

Judgement Guidelines

of the GalaCon 2016 Cosplay Contest



These guidelines regulate the way the judges rate participants and their presentations as a means of transparency and comparability.

It helps the judges to do their work correctly and assures that the overall rating is only based on profound, professional reasons and is not influenced by external influences.

It also gives an insight in the different categories and criteria to help the participants prepare their presentations.

1. General Rules

The judges are totally free in their decisions. They may only base their rating on objective assessments and observations.

Judges may not be influenced in any kind.

The judges operate with a printed form in which they will mark scores for different criteria. This form becomes the groundwork for the final ranking.

The jury consists of at maximum four members of which two have to be professional cosplayers. Members of the GalaCon Team or guests of honor can be named as jury members.

All decisions have to be written down and justified. The records will be retained. Each participant has the right to be informed about his score and rank, the reasons for his ranking or eventual disciplinary measures.

2. Procedure

At first, the judges will have a short view on the information given in the registration form and – if given – have a look at the photo. They will use this information to get a better view of the participant and estimate details they want to have a closer look at or things that may be relevant for their rating. If an original character is presented, they will also read and review the background story.

During the optional prejudgement before the contest, the judges will have a closer look at the costume and talk to the participants about the cosplay. They may ask questions regarding certain details, the background, certain meanings or the character or variation itself. The

judges can also fill out first parts of the rating form or take notes.

During the contest, the judges will give points from 1 (very bad) to 6 (very good) in different criteria (see below) on the rating form. A ranking etc. is not yet to be made. There are two different forms for costume presentations and acts.

After the contest, the points are summed up using a certain weighting (see below). Based on these first scores, a first ranking for each category (see below) is set up.

The named first ranking is reviewed by the judges. If two or more participants have an equal score, the jury decides about the ranking by simple majority. If the first three places are not affected, the jury can also decide that participants share a ranking and thereby relinquish the named voting.

Each jury member can also suggest further changes in the ranking if he has a profound reason or suggest that a participant should be disqualified because of a violation of the rules. The jury member has to justify his suggestion; it has to be approved by simple majority of the judges.

The final ranking has to be approved by the simple majority of the judges and will be announced during the award ceremony.

3. Criteria

There are different criteria to rate the performance and work of the participants.

Additional criteria are not allowed.

3.a. Criteria for Costume Presentations

Name	Meaning
Similarity	How similar is the presented character to the model?
Crafts	Is the costume professionally crafted? Are the materials valuable? How detailed is it?

Presentation	How well is the behavior of the character implemented? Is the overall presentation convincing?
Creativity	How creative is the overall costume/variation/style?
Audience	Does the audience like the performance?

3.b. Criteria for Acts

Name	Meaning
Impression	How good is the overall impression of the costumes and equipment?
Presentation	How well is the act presented? How well are the characters implemented? Is the presentation entertaining and convincing?
Creativity	How creative is the overall idea?
Collaboration	How well do the group members work together? Do all group members have something to present?
Audience	Does the audience like the performance?

4. Categories

There are 6 categories participants can be rated in. The requirements for being rated in the categories and the ways the final scores are calculated are stated below.

The participants who made the first, second and third place, will be awarded during the award ceremony.

Each winner of a category will additionally get a price as a means of appreciation.

The contest director can add special categories to the contest when necessary, e.g. as a means of appreciation of special participants or accomplishments or to create a category matching to the convention theme as a means of inspiration.

4.a. Best Act

Object to this category is the quality of the participant's act. All single applicants who present an act will be rated.

Criteria	Weighting
Impression	25 %
Presentation	25 %
Creativity	25 %
Collaboration	0 % ¹⁾
Audience	25 %

1) Does not apply for single acts.

4.b. Best Group

Object to this category is the quality of a group act. All groups can take part.

Criteria	Weighting
Impression	20 %
Presentation	20 %
Creativity	20 %
Collaboration	20 %
Audience	20 %

4.c. Newcomer Award

This category is reserved for participants with little or no experience (estimated on the statement in the application form and the impression of the costume and presentation). It gives them a chance to win a price despite their experience.

Criteria	Weighting
Similarity	10 % ¹⁾
Crafts	20 %
Presentation	20 %
Creativity	30 % ²⁾
Audience	20 %

1) It is less important how similar the cosplay is to the model, because unexperienced participants may not have the skills to build detailed costumes equal to professionals.

2) A creative idea counts more in this category. Unexperienced participants can compensate lower skills with creativity following the general idea of the contest.

4.d. Most Creative Idea

The creativity counts more than skills and craftsmanship in this category. Professionals and newcomers have equal chances.

Criteria	Weighting
Similarity	10 %
Crafts	10 %
Presentation	20 %
Creativity	40 % ¹⁾
Audience	20 %

1) As stated above; creativity is most important here and compensates skills and other criteria.

4.e. Best Original Character

As the title says, only original characters can take part. Adopted characters will get less points in creativity and have a lower chance of winning.

The creativity of the character creation and the implementation is most important here.

Criteria	Weighting
Similarity	30 % ¹⁾
Crafts	20 %
Presentation	15 % ²⁾
Creativity	30 % ³⁾
Audience	5 % ⁴⁾

1) Here, the implementation of the original character is rated. It is important to present the invented character in an appropriate manner.

2) The presentation itself is less important. If a creative character is created and the costume implements his background well, the presentation should not lower the overall rating.

3) Creativity is most important here. Not only creativity of the costume, but also creativity of the background story etc.

4) The audience does usually not know the background story and meanings behind the character and costume. The way the audience reacts is therefore not always a reliable indicator for the quality.

4.f. Best Craftsmanship

This category represents the main aspect of the contest and is awarded with the main price.

Craftsmanship is the most important part about cosplaying and the quality and richness of detail

of the costume presents how much effort, time and expense the participant has put into the cosplay.

Besides this crucial criteria, this category also includes the other elementary aspects of cosplaying like creativity and presentation.

This category therefore appreciates the hard work and enthusiasm of all cosplayers.

All participants are rated in this category.

Criteria	Weighting
Similarity	15 % ¹⁾
Crafts	30 % ²⁾
Presentation	20 %
Creativity	25 % ³⁾
Audience	10 % ⁴⁾

1) Similarity is less important; also variations and non-canon styles can be a masterpiece of crafts.

2) As stated below, this criteria is the main aspect in this category.

3) Creativity, taken as creativity in implementing character traits in the costume and bringing details to life, is the second-most important aspect of a good cosplay.

4) The jury could get a deeper impression of the effort and enthusiasm during the preparations and the prejudgement. Also, The jury mostly consists of professionals who know better to spot a well-crafted cosplay. Nevertheless, the cosplayer has to impress the audience and convince them of his work.

5. Transparency and Complaints

Sometimes also the judgement of a professional jury can be false, mainly when a participant has cheated without knowledge of the jury. Sometimes a judgement also just seems false because the jury knows more than the audience or participants or has grappled with the cosplay more.

Both audience and participants can ask the jury and contest director for explanations of certain decisions and give complaints or evidence for cheating. We are thankful for anything that helps us to improve the overall experience and gladly explain our judgements, of course in consent with the privacy rights of our participants.

The contact person is the contest director Lukas Sanders, cosplay@galacon.eu.