

## SMASH! 2022 Cosplay Masquerade Rules and Regulations

These rules are subject to change at any time without prior notice. We will make every effort to inform contestants of any changes as far in advance as possible.

- The Cosplay Masquerade is open to anyone who is wearing a costume that is associated with anime, manga, anime-style video games or other content, and artists with heavy artistic influences, or inspirations taken from Japanese culture. Participants with self-designed original characters/costumes will not be eligible to participate.
- There are 7 main categories open for competition:
  - **Best of Show:** Best of Show is the award of all awards. Placing in this category means that Senpai has definitely noticed you!  
Handmade\* costumes only.
  - **Best Prop:** At SMASH!, we recognize the awesomeness of not only costumes but props as well. This category is for a prop that really knocked our socks off!  
Handmade\* props only.
  - **Aspiring Cosplayer:** Open to contestants who have never entered a cosplay competition before or who have never won the main category (globally, not just at SMASH!). Please be honest with your registration, this is a chance to encourage up and coming cosplayers!  
Handmade\* costumes only.
  - **Best Duo:** Cosplay goes hand in hand with dynamic duos and we're here to crown the One True Pair! Open to entries with two participants. Handmade\* costumes only.
  - **Best Group:** The group with the best construction, finish, and accuracy to characters, as a whole. A group is defined as 3 or more participants. All costumes and props must be made by at least one member of the group to qualify.  
Handmade\* costumes only.
  - **Best Skit:** The best-presented skit. Judges will be considering the clarity of the performance and how entertaining it is for the crowd. Purchased, rented, borrowed or commissioned costume sets are only eligible for this category. Skit contestants with handmade\* costumes are still eligible for other categories.
  - **Judges' Choice Award:** This is a special award presented to the Cosplayer who leaves the greatest impression on the Judges. This could be any entrant in the Cosplay Masquerade and could be awarded for any part of your costume or performance.

\*SMASH! defines handmade costumes, where store-purchased accessories and components are allowed insofar as they represent 20% or less of the finished look. Runner-up sub-categories will be presented at the judges' discretion.

## How to Enter

- To register, all you have to do is click on APPLY NOW.
- There will be a limited amount of entries available in the Cosplay Masquerade (a whole group counts as one entry). If all the spaces are filled online, we may not be able to guarantee you entry on the day.
- Guests, artists, or vendors may not enter the competition for the purpose of advertising or promoting of their own work or merchandise.
- Any information collected by SMASH! will only be used for the Cosplay Masquerade. For more information, please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).
- All entrants must confirm their registration at the Cosplay Desk on the day of the Cosplay Masquerade (check-in time will be confirmed via email prior to the event). Entries who do not confirm their registration will be considered a dropout.
- Upon arrival at the Cosplay Desk, contestants will be given a time slot for their pre-judging (if applicable). The location for pre-judging will be confirmed at a later date. All entrants will need to show up in costume and be ready for pre-judging as soon as they confirm their registration.
- All pre-judged entries are strongly encouraged to bring reference material for their costume(s).
- Please note that participants with non-handmade costumes who only wish to compete in the Skit category will not have to be pre-judged.
- Upon arrival at the Cosplay Desk, participants will be informed when to arrive back of the stage for event marshalling.
- Participants who are late to marshalling may be disqualified from the Cosplay Masquerade.
- During marshalling, participants will be lined up in show order. It is in this order that every group/individual will be led up onto the stage.
- The MC will announce each individual/group and welcome them onto the stage.
- If the individual/group have prepared a skit, it will start according to the description in their entry form.
- After each skit or entry onto the stage, the MC will engage participants in some questions about their costumes and characters. Once finished, they will invite participants to move to the front of the stage to pose for photos.
- Then, when participants are ready or when directed, they will exit the stage.
- Participants must be prepared to stay the entire length of the competition.
- Be aware that SMASH! is a PG event and as such, the performance must be appropriate for a family audience. Please contact the Cosplay Team for confirmation.
- Oversized Props - If a participant has a prop that is not allowed into the Event areas, they may be able to use it for the Cosplay Masquerade.
- Use of non-compliant props will be assessed at the time of registration confirmation. If you suspect your prop(s) may not be allowed into the Event areas as a regular attendee, please notify the Cosplay Team and they will be able to hold your prop backstage until the competition.
- SMASH! does not guarantee that any item judged to be unsafe will be allowed to be carried in the venue or at the Cosplay Masquerade at all. [Click here for the SMASH! Props Policy](#).

## Stage Rules

- **Skits:**
  - Skits are performances that an individual or group does in cosplay on stage during the competition.
  - Skits can be performed either “live” (using microphones to speak and perform) or “pre-recorded” (all speech and music is prepared and recorded beforehand by the participants and then mimed or lip-synced without the use of microphones).
  - A maximum of two handheld microphones will be available. Participants must note it on their registration form if they wish to use microphones. A mix of live dialogue and pre-recorded dialogue is permitted; however, we strongly recommend pre-recorded audio over live.
  - Please make sure all performances are no longer than 3 minutes. If the skit goes for any longer, it may be interrupted and cut short.
- **Audio, Video, & Lighting:**
  - Only mp3 format for audio files and avi, wmv, or mp4 formats for video files will be accepted.
  - Video or pre-recorded audio files must be submitted online via email before the convention. Audio & video presentations must be contained in one file and must have the same name as the entry it will be for.
  - We cannot switch audio or video tracks during performances.
  - We cannot fade in, fade out, or change audio levels during performances.
  - Please note that our stage screens are used to show video content, but are also used to show the audience close-ups of cosplay and performances. Keep this in mind when choosing to submit a video, as our video director may choose to switch back and forth. We will endeavour to show videos to their fullest; however, we will at times prioritise how to best show cosplay and performances to the audience. As this is a live performance, we cannot guarantee that audio or video will function correctly on the day and SMASH! is not liable for any impacts this may have on judging and award decisions.
  - We will not provide special lighting effects such as colour changes, blackouts, or dimming. Lighting states are at the discretion of the lighting team. Don't worry, we'll make everyone look great!
  - Please bring a USB backup of audio or video tracks on the day of the competition.
- **Stage:**
  - Anything taken on stage must leave with individuals/groups when they exit.
  - We recommend that participants do not wear costumes that restrict them from entering and exiting the stage (this includes going up steps).
  - SMASH! staff and crew will make their best efforts to assist cosplayers, however, assistance is not 100% guaranteed, or to the expectation that may be required. Please let us know in advance so we can advise.
  - Backstage access is restricted, so only registered participants will be allowed through.

## The Cosplay Team

- The Cosplay Masquerade is run by the volunteer SMASH! cosplay staff and crew. They are there to make the competition as fun and fair for everyone as possible. Feel free to ask them any questions you have.
- If there are any complaints or problems with the competition please consult the Cosplay Coordinators.
- Abusive language or actions towards the convention staff will not be tolerated. Any issues with these rules and guidelines, or any enquiries, should be raised with the SMASH! Cosplay Team at least one week prior to the convention. This is to ensure we have time to reply and make any changes required.
- When contacting the Cosplay Team, please use a suitable subject heading (such as 'Cosplay Skit Inquiry') so that we don't miss the email and know exactly which area it relates to.
- Any concerns of mismanagement, unfairness, corruption, cheating or other issues that involve the staff, judges or participants of the Cosplay Masquerade are to be sent to: [cosplay@smash.org.au](mailto:cosplay@smash.org.au)
- We encourage all entrants to try their best and partake in friendly competition. Please support each other, especially those who are new to cosplay!