, including insensitive or unnecessary use of makeup, nor endorse any form of hate or any hate group. Gore, graphic violence, or other objectionable elements may also be grounds of disqualification as determined by the judges or organisers.
 - The judges will not take your physical appearance, such as, but not limited to height, weight, skin or eye colour, into consideration.

- Costumes cannot promote alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, firearms/weapons (or the use of any of the foregoing), any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous or any particular political agenda or message.
- Costumes cannot depict, and cannot themselves, be in violation of any Danish, English, US, or other applicable law.
- You must provide pictures from the source material of the costume as a reference for the official appearance of the character they are cosplaying in sufficiently high resolution. Original designs should also be supported by concept sketches.

STAGE RULES

- Your presentation will not be scored directly, but may be taken into consideration if the presentation reveals flaws or benefits of the costume's construction.
- Prior to the catwalk, you must submit a text to introduce you while on stage. This may either be read live or be pre-recorded and played on stage.
- Presentations must be suitable for a family audience. No profanity is allowed on stage, including messages on signs or clothes.
- J-Popcon and Heroes Comic Con Denmark will provide background music. Background videos are not accepted.
- The safety of the audience, staff, and other participants must not be compromised. The means that pyrotechnics, fireworks, or any other methods of creating a naked flame or explosion are forbidden; anything that may litter the stage (e.g. glitter, styrofoam, or confetti) or make it slippery or sticky (e.g. water, paint, or fake blood) is similarly banned. Any sharp objects, such as glass, mirrors, or needles are not allowed. The use of lasers or uv light, regardless of strength, is not permitted.
 - Self-generated, water-based vapour as part of a costume may be permitted for use on stage following assessment by the J-Popcon cosplay team.
- You must stay on the stage during your catwalk. You cannot interact physically with the audience during your stage time.

PREJUDGING

- Only participating cosplayers are allowed to be present during the prejudging. This means that your helper, children, or other relatives are not allowed to enter. Only participants, judges, and selected volunteers, who are present as passive observers, are allowed to be in the room during prejudging.
- If you need help during your prejudging, e.g. holding items, the present volunteer can help you. You can contact us about this in advance.
- You are not allowed to take pictures/film in the prejudging room unless it has been agreed to otherwise. This could e.g. be that the judges want to take pictures for their voting discussions later on. For this, they will ask the participants for consent prior to taking pictures or filming. In general, we will not allow filming for private use, e.g. for vlogs or similar.
- Prejudging takes place at a different part of the venue than the backstage area. Staff will pick you up at the backstage area and take you to the prejudging room, and then will help you get back following the prejudging as well.
- When your prejudging time begins, it does not stop in case you haven't showed up. This only means that you have less time for the prejudging. If you do not show up, you might not be able to participate in prejudging later on. If you are not present, you will not be able to place, but you might still be able to join the catwalk. If the staff is not present at the backstage area to take you to the prejudging room, you will not be affected, this is only in the case where you are not present and ready for the prejudging.

BACK STAGE RULES

- Only handheld electronic devices are allowed backstage, e.g. irons, straighteners, or steamers are allowed.
- You must adhere to the cosplay staff and their guidelines.
- Props are kept backstage at your own risk, but make sure to be considerate of other participants' props.
- You must be present for your prejudging and stage time. If you are not present and ready, you risk not getting prejudged and, in the worst case, disqualified.

IN CASE YOU WIN

- For the championship, you are expected to wear the costume that you qualified with; should you wish to compete in an alternative costume, this may be permitted following discussion with the qualification.
- If you win the qualifier, you must check the specific rules of the qualification. J-Popcon's cosplay organisers will help, but you must read and understand their rules, deadlines, etc.
- Your costume and props must be able to fit into the luggage provided by the organisers, which is two checked-in suitcases and a carry on. If you need more luggage, you must cover this yourself.
- J-Popcon covers the transport to and from the championship, while the championship provides accommodation and food. If further expenses occur, such as penalties, fines, or similar, J-Popcon does not cover this.

