

Voting Guidelines

of the GalaCon Cosplay Contest



These guidelines lay out the system by which our judges rate participants and their presentation/performance. These guidelines are intended to make the process fair and transparent for both participants and judges.

The guidelines are meant to ensure that the judges can do their work with clear understanding and absolute fairness to everyone involved, above all else.

The guidelines also allow judges and participants to understand the voting system. The categories and voting criteria are laid to help participants prepare for the contest with all necessary information on hand.

1. General Rules

The judges act 100 percent impartially. Their voting cannot be based on anything other than their own observations, gained as objectively as possible.

The judges may not be influenced in their decision making process in any way, shape or form.

The judges use a provided, printed form to write down their scores for the respective voting criteria. This form is what is used to decide the final standings.

The panel of judges consists of a maximum of four members, two of which are professional cosplayers. Members of the GalaCon Team or Guests of Honor can be named as judges.

All votes have to be written down in the provided form. These will be kept on record. Each participant has the right to inquire about their score and rank, the reasons for their rank and anything else involved in the judging process.

2. Procedure

First, the judges will have look at the information given in the contest registration form and any pictures provided. The judges will use this information to get an impression of the participant and their work to better follow up on during voting. If an original character is presented, the judges will also read and review the character background and story.

Optionally, the participants can show up early for "prejudgement". This means you can let the judges have a closer look at the costume and ask questions before the contest starts. The judges can also ask questions regarding details of the costume or the character, the background, and other aspects. The judges can use this opportunity to take notes for voting.

During the cosplay contest, the judges will vote by assigning a score from 1 (lowest) to 6 (highest) in different criteria (see below) on the voting form. None of the participants will be ranked yet at this stage. Acts/Performances and Costume Presentation are seperately judged processes.

After the cosplay contest, the votes are tallied with the different criteria's weighting in mind (see below). Based on these votes, the participants are ranked in a first pass for each category (see below).

This first pass is then reviewed by the judges. If two or more participants have an equal score, the panel of judges votes on their ranking by simple majority. If the Top 3 are not affected, the jury can also decide that participants share a spot in the rankings.

Each judge can also suggest further changes in the ranking if they have a specified reason or there is grounds to rule that a rule violation took place. The judge has to properly justify their suggestions; any changes have to be agreed upon by simple majority of the judges.

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

3. Criteria

There are different criteria used to assign scores for the costume, performance and work of the participants as applicable.

Criteria not listed here are not considered for scoring purposes.

3.a. Criteria for Costume Presentation

Name	Meaning
Resemblance	How similar is the presented cosplay to the original reference?

Craftsmanship	Is the costume well crafted? Do the used materials fit? How spot-on are the details?
Presentation	How well is the character represented in their behaviour and poses?
Creativity	How creative is the overall costume/variation/style?
Audience	Does the audience like the presentation?

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 fun and believable?
Creativity	How creative is the overall idea?
Collaboration	How well do the group members work together? Do all group members play a role in the act?
Audience	Does the audience enjoy the act?

4. Categories

There are 6 categories participants can achieve a rank 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 receive their prizes during the award ceremony.

Each winner of a category will additionally get a prize to commemorate their achievements.

The contest staff can add extra categories to the contest at any time when deemed suitable, e.g.

as a means to reward a special act or costume that deserves recognition outside of the already provided categories.

4.a. Best Act

This category represents the overall quality of the participant's act. All single participants 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

This category represents the quality of a cosplay group and/or 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 in cosplay (as deemed by the statement in the application form and the impression of the costume and presentation). This is meant to provide an extra chance to new talents and hopefuls.

Criteria	Weighting
Resemblance	10 % ¹⁾
Craftsmanship	20 %
Presentation	20 %
Creativity	30 % ²⁾
Audience	20 %

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

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

4.d. Most Creative Idea

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

Criteria	Weighting
Resemblance	10 %
Craftsmanship	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 are truly eligible in this category. Adapted/canon characters will get less points in creativity in this category and have a lower chance of winning.

The creativity of the original character and the execution of the concept is most important here.

Criteria	Weighting
Resemblance	30 % ¹⁾
Craftsmanship	20 %
Presentation	15 % ²⁾
Creativity	30 % ³⁾
Audience	5 % ⁴⁾

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

2) The presentation itself is less important. If a creative character is created and the costume implements their 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 prize.

Craftsmanship is the most outstanding aspect of cosplay. 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 aspect, this category also includes the other elementary aspects of cosplaying like creativity and presentation.

This category is meant to represent the hard work and passion of all cosplayers.

All participants are rated in this category.

Criteria	Weighting
----------	-----------

Craftsmanship	30 % ²⁾
Presentation	20 %
Creativity	25 % ³⁾
Audience	10 % ⁴⁾

1) Resemblance is a bit less important; also variations and non-canon styles can be truly outstanding.

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 judges could get a deeper impression of the effort and enthusiasm during the preparations and the prejudgement. Also, the panel of judges 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 their work.

5. Transparency and Objections

In some special cases the decisions of the judges can be objectionable. This is mainly the case if a participant has cheated or otherwise interfered with the contest's process without the judges' knowledge. Additionally, there are cases where the judges' decisions are not immediately clear in their reasoning.

Both audience members and participants can ask the judges and contest staff to elaborate on decisions made (as long as it stays in accordance to potential third parties' privacy). The staff is also open for evidence or reports of cheating at any time. We are thankful for anything that helps us to improve the overall experience of the contest, so please do not hesitate to come to us!

The contest staff can be reached at any time at cosplay@galacon.eu.